

'It's like a Shakespeare scene. Only three hundred words are spoken but, goodness, terrific things happen!'

— Nobel laureate V.S. Naipaul on *Shatranj Ke Khilari*, 1987

'Sir, I would like you to make a film in Hindi because I am in the Hindi film industry, or in English, or if not, then in Bengali.' When Suresh Jindal said these words to Satyajit Ray in 1974, he was a rookie producer with a single film — albeit the sleeper hit of the year, *Rajnigandha* — to his credit. Ray was an icon, among the greatest film-makers in the world.

Yet, Ray responded: 'Actually, I have been thinking of doing a film in Hindi', thus paving the way for a remarkable adventure. *Shatranj Ke Khilari* is Satyajit Ray's

only full-length feature film in Hindi/Urdu and his most expensive film. A period piece set in nineteenth-century Lucknow, it employed lavish set designs and stars of both Hindi and Hollywood cinema.

Quoting extensively from Ray's fascinating unpublished letters to Jindal, this book evokes the passion, historical research and trademark devotion to detail that Ray brought to every aspect of film production, as also the many epiphanies and pitfalls that accompany all creative collaborations. Coinciding with the fortieth anniversary of the film's release, *My Adventures with Satyajit Ray* is a fitting tribute to a classic of Indian cinema and its immortal maker.



'Very few directors have been brave enough to show history in the making. This is the way it must really feel to live through a moment of historic change. It feels distant and tragic at the same time.'

— Martin Scorsese on *Shatranj Ke Khilari*, 2009

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SURESH  
JINDAL



My  
Adventures  
with

SATYAJIT RAY



SURESH JINDAL

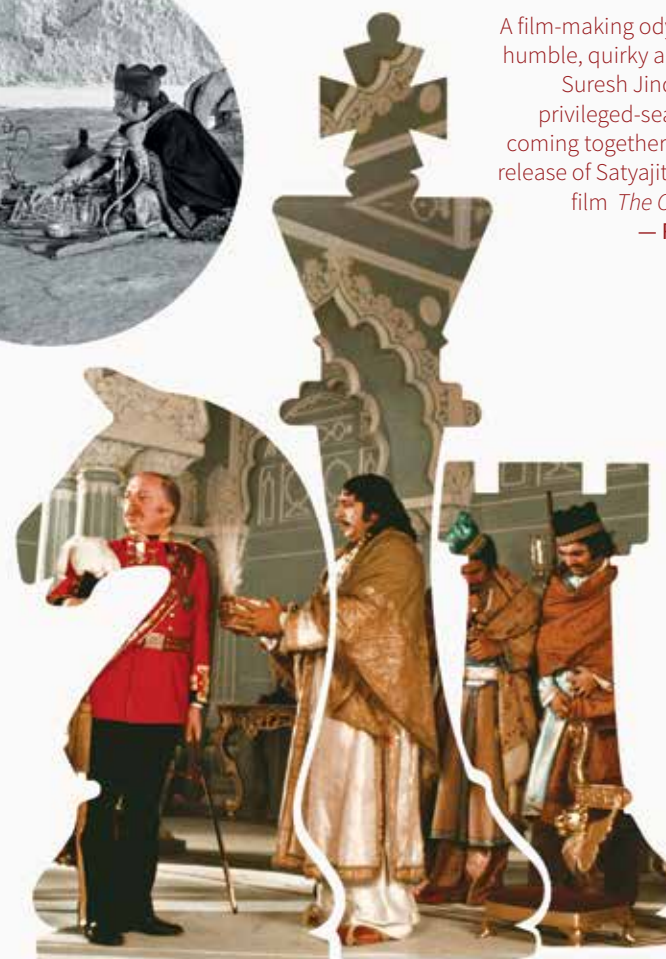
My Adventures with

SATYAJIT RAY

The Making of *Shatranj Ke Khilari*

(*The Chess Players*)

Introduction by Andrew Robinson



A film-making odyssey. Funny, humble, quirky and insightful.

Suresh Jindal gives us a privileged-seat view of the coming together, making and release of Satyajit Ray's classic film *The Chess Players*.

— Richard Gere

