

## Document Citation

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INDIA 1987

## Voyage Beyond

*Antarjali yatra*

1.15 NFT1

Director: Gautam Ghose

Production Company: National Film Development Corp

Screenplay: Gautam Ghose, Kamal Kumar Mazumdar

Photography (Eastman Colour): Gautam Ghose

Export Agent: National Film Development Corp, D/5 Shiv Sagar Estate, Dr Annie Besant Rd, Worli, Bombay 18. Telex 01173489

Leading Players: Shatrughan Sinha, Shampa Ghose, Promode Ganguli

Running Time: 118 mins

Festival: Cannes

London  
F.F. '88

A young girl is married to a dying man so that, when he expires, she can be burnt on his pyre and bring 'heaven's blessing' on her father. Ghose's film mounts a subtle attack on this barbarous religious practice in the form of an allegory which, surprisingly, turns into black comedy when the old man perks up and thereby prolongs the girl's agony. Apart from its quirky plot twists, it is formally quite complex in that the entire action takes place on a wide stretch of beach, with the sea in front and a rocky area behind, with a few habitations. Ghose's own camerawork performs elegant arabesques across this arena, utilising long takes and gliding lateral movements, with the sea as an ever-present menace which takes its toll at the end. The performances are somewhat high-pitched, the exception being the old man (Promode Ganguli) who is extraordinary. Requiring a little patience and attention at the beginning, it offers ample rewards as the story's implications take hold, mixing absurdist comedy with a brilliant use of exterior imagery and sound.—John Gillett.