



NATIONAL AWARD 'GOLDEN LOTUS'
WINNER FOR BEST FILM, 'SILVER LOTUS'
FOR BEST DIRECTION.

SILVER PEA COCK WINNER IN THE 9TH
INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF
INDIA OCIC AWARD WINNER AT BERLIN.
CHOKH/LES YEUX/DAS AUGEN

bp2

A FILM BY
UTPALENDU CHAKRABORTY

PRODUCED BY
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND
CULTURAL AFFAIRS
GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL



Citation of the Special jury award in the 9th International Film Festival of India.

'CHOKH' (THE EYE) the only Indian feature film entry in the competition section of the 9th International Film Festival of India. bagged the prestigious special award of the jury (Silver peacock) for the 'vigour of its expression and its human commitment, and the uncompromising sincerity with which it depicts the struggle for justice against social oppression and corruption'.

PRESS COMMENTS

INDIA TODAY : "In fact arguably the best film in the Competition Section, made up of 24 movies this year, was the Indian entry CHOKH (THE EYE), a gripping dramatic tale of the intrigue-infested corridors of a Calcutta hospital made by a young Bengali called Utpalendu Chakraborty."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES : "CHOKH" (THE EYE) is indeed a very powerful film and a strong contender for the festival award. Its power lies not so much in the technique as in the taut script and direction.

THE STATESMAN : "Mr Chakraborty is a spirited young director with a social conscience and in his latest offering he takes up a fascinating theme, is a drastic expose of corruption in public life in politics in the bureaucracy and indeed in the medical profession itself".

THE STATESMAN, CALCUTTA : "Among the Indian film makers participating in the just concluded Delhi Film Festival, now one could have been more satisfied with the outcome that Utpalendu Chakraborty, 'CHOKH', (THE EYE), his second feature film produced by the West Bengal Government was selected first for the Indian Panorama section and later transferred to the main competition.

Among the celebrities, the most touching response came from Margerethe von Trotta whose "German Sisters" was itself one of the festival's main attraction. In a note to Chakraborty she said "Chokh" was the "strongest film on reality I have seen in a long time. I was touched and involved."

So, your film (CHOKH /THE EYE) given me a lot of reflections and impuls for my new one. It is the strongest film about reality I saw since a long time, I think it will haunt me still when I will be back in my country. Your passionate longing for truth and at the same time, the fact that you can admit that you do not know the solution have impressed me very deeply. I like the actors and the way of your shooting. Our duty is to keep the eyes open for every thing. Oureyes are our films.

THE TIMES OF INDIA : It is in keeping with the spirit of Third World cinema elsewhere as it takes up a subject with political connotations.

INDIN EXPRESS : Utpalendu Chakraborty has made a very topical and socially significant film. It exposes the duplicity of the rulers, industrialists and bureaucracy. At the same time, it spotlights the honesty and integrity of a few principled men, especially in the medical profession who do not yield to do anything unethical and workers' devotion to the cause of the workers. Utpalendu states all this in an original screenplay, in a powerful style that sustains its impact long after the film is over.

THE TELEGRAPH : A harditting comment on the socio-political structure of our times, in the film is set in 1975, during the emergency. The treatment of a powerful script is simplistic and effectively portrays the total exploitation of the working class by the bourgeoisie.

PATRIOT : "Young Utpalendu Chakraborty in his second film "CHOKH" (THE EYE), presents a pristine example of the best of recent Indian cinema, a maturity of style complementing a political integrity and fearlessness not shown by some more senior film makers.

For Utpalendu, the conflicts of his society are not between amprhous and only dimly delineated forces but between protagonists who are clearly identified and labelled for what they are, recognisable without ambiguity by any student of Indian reality.



Utpalendu Chakraborty's film CHOKH which got Special Jury Award for best film of the year at 9th International Film Festival Delhi 1983 has also received prize and commendation in Berlin. The film received the prize of the Jury of International Catholic Organization for Cinema and Audio Visual of the Berlin Film Festival 1983. The prize brought with it a cash award of DM 3000 (Rs. 12,000) with the following citation :

" A sensitive and intelligent prescription of a desparate conflict situation in which basic human solidarity is confronted with the ruling class"

The film was the only Indian entry in the International Form of Young Cinema 1983 which does not give any award as it does not wish to establish difference in quality between the films shown. However, departing from the established practice, the Director of the International Fourn of Young Cinema, ULRICH GREGOR, gave for the first time a certificate of participation to this film with the following citation :

"Mr Chakraborty's film was enthusiastically welcomed by large audience and was praised by the crites as an example of well made and socially constituted cinema from a third world country depicting the social contradictions of this country and the struggle of the poor and alienated to overcome their condition. The crities particularly stressed the dynamism of the film, its courage and its truthfulness in describing social reality by means of people

taken from every day life whose faces directly and powerfully express the conditions in which they are living."

**CHOKH
THE EYE**

EASTMAN COLOUR

35 m.m.

DURATION : 98 MINUTES

LENGTH : 9771.13 FEET/2978.36 METRES

PRODUCED BY :

**DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION &
CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

GOVT. OF WEST BENGAL

WRITERS BUILDING, CALCUTTA, INDIA

**MUSIC - STORY - SCRIPT - DIRECTION :
UTPALENDU CHAKRABORTY**

CAMERA :

SHAKTI BANERJEE

EDITING

BULU GHOSH

LEADING PLAYERS :

OM PURI

SHYAMANAND ZALAN

ANIL CHATTERJEE

SHREELA MAZUMDAR

ASIT MUKHERJEE

DIPAK SARKAR

MADHABI CHAKRABORTY

&

OTHERS

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The eye symbolizes a society divided into warring classes. It is a society where the official laus are bent and twisted to serve the interests of the propertied classes. But the working class retains its fighting spirit and its determination to protest and resist. The passions that a dead man's eyes arouse in the film symbolize the energy that the ideals of a struggling working class retain even after the physical death of a revolutionary worker. It is the spirit of the working class that crystallizes around itself the support of a courageous class of liberal humanitarians, represented in the film by Dr. Mukherjee who is not cowed down by the Emergency and can go on insisting on his right to know whose eyes they are and to look into the papers. His refusal to operate may not be a revolutionary act in itself, but has a value of its own, in the perspectives of his class position and the times in general.

