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Author(s)	Robert F. Hawkins
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Aranyer Din Ratri

(Days and Nights in the Forest)
(INDIAN)

Berlin, July 3.

Piyali Films release of Priya Films presentation. Produced by Nepal and Ashim Dutta. Features entire cast. Written and directed by Satyajit Ray. Based on story by Sunil Ganguli; camera, Soumendu Ray; editor, Dulal Dutta; music, Satyajit Ray. Reviewed at Berlin Film Festival, July 2, '70. Running Time, 120 MINS.

Ashim	Soumitra Chatterjee
Sanjoy	Subhendu Chatterjee
Harinath	Samit Bhanja
Sekhar	Robi Chose
Aparna	Sharmila Tagore
Jaya	Kaberi Bose
Duli	Simi Garowal

Multiple Berlin prizewinner Satyajit Ray returns to the local scene with another fascinating, deceptively simple but puzzlingly symbolic new film which, despite its length, should intrigue and ultimately captivate initiates to director's work.

Four big-city friends drive out into the Indian countryside for some away-from-it contact with nature. In an isolated area, they bribe a caretaker into letting them use a temporarily unused bungalow as their vacation h.q. and eventually come into contact with villagers as well as a rich family also vacationing nearby. A series of interlocking relationships develops until it's time for all to return to their urban routine.

Ray has much to say, while telling a very simple and straight-forward story on the surface, about a number of things on his mind, but they come out subtly and without finger-pointing emphasis. Thus he deals with selfishness and subservience, the persistence of tradition, resistance to social change, and so on. It's a rich grab-bag for those who enjoy puzzles, albeit still leaving too many things overly nebulous.

Acting is uniformly suited to director's intent and technical qualities of black-and-white item uneven, but never disturbingly so. As usual, Ray has also written his own music.

Hawk.