



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
OFFICIAL SELECTION  
CANNES CLASSICS

May 20 - 8 p.m.  
Salle Buñuel

WORLD **CINEMA** FOUNDATION  
RESTORATIONS 2010

# TITAS EKI NADIR NAAM (A River called Titas)

**Ritwik Ghatak, 1973**

Written by Advaita Malla Burman, Ritwik Ghatak. Editing: Basheer Hussain. Director of Photography: Baby Islam. Original Music by: Ustad Bahadur Khan. Produced by: Habibur Rahman Khan. Production Company: Starring: Kabari Choudhury (Rajar Jhi), Roushan Jamil (Mother), Probir Mitra (Kishore), Ritwik Ghatak (Tilakchand), Rani Sarkar (Mungli), Sufia Rustam (Udaytara), Rosi Smad (Basanti). Running time: 158'. b&w. Country of Production: India. Language: Bengali with French/English subtitles. From: Ribatan Ghatak/Ritwik Memorial Trust; National Film Archive of India; Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv.

Restored in 2010 by the World Cinema Foundation at Cineteca di Bologna/L'Immagine Ritrovata Laboratory.

The World Cinema Foundation is a natural expansion of my love for movies. Seventeen years ago, together with my fellow filmmakers, we created The Film Foundation to help preserve American cinema. Much has been accomplished and much work remains to be done, but The Film Foundation has created a base upon which we can build. There is now, I believe, a film preservation consciousness. The World Cinema Foundation is being created to help developing countries preserve their cinematic treasures. We want to help strengthen and support the work of international archives, and provide a resource for those countries lacking the archival and technical facilities to do the work themselves.

I am honored to be joined on the Advisory Board of by Fatih Akin, Soulemane Cissé, Guillermo Del Toro, Stephen Frears, Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu, Abbas Kiarostami, Deepa Mehta, Ermanno Olmi, Raoul Peck, Cristi Puiu, Walter Salles, Abderrahmane Sissako, Elia Suleiman, Bertrand Tavernier, Wim Wenders, Wong Kar Wai, Tian Zhuangzhuang and other filmmakers who share the common goal.

Martin Scorsese, Chairman

If you were eighteen years old, growing up in New Delhi, a student of cinema, a cinephile or a plain film snob, it was given that you would swoon over the film-maker Ritwik Ghatak and spend endless hours in the Delhi University canteen discussing his films, his alcoholism, and his eventual death from Tuberculosis.

An 'avant garde' Writer and Director, Ghatak had caught the imagination of many of us who carried Mao's Red Book' and quoted liberally from it (in English) at the drop of a hat. After all, didn't Ghatak (a card carrying Communist) film the extreme poverty and the cultural extinction of Bengal by Imperialism? Because of the political 'din' surrounding much of Ghatak's work, ironically the work itself, as opposed to the man's personality and politics, got neglected by the legion of his die-hard fans (me included!).

It was only years later when I saw his epic, *A River Called Titas*, that I swooned for totally different reasons.

The film is a work of pure genius. A passionate elegy for a dying culture, it moved me profoundly, and continues to haunt me to this day. Based on a novel by the Bengali author Advaita Barman and adapted for the screen by Ghatak, *A River Called Titas*, tells the raw and powerful story of a dying river and a dying culture.

Deepa Mehta, May 2010

## NOTES ON THE RESTORATION

The restoration of *A River called Titas* used the camera and sound negatives and a positive print provided by the Ritwik Memorial Trust and held at the National Film Archive of India. As the original negative is incomplete and some reels were severely damaged, a combined lavender and a positive print provided by the Bundesarchiv-Filmarchiv were also used. The digital restoration produced a new 35 mm internegative.

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