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Author(s)	John Warrington
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LFF '80



The Kingdom of Diamonds

Hirok Rajar Deshe

INDIA 1980

Sun 30 Nov 10.30 am (Odeon Leicester Square)

Director: Satyajit Ray

Production Company: Government of West Bengal

Screenplay: Satyajit Ray (based on his own story)

Photography (Eastman Colour): Soumendu Roy

Editor: Dulal Dutta

Art Director: Ashoke Bose

Music and Lyrics: Satyajit Ray

Sound: Robin Sengupta

Export Agent: Chhayabani Ltd, 77 Lenin Sarani, Calcutta 700013

Leading Players: Soumitra Chatterji, Utpal Dutta, Rabi Ghose, Tapen Chatterji, Santosh Dutta

Running Time: 118 mins

London Film Festival Choice

It is an ironic comment that the major audiences for Satyajit Ray's mature works are in the West, whilst commercial interests in India limit them to a small coterie; yet his childrens' films have a large audience in India against a smaller following in the West. The success of his children's films in India is really part of his family tradition (grandfather and father were superb writers for young people and today Ray edits *Sandesh*, the children's magazine founded by his grandfather). Ray describes *The Kingdom of Diamonds* as a: 'Fantasy with music', to which parents will go willingly. It is a sequel to the popular *The Adventures of Goopy and Bagha*. Written in rhymed couplets, it has a Gilbertian atmosphere and is his first overt declaration of a simple political credo. Visually superb, with instantly remembered music combining Western influences – including Mozart – with traditional Raga, it is Ray in an ebullient mood, having thoroughly enjoyed discarding his austere literary humanistic probings into complex relationships. –*John Warrington*.