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INDIA

## ***Jana Aranya***

*(The Middleman)*

1975. 1.33x1. 134 minutes.

In Bengali with English subtitles

*Producer:* S. Ghose

*Director/Screenwriter/Music:* Satyajit Ray

*Cinematographer:* Soumendu Roy

*Principal Cast:* Bradip Mukherjee, Utpal Dutt, Robi Ghosh

*Production Company:* Indus Films

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*London Film Festival 1975*

After the success of *Company Limited* Satyajit Ray was anxious to follow-up with a film which would continue his explorations of the social ills and contradictions besetting Indian society in the '70s. Thus, *The Middleman*. In a brief but appetizing description of his new film, Ray says "It concerns a young man who, when he fails to get a job, goes into business as a middleman and ends up by supplying call girls to his clients. You could call it a sequel to *Company Limited*, but it reflects another aspect of the social scene—the same sort of corruption, perhaps, but seen in a much stronger light—and brings in other elements, like the effect of the generation gap. It's a kind of black comedy—and pretty outspoken."