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Experiments in Contemporary Filmmaking

Presented in cooperation with the UC Berkeley
Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies and
the Center for South and Southeast Asia Studies.

Andrei Tarkovsky's

Solaris, Lecture by Mani Kaul

7:30

Regents' Lecturer Mani Kaul has been called "the stern poet of the Indian cinema." His first feature *Day's Bread* (1969) was a landmark for India's "new generation" of filmmakers, and his most recent film *The Mind of Clay* premiered at PFA in March.

The release of Andrei Tarkovsky's remarkable science fiction film *Solaris* marked a milestone in Soviet cinema and a distinct change of pace for Tarkovsky, whose previous work was the controversial fifteenth-century epic *Andrei Rublev* (see April 4). But like *Andrei Rublev*, *Solaris* concerns a character who, in Tarkovsky's words, "has something to overcome, [and] must win in the name of the optimism in which I believe." Based on the science-fiction novel by Polish writer Stanislas Lemm, *Solaris* is set in the near future and tells of a psychologist, Kelvin, who is sent to the

planet Solaris. There, scientists have discovered, the oceans can absorb human memory and materialize the objects of our thoughts. Kelvin becomes host to the presence of his dead wife Hari and then increasingly immersed in his memories and those of his colleagues. *Solaris* is shown in its uncut version.

• Directed by Andrei Tarkovsky. Written by Tarkovsky and F. Gorenchtein. Photographed by Vadim Youssev. With Donatas Banionis, Yuri Yarvet, Natalie Bonderchuk. (1972, 165 mins. In Russian with English titles, 35mm, Color, Print from PFA Collection)