

Document Citation

Title	Aarohan
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Publisher name not available</i>
Date	
Type	synopsis
Language	French English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	2
Subjects	Benegal, Shyam (1934), Aliwal (in former British India), India
Film Subjects	Arohan (The ascending scale), Benegal, Shyam, 1982

CAST

Om Puri, Sreela Mazumdar, Victor Banerjee, Noni Ganguli, Rajen Tarafdar, Gita Sen & others.

CREDITS

Producers : Govt. of West Bengal
 Director : Shyam Benegal
 Script : Shama Zaidi
 Camera : Govind Nihalani
 Editing : Bhanudas Divakar
 Music : Purna Das Baul
 Running Time : 147 mins.
 Language : Hindi
 Colour/1982

THE FILM

The central figure is Hari Mondal, a sharecropper for a landlord who lives in Calcutta. He has a wife and a couple of children. Also living with him are his brother, an unmarried sister, an old widow Kalidashi, and her grown-up daughter Panchi.

The story deals with the crisis Hari Mondal faces after the death of the old landlord, and his replacement by a landlord who has no traditional links with the village; the tragic exodus of Mondal's family to the city and their gradual destruction; his continuing struggles, which are symbolic of the endless battle of the underprivileged and landless.

The film spans a period of 10 years. It shows Hari Mondal's political awakening and growth.

At the beginning of the film, Hari Mondal, desperate to get his sister married, agrees to the landlord's demands that he forego his sharecropping rights and work as a daily labourer instead. His brother Bolai becomes redundant, and unable to marry Panchi, leaves for Calcutta. Panchi is lured to the city by a stranger, and becomes the mistress of a businessman. Bolai ends up in jail, while Hari Mondal continues his struggle in the village.

By the time Hari Mondal wins his

rights as a sharecropper, Panchi has gone mad. Her mother Kalidashi is dead from the shock.

Says Critic Iqbal Masud: "**Aarohan** is probably Shyam Benegal's best film."

"It is perhaps the first Hindi film which is visibly and unambiguously about politics seen as a process of perpetual and unending struggle. The case history of Indra Lohar, the Bengal peasant who struggled through courts to establish his claim to his plot of land during a succession of rightist and leftist state governments, forms, as Shyam says 'the spine of our film.' But the story of Lohar's filmic counterpart, Hari Mondal, goes beyond a peasant's deprivation to the connected urban influx caused by rural pauperisation.

