

# Norton Simon Museum For Immediate Release

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## The Norton Simon Museum Presents the Film Series 'The British Raj between Page and Screen'

*Four films examine the legacy of colonial rule in India*

**Pasadena, CA**— The Norton Simon Museum presents a series of films that portray life in India during the period of colonial rule known as the British Raj (1858–1947). Based on novels and short stories in English, Hindi-Urdu and Bengali that were published before 1947, these films examine the legacy of the Raj from the vantage point of an independent India.



**Kim (1950), NR**

**Directed by Victor Saville**

**Friday, May 4, 5:30–7:25 p.m.**

During the British Raj, the orphan (Dean Stockwell) of a British soldier poses as a Hindu and is torn between his loyalty to a Buddhist mystic (Errol Flynn) and aiding the English secret service. The film is based on the novel *Kim* by Rudyard Kipling, first published in book form in 1901.



**Shatranj Ke Khilari (The Chess Players) (1977), NR**

**Directed by Satyajit Ray**

**Friday, May 11, 5:30–7:40 p.m.**

In this movie set in 1856, shortly before the first Indian struggle for independence, Wajid Ali Shah is portrayed as an indifferent ruler who composes poems and listens to music, while British general James Outram (Sir Richard Attenborough) arrives on a secret mission to clear the way for the British. Meanwhile, two noblemen obsessively play endless games of chess, ignoring the situation that unfolds around them. The film is based on the short story *Shatranj Ke Khilari* by Munshi Premchand, published in Hindi and Urdu in 1924. In Hindi/Urdu and English with English subtitles.

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**The River (1951), NR**

**Directed by Jean Renoir**

**Friday, May 18, 5:30–7:10 p.m.**

Director Jean Renoir’s entrancing first color feature—shot entirely on location in India—is a visual tour de force. The film eloquently contrasts the growing pains of three young women with the immutability of the Ganges River, around which their daily lives unfold. *The River* gracefully explores the fragile connections between transitory emotions and everlasting creation. The film is based on the novel *The River* by Rumer Godden, published in 1946.



**Ghare Baire (The Home and the World) (1984), NR**

**Directed by Satyajit Ray**

**Friday, May 25, 5:30–7:30 p.m.**

In 1907, Nikhil (Victor Banerjee)—a wealthy yet enlightened and charitable Bengali landowner—encourages his wife Bimala (Swatilekha Sengupta) to emerge from the traditional female seclusion of purdah and introduces her to his old friend Sandip (Soumitra Chatterjee), a radical leader in the Swadeshi movement. Bimala is deeply affected by Sandip’s revolutionary fervor and experiences a profound political awakening that draws her out of her home and into the tumultuous world of Indian nationalism. The film is based on the novel *Ghare Baire* by Rabindranath Tagore, published in Bengali in 1916. In Bengali with English subtitles.

Image credits: *Kim* (1950), MGM/Photofest © MGM; *Shatranji Ke Khilari* (1977), Creative/Photofest © Creative; *The River* (1951), © Janus Films; *Ghare Baire* (1984), Classics/Photofest © European Classics.

**ADMISSION:** All screenings are free with Museum admission. Admission is \$15.00 for adults; \$12.00 for seniors; and free for Museum members, students with I.D., and everyone age 18 and under. For more information, call (626) 449-6840 or visit [www.nortonsimon.org](http://www.nortonsimon.org).

**WHERE: Norton Simon Museum** | 411 West Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena; located on the corner of Colorado and Orange Grove Boulevards at the intersection of the Foothill (210) and Ventura (134) freeways | Parking at the Norton Simon Museum is free.