



উনিশে এপ্রিল

**Spandan Films Presents**

A Film by  
**Rituparno Ghosh**

N I N E T E E N T H   A P R I L

17-5-96

## The Background

Spandan Films was formed by three friends bound by a common love of cinema -Aparna Sen, Rituparno Ghosh and Renu Roy. Over the long years of their friendship they had often dreamed of having their own film company and of producing the kind of films they believed in.

The dream materialised into reality when they found that Rituparno Ghosh had a script with great possibilities but with no producer to finance it. The three friends then decided to beg and borrow and somehow raise the funds required to turn Rituparno's screenplay into a film ... their first film ... UNISHE APRIL ... Spandan Films' first venture ...

Spandan intends to go on making quality films that will reach out to audiences all over the world; to bridge the cultural gap between audiences at home and abroad through their feature films, documentaries, tele-films and serials ... productions that will bear the Spandan hallmark of excellence.

In its first effort Spandan Films has been aided by a wonderfully supportive cast and crew whose contribution is gratefully acknowledged below.

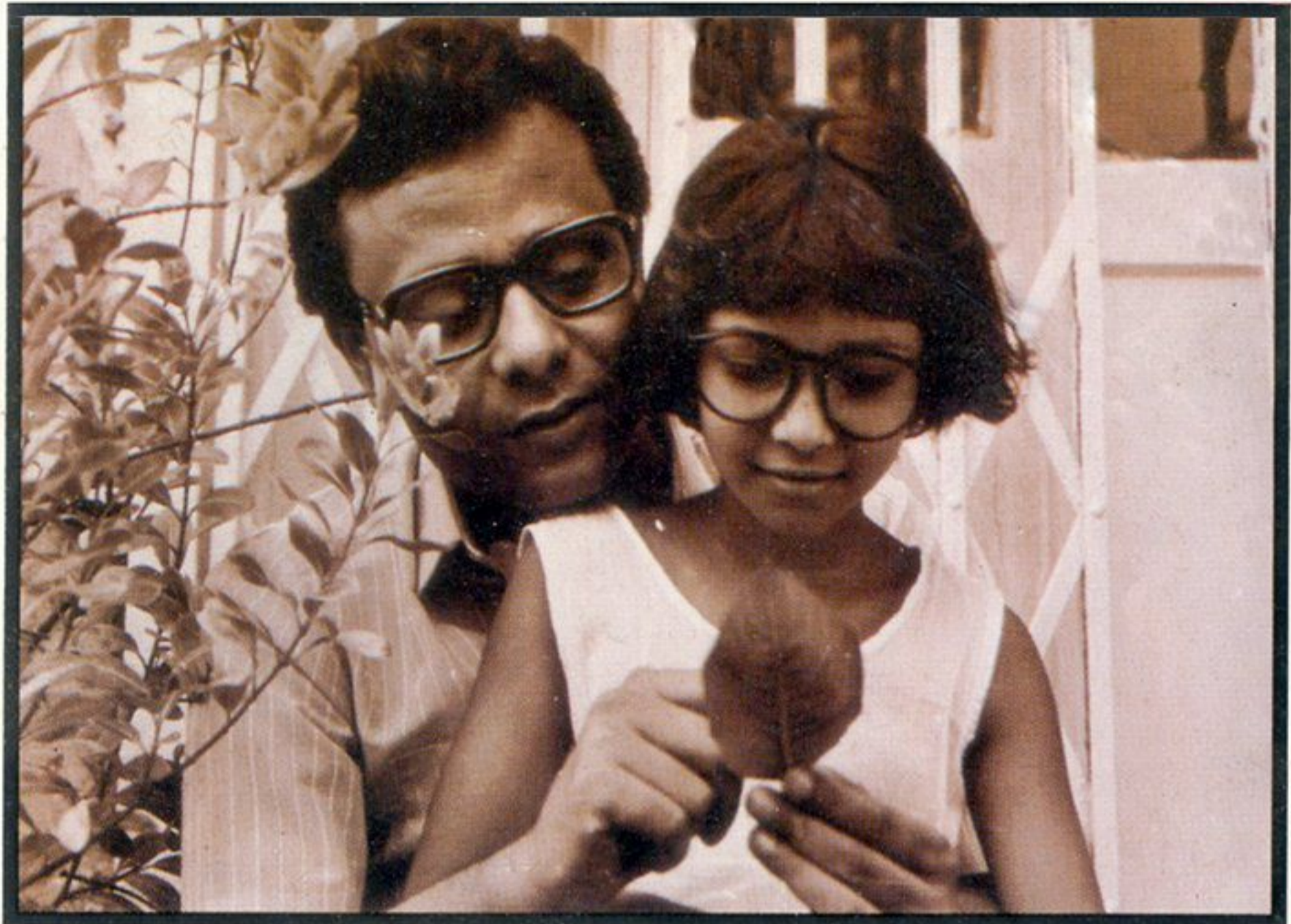


## Technical Details

Title	: Unishe April
Language	: Bengali
Length	: 3801.21 Metres
Running Time	: 2Hrs. 10Mts.
Gauge	: 35 MM.
Laboratory	: Gemini Colour Laboratory Madras