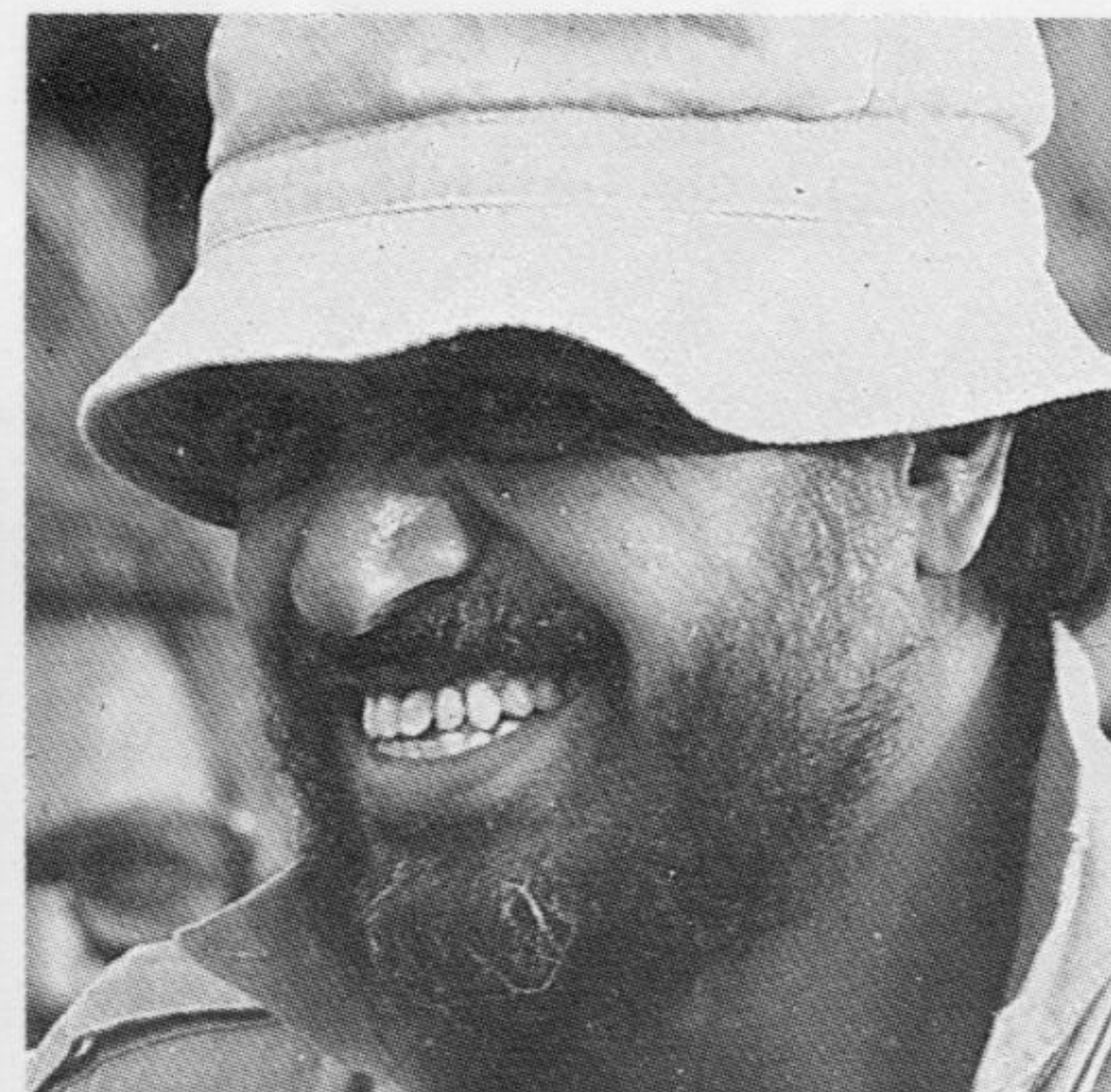
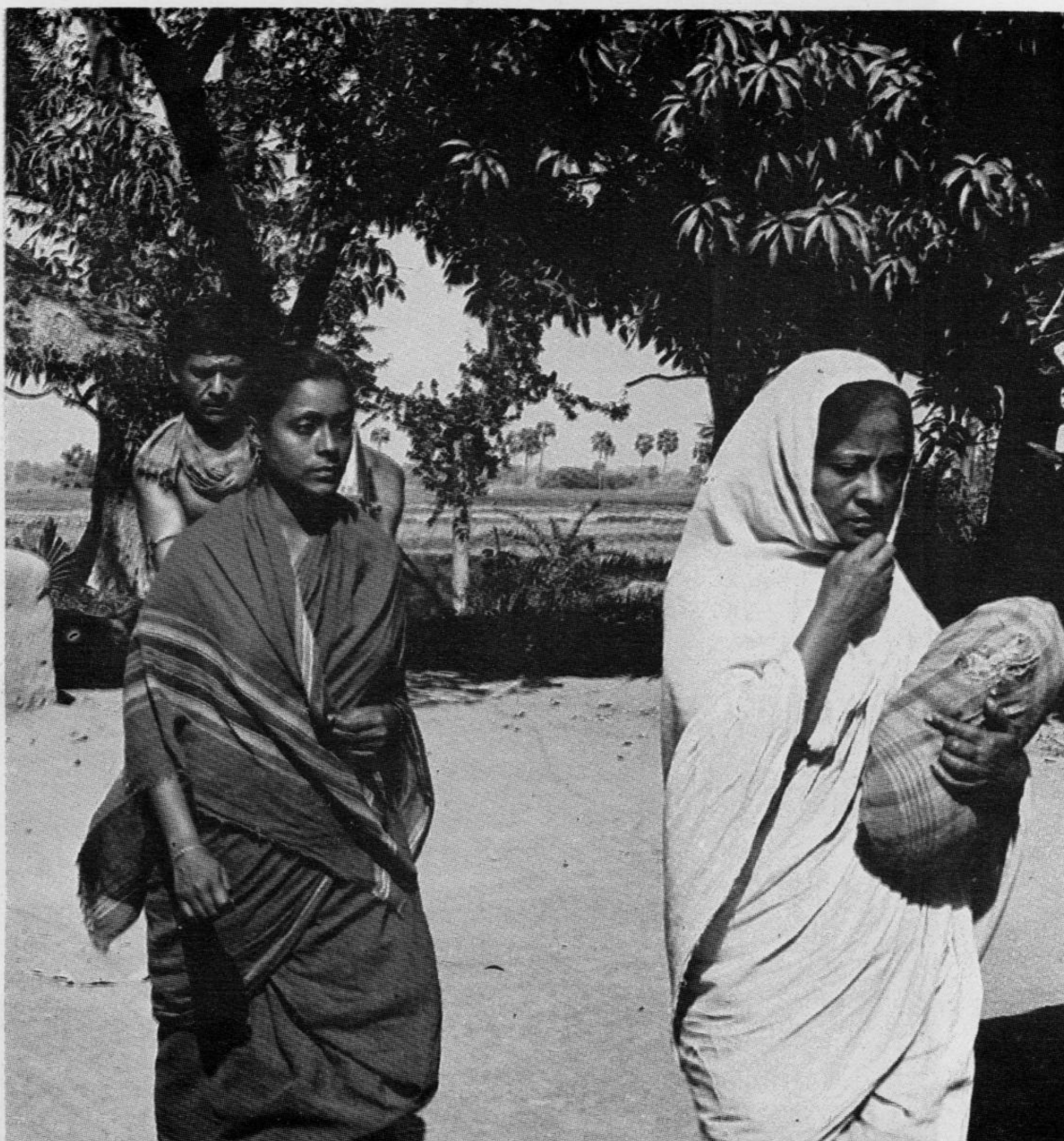
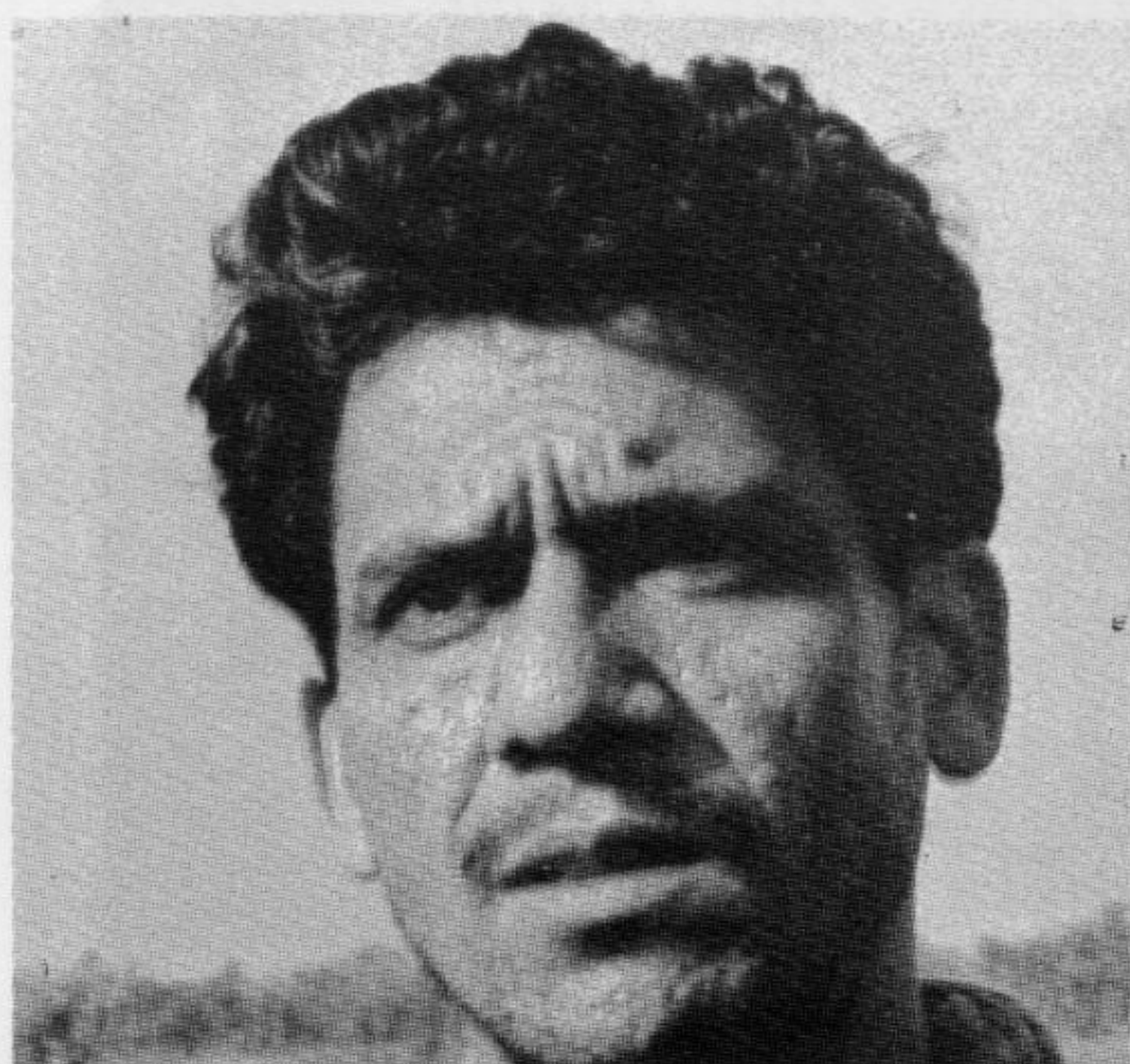
Aarohan is a documentary in the most literal sense — it documents, it does not preach, condemn or exhort. But it is also dramatic; occasionally melodramatic, since it never forgets that human beings are involved.

