

Asian Art Museum  
200 Larkin Street • San Francisco, CA • 94102  
415.581.3500 • www.asianart.org



Society for Art & Cultural Heritage of India  
155 15th Avenue • San Francisco • CA • 94118  
415.386.3491 • www.sachi.org



Indian princess Madhur Jaffrey divorced and living in self-enforced exile in London invites family friend James Mason to an annual tea party and persuades him to write a biography of her father. The two watch footage of Royal India, and the king's privileged lifestyle only convinces the Englishman to write about those who struggled amid poverty.

Merchant Ivory production

*Autobiography of a Princess* (1975)  
Run time: 59 minutes

Victor Bannierjee plays a young Maharaja named George, while Aparna Sen portrays his sister, Bonnie. Brother and sister are the proud possessors of a priceless collection of miniature paintings, which makes them the target of every critic, appraiser, and huckster in the art world. Lady Gee (Reggy Ashcroft) is a museum curator—part of a group that descends upon a palace in India for a valuable collection of paintings. Merchant Ivory production

*Hullabaloo over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures* (1978)  
Run time: 85 minutes (cover image)



ENJOY A DAY OF FESTIVITIES AT THE SACHI ANNUAL EVENT  
AT THE ASIAN ART MUSEUM

MERCHANT IVORY FILM PRODUCTIONS:

American director James Ivory (born 1928) enjoyed a successful partnership with Indian producer Ismail Merchant, in their independent film company, Merchant Ivory Productions.

James Ivory's fascination with exotic places led him to India, where he teamed up with Ismail Merchant, and German-born writer, Ruth Praver Jhabvala. The trio's first films were set in India. Concerned with questions of cultural interplay and identity, "The trio express the difficulty of connecting through a number of metaphors: past/present, Hindu/Muslim, England/India, America/Europe, homosexual/heterosexual, man/woman", noted film critic Jeffrey Gantz.

Since 1961 Ivory, Merchant, and Jhabvala collaborated on more than 20 movies and television productions in India, the US and Europe. The films of Merchant Ivory Productions have evolved into a genre of their own.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER:

Nalini Ghuman Gwynne is Associate Professor of Music and an Asian Studies scholar at Mills College. She recently inaugurated a special one of a kind course on the music of India. An authority on British music and imperialism during the *Raj*, Dr. Ghuman publishes and presents her research internationally, including programs on BBC Radio and essays for *Western Music and Race* (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and for *Elgar and His World* (Princeton University Press, 2007). Her most recent book is titled, *Resonances of the Raj: India in the English Musical Imagination, 1897-1947*.

Dr. Ghuman graduated from Oxford University and King's College, London, completing her PhD at University of California, Berkeley in musicology and ethnomusicology. In 2004 she co-directed a fully staged performance of Gustav Holt's chamber opera *Savitri* at Mills College.

SACHI Annual Event sponsors: Louise Russell, Mary-Ann Milford-Lutzker and SOAS, University of London



SACHI and the Asian Art Museum invite you to join a celebration of India through the lens of filmmakers Ismail Merchant and James Ivory.

## Merchant Ivory's India

Sunday, November 13, 2011  
Asian Art Museum, Samsung Hall  
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

11:30 a.m.

*Hullabaloo over Georgie and Bonnie's Pictures* (1978)

2:30 p.m.

*Autobiography of a Princess* (1975)

3:30 p.m.

Introduction and commentary on Merchant Ivory films by Professor Nalini Ghuman Gwynne

**Free after museum admission and open to the public. Light refreshments.**

SACHI Annual Meeting will be held 1:30 – 2:00 p.m.  
in the Education Classrooms, Ground Floor, Asian Art Museum