



SATYAJIT RAY: THE LANGUAGE OF FILM

Deliverance (Sadgati)

Made for national television in Hindi, Premchand's searing story about caste exploitation in rural India resulted in Ray's bleakest film. Low caste untouchable Dukhi is ordered by an upper caste Brahmin priest to cut trees in the scorching midday sun. Om Puri and Smita Patil deliver powerful performances as the poor villagers.

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Deliverance was made for television, but then so was Krzysztof Kieslowski's *Dekalog*, with which it shares the same moral force. An untouchable peasant (Om Puri, heartbreaking) is ruthlessly exploited by the local Brahmin, forced to perform hours of hard labour at the height of summer in exchange for a routine favour required by India's caste system. But it's after things go disastrously wrong and the Brahmin moves into full-on cover-up mode that the film's underlying anger becomes clear. Ray avoids making any overt political statements, but these would merely say what is already obvious: the insult to an entire social class conveyed by the Brahmin's final 'cleansing' gesture is like a sledgehammer to the teeth.

Michael Brooke, *Sight & Sound*, November 2010

DELIVERANCE (SADGATI)

Director: Satyajit Ray

Production Companies: Doordarshan, Government of India Films Division

Producers: Balai Auddy, Trailokya Das, Tej Bahadur

Production Controller: Anil Chowdhury

Production Manager: Bhanu Ghose

Assistant Directors: Ramesh Sen, Santi Chatterji

Screenplay: Satyajit Ray

Dialogue: Satyajit Ray, Amrit Rai

Based on the story by: Prem Chand

Director of Photography: Soumendu Roy

Assistant Photographers: Purnendu Bose, Anil Ghosh, Dilip Bannerji, Mohan Rana

Stills Photography: Nema Ghosh, Sandip Ray

Editor: Dulal Dutta

Assistant Editor: Kashinath Bose

Art Director: Asok Bose

Wardrobe: Haru Das

Make-up: Ananta Das

Music: Satyajit Ray

Music Recording: Sushanta Bannerji

Mixing: Mangesh Desai

Sound: Amulya Das

Assistant Sound: Gokul Pandey

Dubbing: Kuldip Sood

Cast

Om Puri (*Dukhi Chamar*)

Smita Patil (*Jhuria, Dukhi's wife*)

Richa Mishra (*Dhania, Dukhi's daughter*)

Mohan Agashe (*Ghashiram, the Brahmin*)

Gita Siddarth (*Lakshmi, Ghashiram's wife*)

Bhaialal Hedao (*the gond*)

India 1981

52 mins

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