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Author(s)	Heidi Smith
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BRANCHES OF THE TREE

Shakha Proshakha

We are pleased to present the latest work by the director who first introduced Indian film to the West and whose “Apu Trilogy” stands as one of the masterpieces of world cinema. Ray made his first film with the encouragement of Jean Renoir, and **Branches of the Tree**, though filmed in Calcutta, is a French production, co-sponsored by a longtime admirer of Ray, Gérard Depardieu. The film is a family chamberpiece with an elegiac, Chekhovian flavor. A principled, responsible patriarch has a heart attack at his seventieth birthday celebration, and his sons’ families return from the city to their ancestral village. At this rare gathering of the generations, a series of confrontations develop over the difficulties of maintaining integrity in a modern India rife with competition and moral decay. The father takes on a visionary role as he awakens from delirium to grill his eldest son on his dishonest business practices. Ray writes: “My film is a film about values. It carries a note of hope but also one of sadness. The sadness of realizing that corruption is part of our daily life.”—*Heidi Smith*

France/India, 1990

120 min.

In Bengali with English subtitles

DIRECTOR: Satyajit Ray

PRODUCER: Gérard Depardieu, Daniel Toscan du Plantier

SCREENPLAY: Ray

CAMERA: Barun Raha

EDITOR: Dulal Dutt

MUSIC: Ray

CAST: Ajit Banerjee, Maradan Banerjee, Lily Charraborty, Soumitra Chatterjee

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