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Days and Nights in the Forest

(*Aranyer Din Ratri*)

Directed by Satyajit Ray

India 1969, 35mm, 115 min.

With Soumitra Chatterjee, Sharmila

Tagore, Shubhendu Chatterjee

Bengali with English subtitles

FOUR YOUNG MEN spend their country holiday in an unused bungalow where they come into contact with the villagers, meet a rich family, and develop relationships with women before returning to their urban

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existence. Anton Chekhov and Jean Renoir come to mind (Ray had worked as an assistant on Renoir's *The River*), especially in the magical picnic scene. But the subtle revelation of character through the purposefully slow tempo and the deceptively simple cinematic effects are the master Indian director's own creations.