

HUMANITIES INSTITUTE
Stuart Blackburn, Ph.D.

RITUPARNO GHOSH (1963 – 2013)



LIFE

Rituparno Ghosh was born into a sophisticated arts family in Calcutta. His father made documentary films and also painted for a living. He received a BA and MA in economics from a prestigious university in Calcutta. After his education, he pursued a successful career in commercial advertising. The company he worked for then commissioned him to make a documentary film for Indian television.

Beginning in the early 1990s, he began to make feature films, mostly light-hearted stories, although his movies became darker and more socially relevant as he gained recognition within India. He also made several films set in the time of the British Raj, drawing on influences from Shakespeare to Satyajit Ray for his themes. By the turn of the millennium, he had won many awards from the National Film Academy in India, but he gained more international audiences with *Butterfly (Titli, 2002)* and *Sand in the Eye (Choker Bali, 2003)*. His most critically acclaimed films include *Boat Wreck (Nouka Dubi, 2006)* and *Companion (Dosar, 2011)*. His life-long interest in crime fiction (his 2003 *Opening Ceremony* is a screen adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel *The Cracked Mirror*) culminated in *The Truth-Seeker (Satyanweshi, 2013)*, which combined Christie with Tagore. In addition to his directing, Ghosh appeared in a few films and edited a cinema magazine for several years. As one of the few openly gay figures in Indian arts culture, he became a celebrity for gay rights campaigns. Although he did not make films with homosexual characters or themes, he did play gay roles in two films.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Ghosh won the award for Best Feature Film several times at the National Film Awards ceremony in New Delhi. He twice won the Golden Leopard award (the top award for best international film) at the Locarno film festival in Switzerland: in 2003 for *Sand in the Eye (Choker Bali)* and in 2005 for *Inner Chamber (Antarmahal)*.

FEATURE FILMS (as director)

Diamond Ring (Hirer Angti) 1992

19th April (Unishe April) 1994

Crossfire (Dahan) 1997

Landlady (Bariwali) 1999

Malaise (Asukh) 1999

The Festival (Utsab) 2000

Butterfly (Titli) 2002

Opening Ceremony (Shubho Mahurat) 2003

Sand in the Eye (Choker Bali) 2003

Raincoat 2003

Inner Chamber (Antar Mahal) 2005

Companion (Dosar) 2006

The Last Lear 2007

Game (Khela) 2008

All Characters are Imaginary (Sob Charitro Kalponik) 2009

The Eternal (Abohoman) 2010

The Boat Wreck (Nouka Dubi) 2011

The Crowning Wish (Chitrangada) 2012

The Truth-Seeker (Satyanweshi) 2013