

Winkler Film presents



Siddhartha

a film by **Conrad Rooks**

„This film turned out to be one of the most beautifully made movies.“

(S U N D A Y N E W S)

„... overwhelmingly superior in style and content.“

(N E W Y O R K A M S T E R D A M N E W S)

„... a visually exquisite film ... an unusual and welcome experience.“

(C U E)

„... a beautifully realized version of Hermann Hesse's novel.“

(N E W Y O R K P O S T)

„Siddhartha unlocks the door to a world of mystic beauty never before seen on any screen.“

(D A I L Y N E W S)



Siddhartha

a film by **Conrad Rooks**

based on the novel by **Hermann Hesse**
photographed by **Sven Nykvist**



Silver Lion (Venice 1972)





S I D D H A R T H A

based on the best-selling novel
by German Nobel Prize winner Hermann Hesse,
is the disarmingly simple story of a young Brahmin,
and his search for a meaningful way of life.

This search takes him through periods of harsh asceticism, sensual pleasures,
material wealth, then self-revulsion and eventually
to the oneness and harmony with himself
that he had been seeking.

Siddhartha learns that the secret of life cannot be passed on
from one person to another,
but must be achieved through inner experience.

In filming Siddhartha

entirely on location in India Rooks had to overcome two major hurdles:

The first was the Indian Government's reluctance to extend visas to Western film-makers in the wake of what it considered to be an anti-Indian documentary directed by Louis Malle. Rooks was able to convince Prime Minister Indira Gandhi (a personal friend of his) and other government officials that his film would be a celebration of India's culture.

The second problem was the Indo-Pakistani war which erupted shortly after Rooks arrival in Bombay.

There were air-raids in Bombay. The filming had to be constantly postponed. Rooks utilizes locations no American filmmaker has ever been given permission to reveal. In the holy city of Rishikesh, the palaces and estates of the Maharajah of Bharatpur, the settlements along the Ganges River, the hunting grounds at Bareta and the temple ruins of this magnificent country, Rooks has spun a magical web of enchantment, and Sven Nykvist who shot more than a dozen masterworks for Ingmar Bergman has filmed its sunsets and moonrises like frescoes in a Buddhist temple.

The beautiful Indian actress Simi Garewal and handsome Shashi Kapoor, who had both been seen in several of Satyajit Ray's films, play the leads in this film. The lyrical performances of these two actors and the exotic Indian sitar music composed by Hemant Kumar give this film a special rhythm.



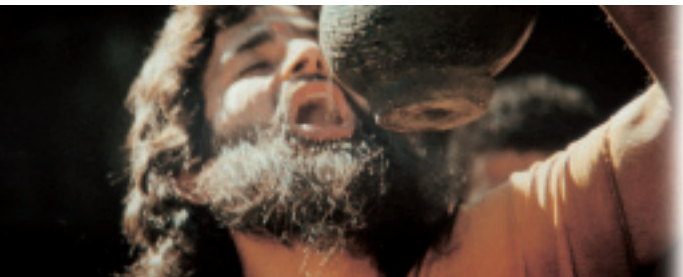


C O N R A D R O O K S

who wrote the screen adaptation, directed and produced *Siddhartha* was born in Kansas City in 1934 but raised in New York. After being expelled from several prep schools, Rooks wandered around Greenwich Village where he met his later wife Zina de Rachevsky, a member of the Romanov family. She introduced him to the Russian nobility in Paris and the „Beats“ in New York, such as Kerouac, Ginsberg and Corso. At the same time Rooks met underground filmmaker Harry Smith, and absorbed all he could about making movies.

When Rooks, at the age of twenty, was first given a copy of *Siddhartha* by a friend, interest in Hesse was confined to isolated cliques of devotees - as the above mentioned Beat poets - whose thoughts were tending eastward and inward. When, immediately after reading the book, Rooks decided that he would adapt it for the screen, he hardly suspected that *Siddhartha*, along with Hesse's other works, would become international best-sellers. To finally film *Siddhartha* was the fulfillment of a 16-year ambition and five years of negotiation and planning for Conrad Rooks, the director of *Chappaqua*. *Chappaqua*, his first film, had caused a sensation when it won the Silver Lion in its initial outing at the Venice Film Festival 1966 scoring over competition that included features by Truffault, Varda and Vadim. In 1972 the long awaited film was finally finished and once again Rooks won the Silver Lion in Venice. After the film's completion Rooks left the United States and moved to India. He now lives as a total recluse in Pattaya, Thailand.







S H A S H I K A P O O R

a major box office draw in India, is a member of one of India's most famous show business families.

His father, Prithviraj Kapoor, was a matinee idol of Indian silent and early sound movies.

Raj Kapoor, Shashi Kapoor's older brother, is one of India's most popular film directors.

Shashi Kapoor also has a substantial following outside his native land. This reputation is based on three James Ivory films, *Bombay Talkie*, *The Householder* and *Shakespeare Wallah*.

S I M I G A R E W A L

At age 25 when she was playing Kamala in *Siddhartha*, she had made 22 films,

had worked with directors such as Satyajit Ray and Raj Kapoor and was a celebrity already.

Playing Kamala was a challenge for Garewal, she was the first Indian actress to perform a nude scene.

In Indian cinema even kissing was absolutely banned from the screen.







S V E N N Y K V I S T

who is responsible for the visually exquisite photography of *Siddhartha* was born in Sweden in 1922. Beside working with Ingmar Bergman he photographed classics such as *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *Sleepless in Seattle*. When Conrad Rooks met Nykvist in Stockholm and outlined his plan to film *Siddhartha*, the cameraman turned down two other major offers to do the Hesse story.

„It has always been one of my favorite books and I knew it would be a wonderful film.“ (Nykvist)









Produced, directed and adapted for the screen by	Conrad Rooks
Photography by	Sven Nykvist
Art Director	Malcolm Golding
Sound	Norman Brown
Camera Operator	Tony Forsberg
Continuity	Kay Fenton
Film Editor	Willy Kemplen
Sound Editor	John Poyner
Production Manager	David McKibben
Assistant to the Producer	Oslyn Shrieves
Make-up	Neville Smallwood
Hairdressing	Shayam Jeem
Costumes	Bhanu
Indian music composed and sung by	Hemant Kumar
Lyrics to Indian Songs by	Gouriprasanna
Mother's song by	Shanti Hiranand

S I D D H A R T H A US 1972 / 85 min / Scope / Color

Siddhartha	Shashi Kapoor
Kamala	Simi Garewal
Govinda	Romesh Sharma
Kamaswami	Pincho Kapoor
Vasudeva	Zul Vellani
Siddhartha's Father	Amrik Singh
Siddhartha's Mother	Shanti Hiranand
Siddhartha's Son	Kunal Kapoor

Filmed entirely on location in Northern India, the holy city of Rishikesh
and on the private estates as well as in the palaces of His Highness the Maharajah of Bharatpur

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