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8TH NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL - 1970

DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST - India 1969
Aranyer Din Ratri

Berlin Festival 1970

Running Time: 120 min.

Director	Satyajit Ray
Producers	Nepal Dutta, Ashim Dutta
Production Company	Priya Films
Screenplay	Satyajit Ray, after the story by Sunil Ganguly
Photography	Soumendu Roy
Art Director	Bansi Chandragupta
Music	Satyajit Ray
Editor	Dulal Dutta

Leading Players

Ashim	Soumitra Chatterjee
Sanjoy	Subhendu Chatterjee
Harinath	Samit Bhanja
Sekhar	Robi Ghose
Aparna	Sharminla Tagore
Jaya	Kaberi Bose
Duli	Simi
Atasi	Aparna Sen
Sadashiv Tripathy	Pahari Sanyal

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SATYAJIT RAY BIOGRAPHY

This year Satyajit Ray, the renowned creator of the Apu Trilogy, will be represented at the New York Film Festival by DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST. This film will mark Ray's third showing at the Festival. MAHANAGAR (1963) appeared at the Second Festival and CHARULATA (1963) was shown at the Third Festival. CHARULATA was also seen at the 1970 Spring Film Festival sponsored by the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

Born in India in 1921, Ray attended the University of Calcutta and spent two and a half years at Tagore's University, Shantiniketan, studying art. Ray's father and grandfather, both writers, had been close to Tagore; and Ray describes the time spent at Shantiniketan as his most important formative years.

After his studies, he entered the commercial art field and worked and worked in this area until he began to make films. In 1949, he met Jean Renoir, who was in India filming THE RIVER, and Renoir encouraged him to begin directing films. Ray had illustrated an edition of Banjeri's classic Indian novel, Pather Pachali, and had been attracted to it as a film source.

Thus, a great film career began. Ray's Apu Trilogy consists of: PATHER PANCHALI (1955), APARAJITO (1956) and THE WORLD OF APU (1959). Other films by Ray include; THE MUSIC ROOM (1957), DEVI (1960), THREE DAUGHTERS (1961) and THE COWARD AND THE SAINT (1965).

As a filmmaker, Ray is "in love with nuance, with the subtle shifting relationship of people to each other and to Nature." These concerns are in evidence in his latest film, DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST, a gentle tale of the experiences of four young men on holiday in the country. The film was shown at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

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SYNOPSIS - DAYS AND NIGHTS IN THE FOREST

Four friends from Calcutta, Ashim (Soumitra Chatterjee), Sanjoy (Subhendu Chatterjee), Hari (Samit Dhanja) and Sekhar (Robi Ghose) want to spend their holiday in the woods of Palamau. They find a little house in the forest which they acquire by bribing the chowkidar.

In the evening, in a mood of gay abandon, the friends go exploring in the woods and come to a local wine shop. While they sit drinking, an attractive tribal girl, Duli (Simi), comes to them begging for money to buy drinks. Hari becomes attracted to her and gives her ten rupees.

The next morning, Sekhar wakes up to the sound of female voices. Looking out of the window, he sees two sophisticated young girls promenading in the woods in the distance. He announces the discovery but nobody believes him. Later, confirmation comes from Lakha, a local boy they had picked up to run errands for them.

The men make their way to the cottage where the girls are supposed to be staying. By a stroke of luck they gain access to it and meet the Tripathi family. The family consists of: the father, Salasiv (Pahari Sanyal), the daughter, Aparna (Sharmila Tagore), the widowed daughter-in-law, Jaya (Kaberi Bose) and her young son Tublu. Ashim is interested in Aparna, but she remains aloof and coldly polite.

A series of events follow in which the men find themselves inadvertently in positions of increasing embarrassment in relation to the girls. Ashim, particularly, begins to lose his grip on things. At this point, the conservator of forests arrives, tells the boys off for having acquired their cottage illegally and asks them to leave. The situation is saved when

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Aparna comes and introduces the men as her close friends. The conservator apologizes to them.

At a village fair, the four friends get separated from one another. Sekhar gets stuck in a gambling booth. Hari finds Duli and runs off with her. Ashim finds an excuse to take Aparna away from her sister-in-law, and Sanjoy, left alone with Jaya, has to escort her back to the cottage.

Hari makes love to Duli in the woods, and thereby recovers his self-confidence. Later, he is beaten up by Lakha, whom he had earlier falsely accused of having stolen his wallet. Jaya is crushed and humiliated when her attempt to seduce Sanjoy fails because of the latter's inhibitions. Aparna and Ashim come closer to each other after some doubts and misunderstandings have been cleared up.

When the girls have to leave suddenly because of a wedding of a relative in Calcutta, the men realize that they have nothing left to do in the forest.

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