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INDIA 1971

# The Adversary

## PRATIDWANDI

**Thu 18 Nov 6.15/Sun 21 Nov 1.30**

**Director: Satyajit Ray**
Production Company: PRIYA FILMS
Producer: NEPAL DUTTA, ASHIM DUTTA
Screenplay/Music: SATYAJIT RAY.
Based on a story by Sunil Ganguli
Photography: SOUMENDU ROY (black and white)
Editor: DULAL DUTTA
Art Director: BANSI CHANDRAGUPTA
*Leading Players:*
*Dhritiman Chatterjee, Yoyshree Roy, Krishna Bose, Kalyan Chatterjee, Bhasker Chowdhuri*

**VENICE FILM FESTIVAL 1971**

**Short: Was It for This the Clay Grew Tall ? (India).**
**Director: R. S. Pillai. 8 minutes.**
**(London Film Festival choice)**

"*Pratidwandi*, the new Satyajit Ray film, was a disappointment to some but not to me. Ray has often been accused of too even or static a pace, which is sometimes true here. He has also been attacked for his lack of political commitment, which is nonsense if you use the word in anything like its widest sense. *Pratidwandi* tries to correct this latter fault. A young man, middle-class and educated, has to leave medical school on the death of his father, and find a job in Calcutta. He goes in front of various boards but there meets and rejects the dead hand of Indian bureaucracy. In spite of his conventional nature he follows his younger brother into the camp of those determined to change society, perhaps violently. Ray uses a lyrical flashback technique for scenes of the boy's early and more hopeful childhood, and this does not always work out too well. But there are some superb passages, such as when the boy finally goes berserk after waiting with dozens of others for hours to be interviewed. And as always both the writing (his own) and the direction have that elusive quality of looking as deeply under the surface of things as almost anyone." — *Derek Malcolm, The Guardian.*