



DURGAPUR WOMEN'S COLLEGE

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Title of the state level Seminar: Reflections on Satyajit Ray as a Cinematic Story teller
Organised by : Film Club

Date : 02.05.2024

Invited speaker/guests (mention with designation and institution name) : Dr. Subhajit Chatterjee, Assistant professor, film studies, Jadavpur University

Topic of the speech : Satyajit Ray's vision as an auteur story-teller.

Brief Report (300-400 Words Appx):

Satyajit Ray's cinematic oeuvre has 29 feature films, 05 documentary films and 02 shortfilms. Satyajit Ray's first documentary film was released in 1961, and it was on Rabindranath Tagore. It was on the request of Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India, Ray produced this film. The Inner Eye (1972) was another documentary film by Satyajit Ray. Benode Bihari Mukherjee, the blinded art teacher and Ray's guru at Visva-Bharati University at Shantiniketan, was the subject of this documentary. This 20-minute Eastmancolor film, written and directed by Ray, won the Best Informative Film in 1973 National Film Awards. Except two films, a Hindi/Urdu feature film Shatranj ke Khiladi (Player of Chess, 19...) and the English documentary film Bala, on the Bharatanatyam danseuse from Tamil Nadu, all films of Ray were in Bengali language. Kanchenjunga, released in 1962, was Satyajit Ray's first colour film, and it was his first film made with his own original script. His last film was titled Agantuk (The Stranger) and it was released in 1991, a year before his death. In 1991, an Honorary Oscar Award was also accorded on Satyajit Ray, "in recognition of his rare mastery of the art of motion pictures and for his profound humanitarian outlook, which he has had an indelible influence on filmmakers and audiences throughout the world." (Oscars.org). The Government of India accorded on Ray its highest civilian award, Bharat Ratna, in 1992. Ray had always been a great cinephile, right from his teenage days. He believed in founding a healthy cinema culture in India. He was chiefly instrumental in founding the second film society in India, the Calcutta Film Society (CSF), established in 1947. The first film society in India was the Mumbai Film Society, which was established in 1946. The Calcutta Film Society got registered on 05 October 1947 and along with Satyajit Ray, Chidananda Dasgupta, Purnendu Narayan, Manojendu Majumdar also played key roles in establishing CFS. The Major influences on Satyajit Ray, the filmmaker include: Bibhutibhushan Bandopadhyaya, Rabindranath Tagore, Vittorio De Sica, Jean Renoir, Akira Kurosawa. The Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa has famously opined that, "Not to have seen the cinema of Ray means existing in the world without seeing the sun or the moon." Satyajit Ray is basically a character creator. Stereotyping characters has never been his filmic method. Humanity caught in a web of intricate relationships amongst themselves at various times and various emotional phases represents most of Ray's protagonists. The complex Indian extended family, its personal, casteist, social and cultural bondages and the process of modernization of a


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young nation in the making are shown with attention to minute details in Ray's Apu Trilogy. This seminar delves into all aspects of Ray's cinema focussing on his storytelling.

Link to the Durgapur Women's College Facebook Post about the event:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=912685693992122&set=a.549516833642345>


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