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FRIDAY, APRIL 7

IN WHEELER AUDITORIUM 7:00
SATYAJIT RAY'S THE APU TRILOGY

Admission \$3.00

In the old days of the Berkeley Cinema Guild, whose two theatres on Telegraph Ave. were programmed by Pauline Kael and Ed Landberg in the fifties and early sixties, it was almost a sacred rite of initiation into the small fraternity of true cinema buffs to attend and experience one of the regularly scheduled runs of the complete five and a half hour APU TRILOGY by Satyajit Ray. Actually, once into the rhythms of Bengali culture and the stages of Apu's life (childhood, youth, maturity) as depicted by Ray in this sublimely beautiful work, it is not difficult to sit through the three films in one evening. In fact, it can be a truly exalting experience, one not easily forgotten. In homage to the Berkeley Cinema Guild (the pioneer repertory art cinema in America, and the first to publish an annotated program calendar which our monthly calendar and all other similar publications in this country seeks to emulate), we print below the Cinema Guild's program notes. Though one admission will be charged for one, two, or all three of the films, we indicate below the times each section will begin, for the convenience of those who choose to view one or two parts only.

PATHER PANCHALI (SONG OF THE ROAD) 7:00

This quiet, gentle reverie about the life of an impoverished Brahmin family in a Bengali village has moments of beauty, others of comedy, and though the reviewers in general didn't seem to be bothered by it, we found the relationship of the on-going life-force mother and the ancient parasitic story-telling relative very painful. The old lady, played by 80-year-old Chunibala, who apparently enjoyed coming back into the limelight after 30 years of obscurity, is truly wonderful; she is the most memorable character, far more memorable than the boy Apu and his mother, whose story it is.

Written and Directed by Satyajit Ray. Screenplay based on the novel by Bibhuti Banerji. Photographed by Subrata Mitra. Music composed and played by Ravi Shankar. With Kanu Banerji, Karuna Banerji, Subir Banerji. (1954, 112 mins, 35mm, English titles, Print Courtesy of Beverly Pictures)

APARAJITO (THE UNVANQUISHED) 8:50

APARAJITO carries the broken family from the medieval village life of PATHER PANCHALI to the modern streets of Benares; we observe Apu's encounter with the school system, and later, when he has left his mother, with the intellectual life at the University of Calcutta. Ray's protagonist demonstrates that a corrupt society need not necessarily corrupt individuals: Apu remains unscathed through experience, and yet retains all his strength. As the scene changes to Benares, THE TRILOGY quickens in vigor and intensity. APARAJITO is full of unforgettable shots such as the heart-stopping moment—at the death of Apu's father when Ray cuts to the circling vultures.

Written and Directed by Satyajit Ray. Based on the novel by Bibhuti Banerji. Photographed by Subrata Mitra. Music composed and played by Ravi Shankar. With Pinaka Sen Gupta, Smaran Ghosal, Karuna Banerji. (1957, 108 mins, 35mm, English titles, Print Courtesy of Beverly Pictures)

APU SANSAR (THE WORLD OF APU) 10:45

If Ray had made nothing but APU SANSAR he would go down in film history as one of the great directors. In essence the film is a love story so fresh and spontaneous that one feels Ray created it entirely out of his own spirit, as if it were the world's first love story. The lyric Shakespeare of ROMEO AND JULIET comes to mind — in the scene in which the lovers see each other for the first time — only Ray has done it all visually. The morning after the wedding night Apu rises to discover that his bride has secretly tied him to her. A more exquisite symbol for a love both passionate and humorous is inconceivable. This originality, always returning to the wellspring of human feeling, is apparent throughout the film. If ever there has been a humanist work from an alien culture completely accessible to Occidentals APU SANSAR is that work. To miss it constitutes a true cultural deprivation.

Written and Directed by Satyajit Ray. Based on the novel by Bibhuti Banerji. Photographed by Subrata Mitra. Music composed and played by Ravi Shankar. With Soumitra Chatterjee, Sharmila Tagore. (1959, 103 mins, 35mm, English titles, Print Courtesy of Beverly Pictures)