

## Satyajit Ray: The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Man

*As part of the centenary year of cinema in India celebrations, the Directorate of Film Festivals, Satyajit Ray Society and Lightcube Film Society are working together to organise a Retrospective of the director responsible for more masterpieces than any other great in Indian cinema; illustrator, painter, visualiser, author, musician, photographer, film society activist and filmmaker, Satyajit Ray.*



For long, Satyajit Ray's been thought of as being symbolic of the 'alternative', or 'the other' – the notion that despite the existence of the bludgeoning mainstream industries across the country exercise almost vulgar control over markets and minds alike, there is *still* the possibility that a figure like Ray may exist and make films that resemble personal visions over forty years. In that, the existence of Satyajit Ray has throughout been of a figure who existed *in spite* of the system, instead of because of it – this evaluation of him as an artist whose being is carved out primarily through opposition or perversion is, however, terribly reductive and unmindful of the fact that after all, Ray films made not *against* someone, but *in favour* of the medium he so loved. To highlight Ray's status as a cineaste and film-lover over his status as a 'parallel filmmaker', the Directorate of Film Festivals, Satyajit Ray Society and Lightcube Film Society are collaborating to organise a three-day long Retrospective of his work at Sirifort Auditorium, this runs from the 26<sup>th</sup> April to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

The Retrospective will feature both Satyajit Ray's long-form work and his shorts, alongwith Mr. Shyam Benegal's 1984 documentary on him, entitled *Ray* (this film opens the Retrospective). The vision behind the programming of the festival, where all films will be exhibited on 35mm, is to represent as a whole Ray's career – both in terms of its various phases (from the autobiographical musings of the first era, to the politically charged films of the middle and his assimilation into the larger culture of the world in the final) and the various ideas contained within it. In seeing this, the various films exhibited at the Retrospective will include classics such as *Pather Panchali*, *Charulata*, *Jalsaghar* and also, the relatively lesser known (and seen) films such as *Rabindranath Tagore*, *Sadgati*, *Pikoo* and end with his opus, *Ghare Baire*.

These films will be discussed at length in panel discussions that will feature close associates of Satyajit Ray, colleagues and members of the Ray Society who have worked actively for the past twenty years to preserve Ray's artistic legacy. The list includes Mr. Arup De, the CEO of the Society, as well as major feature in Ray's films, actor Dhritiman Chatterji will discuss the 1972 film *Pratidwandi*.

The screenings at the Retrospective will also be accompanied by an exhaustive exhibition which will have on display a wide selection from Ray's numerous artistic work, such as ad-artworks, book jacket designs, posters, booklets, set and costume designs, sketches from shooting scripts, as also still photographs of people and places.

The Retrospective runs as part of the Centenary year of Indian Cinema celebrations organised by the Directorate of Film Festivals.

*From 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Sirifort Auditorium.*

**Schedule:**

**Friday, 26 April 2013**

2 pm: *Satyajit Ray / Shyam Benegal*

4:45 pm: *Pather Panchali*

**Saturday, 27 April 2013**

11 am: *Jalsaghar*

1.30 pm: *Charulata*

4 pm: *Pratidwandi*

7.30 pm - 8.30 pm: Dhritiman Chatterji, in a Q/A session with members of the audience; moderated by Anuj Malhotra.

**Sunday, 28 April 2013**

11 am: *Rabindranath Tagore, Sadgati and Pikoo's Diary*

1:30 pm: *Sonar Kella*

3:45 pm: A multimedia presentation tracing the etymology/origins of Feluda, the character.

4 pm: *Ghare Baire*

6:25 pm: **Panel Discussion:** 'On Ray's Oeuvre' featuring Mr. Dhritiman Chatterjee and Mr. Shantanu Ray Choudhury.

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**Entry free. For inquiries, call: 7838340196, write to [lightcubefilmsociety@gmail.com](mailto:lightcubefilmsociety@gmail.com) / [satyajitraysociety@gmail.com](mailto:satyajitraysociety@gmail.com)**