## Credits

Producer	: Renu Roy
Screenplay Writer	
Director	: Rituparno Ghosh
Cinematography	: Sunirmal Majumdar
Editor	: Ujjal Nandy
Art	: Bibi Ray
Choreography	: Anjana Banerjee
Music	: Jyotishka Das Gupta
Executive Producer	: Souvik Mitra



Fine performance ... the film deals sensitively with a problem in the evolving middle class of modern India - the alienation between a working mother and a working daughter. The scene is relatively familiar, in the West but is very new in Indian cinema.'

**Chidananda Dasgupta**

Film historian and film director

**Cast**

: Aparna Sen  
: Debasree Roy  
: Deepankar Dey  
: Chitra Sen  
: Bodhisattva Majumdar  
and  
: Prasenjit



## The Film

The plotline weaves around a single day and night - Nineteenth or 'Unishe' April. A nationally acclaimed dancer, Sarojini and her daughter Aditi confront the distance that has grown between them over the years.

Sarojini is completely immersed in her art while Aditi perceives herself to be irrelevant in her mother's world.

Through flashbacks, the film explores the past - Aditi's relationship with her father and Sarojini's increasing alienation from her husband before his death. What does one live for and why? These are the areas through which mother and daughter move towards a morning of a renewed understanding of life, of each other and of the inherent human need to love.



