

## ENTERTAINMENT

### What made Satyajit Ray's Apu so different, special and memorable?

By - Sankha Ghosh |TNN |May 3, 2021, 14:35 IST



Even after 60 years, we still celebrate Satyajit Ray's Apu from 'Apu Sansar', the third and last of his iconic Apu Trilogy ('Pather Panchali', 'Aparajito' being the first two).

Apu, a young man with indomitable spirit, after marriage pens his first novel and then loses his wife during childbirth. This tragedy eventually throws him into the wilderness. Ray sums up his pathos supremely in one fine image as he was seen throwing away the sheets of his first creation, the novel. We see the papers fluttering down the hillside as the luminous light of dawn evokes a morbid sense of melancholy.

Apu is full of nostalgia but when he finally reunites with his son, it somehow offers him a new vitality and happiness to face the uncertainties of future. And so the wheel turns full circle and we see the trilogy ending with Apu carrying his child just like it started with his grandmother rocking a little Apu in the cradle.



Introducing Soumitra Chatterjee in the role of a sensitive Apu was a masterstroke from Ray. An actor who has the physical and intellectual parallels bearing such unbelievable resemblance to the character he has to essay, it led to rave reviews from all corners.

Satyajit Ray's actors used to perform not with the typical combinations of oriental drama, but as if the camera discovered them alone and simply

living and they lived as only a few characters in cinema does. It seemed real lives swelled to the skin with enough pain and poetry and sudden wit.

The protagonists of Satyajit Ray's films are like a breed apart. They have often been more rooted to the soil and milieu of their surroundings. That's why his actors reflect more or less the exact impression of themselves in real life as they deliver on screen.

Reference:

<https://m.timesofindia.com/entertainment/bengali/movies/news/what-made-satyajit-rays-apu-so-different-special-and-memorable/articleshow/69124496.cms>