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Aaj Ka Robin Hood

("Return of Robin Hood")

India : 1987 : dir. Tapan Sinha :

: 111 min

prod: : scr: Tapan Sinha : dir.ph.: Kamal Nayak

Master Ravi

Utpal Dutt; Anil Chatterjee; Satish Shah; Nana Patekar; Ravi Gosh; Suraj Karani;
Ritesh Talwar

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Indian Film Institute website notes:

“Three rich land-owning brothers exploit the poor of their village with merciless greed. One of them starts a school for their own children and places a teacher in charge. Tetra, a poor boy, is given the task of pulling the hand-drawn "punkha" (fan). The teacher realises that Tetra is gifted and gives him private lessons in the evenings. Tetra listens entranced to stories of Robin Hood.

During the village elections, Tetra and the teacher's son carry out a plot by which they redress the villagers' usurped rights to their own land. The incensed landowner brothers dismiss the teacher. Tetra disappears. The teacher awaits the promise that his return holds for the village folk.

AAJ KA ROBINHOOD

(Return of Robin Hood) 1987 / 35mm / 3052.29 mts. 111 mins / Hindi and English
Director / Script / Music: :Tapan Sinha
Camera: Kamal Nayak
Editor : Subodh Roy
Art Director : Ashok Bose
Cast: :Utpal Dutt, Anil Chatterjee, Satish Shah, Nana Patekar, Ravi Gosh, Master Ravi, Suraj Karani, Ritesh Talwar
Festival/Awards: Special Mention at UNICEF Jury, Children's Film Festival / Berlin International Film Festival 1988.

Tapan Sinha:

Starting out as a sound recordist with New Theatres Studio in Calcutta, veteran film director Tapan Sinha subsequently worked

as an audio engineer in Pinewood Studios, London. From the time he made his first feature film "**ANKUSH**" in 1953 Tapan Sinha has gone on to carve a distinguished career for himself, which spans over thirty feature films. He invariably scripts his films himself and occasionally scores the music. Among the most well-known of his films is "**KABULLIWALA**" (1956), which won an award for music at the Berlin Film Festival. "**ATITHI**" (1966), which won an award at Venice, and "**SAFED HATHI**" (1978) which won the National Award for the best children's film. ”

What's On TV note:

“An ambitious boy is too poor to enrol at the local school. Escapist fantasy and tough reality are the two sides of this Bengali film about illiteracy. ** ”

TV Quick note:

“A clever Bengali boy is too poor to attend classes, but gets a job in school and outsmarts the other children. Hindi with English subtitles. ”

Daily Mirror note:

“Children's adventure from India.”

[no listing in "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "The Good Film and Video Guide", "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 1996", "Speelfilm Encyclopedie", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Land reform seems to remain a pervasive theme in Indian cinema. Although I did view this a decade ago, I've no recollection of it at all, and that in itself may reveal something. Children's films from India are still a rarity on UK terrestrial television, despite a sizable population from the Indian subcontinent. The sensibilities do not translate well, and despite efforts (chiefly from Channel 4) to popularise the Bollywood product it remains in the niche of exotic novelty. It would be interesting to know what percentage of the vast Indian feature output is produced for children's consumption.

See also "[BARI THEKE PALIYE](#)" (59), "[KUMMATTY](#)" (80), "[PATHER PANCHALI](#)" (55), "[SALAAM BOMBAY!](#)" (88), and subject index under [ASIA](#) and [SCHOOL](#). Robin Hood is a perennial favourite of children's television and can be found under [SWASHBUCKLERS](#). See "[ROBIN HOOD JUNIOR](#)" for a Children's Film Foundation title in that metier.