## Director's Statement

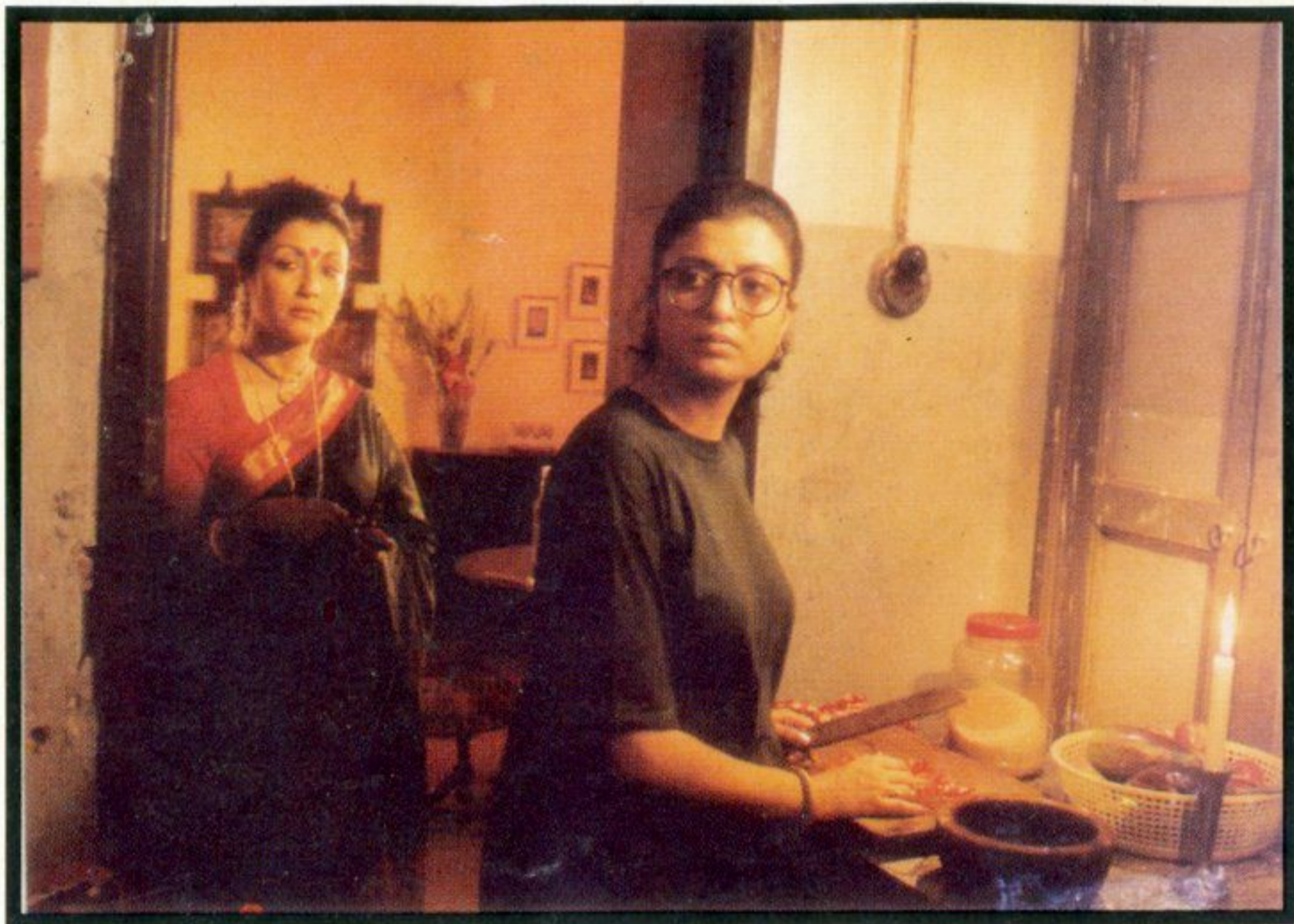
I thought it would be a worthwhile project to capture and encapsulate the seething tensions of modern Indian women in a society in transition by means of its smallest unit - one day, one family, one relationship at its explosive breaking point. The idea that this could serve at a symbolic level too, as a micropicture, a metaphor of Mother India herself in critical transition, came as an additional insight later after the human drama worked itself out vividly in my mind's eye.

I wished to probe and provoke; so that the image of a self-denying, all-denying "Sati" role model may be juxtaposed with positive alternative constructs.

I wanted my audience to feel, think and question certain givens.

**RITUPARNO GHOSH**  
DIRECTOR

June 6, 1995



'Unishe April is an articulate and thought-provoking film. In a refreshing change, the focus is on the woman with fine insights into the contemporary woman's dilemma, continually juggling between home and profession, desire and duty. A rare film that leads to a deeper understanding of intimate personal relationships.'

**Aruna Vasudev**

Editor, Cinemaya, the Asian film quarterly

National Award *Silver Lotus* Winner  
Best Actress, 1994





An intimate family story torn between love and hate, moving and unsettling, but controlled...The film has a quiet dignity...  
My pick of the year.

**Mrinal Sen**

National Award *Golden Lotus* Winner  
Best Film, 1994

