**Satyajit Ray**

One of world's greatest directors, Satyajit Ray was born on May 2, 1921. He was from a family prominent in the world of arts and literature. Regarded as one of the greatest auteurs of the 20th century cinema, Satyajit Ray had a global fan following.

Being India's first and only Oscar-winning director, Ray started his career as a graphic artist before heading to London to realise his passion for filmmaking. He directed 36 films, including feature films, documentaries and telly films. He was also a fiction writer, publisher, illustrator, graphic designer and film critic.

Awards

Ray debuted with “[Pather Panchali](https://variety.com/t/pather-panchali/)” (1955) the first part of the magisterial Apu Trilogy, which won best human document at Cannes. The Trilogy includes “Aparajito” (1956) and “Apur Sansar” (1959). Berlin was a particularly happy venue for him and he won top awards at the festival numerous times, for “Pather Panchali,” “Aparajito,” “Mahanagar” (1963), “Charulata” (1964), “Nayak” (1966) and “Ashani Sanket” (1973).

At Venice he won for “Aparajito” and “Seemabaddha” (1971), culminating in a career Golden Lion in 1982. He also won a British Institute Fellowship in 1983 to go with the London Film Festival’s Sutherland Trophy for “Apur Sansar.” In 1987, the government of France made Ray a Commander of the Legion of Honor.

In India, Ray’s films won 36 times at India’s National Film Awards and he was also accorded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and the Bharat Ratna, the country’s highest film and civilian awards respectively.

The Indian government has newly instituted a Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award for Excellence in Cinema.