"The court scenes in the film, where Hari Mondal wages a never-ending battle, are the most truthful and the most brilliant I have ever seen on the Indian screen."

THE DIRECTOR

Shyam Benegal's first film **Ankur** (1974) put him immediately at the top and he has stayed there through nine films. He makes his films in Hindi but one of them, **Kondura**, was also made in a Telugu version as **Anugraham**.

He was an advertising executive in Bombay and made a great number of award-winning documentaries before starting on feature films. In addition he has directed about 600 film commercials. His latest documentaries include films on Nehru and Satyajit Ray, and he is completing a new feature, set in Goa.



The Director

2P #24935

Le personnage principal est Hari Mondal, métayer qui travaille pour un propriétaire terrien de Calcutta. Il est marié, père de deux enfants. Avec lui, vivent son frère Bolai, sa soeur célibataire Tepi, une vieille veuve Kalidashi et sa fille Panchi.

Le film raconte les difficultés rencontrées par Hari Mondal à la mort du vieux propriétaire, remplacé par quelqu'un qui n'est pas originaire du village, l'exode tragique de sa famille vers la ville et leur déchéance progressive, ses luttes continuelles, symbole du combat sans issue des défavorisés et des ouvriers agricoles.

Le film se déroule sur une période de 10 ans. Il montre la progression de la prise de conscience politique de Hari Mondal.

Au début du film, Hari Mondal est très désireux de marier sa soeur, Afin d'obtenir son soutien financier pour la cérémonie, il accepte les conditions du propriétaire: renoncer à ses droits de métayage pour ne devenir qu'un simple ouvrier journalier.

Son frère Bolai perd ainsi son emploi. Ne pouvant donc espérer épouser Panchi, il part pour la ville. Un étranger fait de fausses promesses à Panchi et l'entraîne à Calcutta. Elle devient la maîtresse d'un homme d'affaires. Bolai, accusé de meurtre, finit en prison tandis que Hari Mondal poursuit sa lutte au village.

Alors que Hari Mondal est parvenu à regagner ses droits de métayer, Panchi devient folle. Sa mère meurt de désespoir.

