

Merchant Ivory

A FILM BY STEPHEN SOUCY



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Aspect Ratio: 1.89 / Country: USA / Run Time: 112 minutes

www.merchantivoryfilm.com

Synopsis

MERCHANT IVORY (2023) is the first definitive feature documentary to lend new and compelling perspectives on the partnership, both professional and personal, of director James Ivory, producer Ismail Merchant and their primary associates, writer Ruth Praver Jhabvala and composer Richard Robbins. Footage from more than fifty interviews, clips, and archival material gives voice to the family of actors and technicians who helped define Merchant Ivory's Academy Award-winning work of consummate quality and intelligence. With six Oscar winners among the notable artists participating, these close and often long-term collaborators intimately detail the transformational cinematic creativity and personal and professional drama of the wandering company that left an indelible impact on film culture.

Director's Statement

BY STEPHEN SOUCY



There's no other story like Merchant Ivory in the history of cinema and what a gift to be given an inside view of the Merchant Ivory World from James Ivory and the more than 50 collaborators I interviewed in New York, London, Paris, and Los Angeles, in making this documentary film.

James Ivory is one of our greatest living directors and at 95 years old, this Oscar-winner for the much-lauded, *Call Me by Your Name*, shows no sign of slowing down. He's still working, having recently adapted a Ruth Jhabvala short story, *The Judge's Will*, for director Alexander Payne and the French novel, *The End of Eddy*, slated to be a multi-episode miniseries.

Once James Ivory, Ismail Merchant, and Ruth Jhabvala met, they were connected forever. Their work and personal lives entwined for over forty-five years, and they became the most famous collaborative troika in film history.

Merchant Ivory released 43 films. Many were fraught productions, often budget-related, and their last film, *The City of Your Final Destination*, brought the company to bankruptcy. A look at the comprehensive list of films that Merchant Ivory made, and the roster of talent they worked with, reveals that theirs was a spectacular achievement.

The Merchant Ivory story, with James Ivory and Ismail Merchant at its center, is about art, money, partnership, loyalty, dysfunction, love, jealousy, and eventually for Jim, the necessity to move forward and embark on a new chapter after Ismail's passing.

Biographies



James Ivory - Subject, Executive Producer

James Francis Ivory (born June 7, 1928) is an American film director, producer, and screenwriter. For many years, he worked extensively with Indian-born film producer Ismail Merchant, his domestic as well as professional partner, and with screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala. All three were principals in Merchant Ivory Productions, whose films have won seven Academy Awards; Ivory himself has been nominated for four Oscars, winning one.

Ivory's directorial work includes *A Room with a View* (1985), *Maurice*, (1987), *Howards End*, (1992), and *The Remains of the Day* (1993). For his work on *Call Me by Your Name* (2017), which he wrote and produced, Ivory won awards for Best Adapted Screenplay from the Academy Awards, British Academy of Film and Television Arts, Writers Guild of America, the Critics' Choice Awards, and the Scriptor Awards, among others. Upon winning the Oscar and BAFTA at the age of 89, Ivory became the oldest-ever winner in any category for both awards. Ivory is still writing and involved with several film projects.

Stephen Soucy - Producer, Director, Writer

Stephen Soucy is a film director at Modernist IFilm and produces theater via Stephen Soucy Productions. *Merchant Ivory* is his first feature-length documentary. *Merchant Ivory* will be released theatrically, domestically and worldwide, by Cohen Media Group. Other film work includes the short animated film, *Rich Atmosphere: The Music of Merchant Ivory Films*, the short documentary film, *Art and Provincetown* and the short narrative films, *A Gifted Amateur* and *Slant*. Stephen is co-lead producer of the West End and Broadway-bound, *Romy and Michele The Musical*, with Barry Kemp. Film projects in development include: the short film, *Reggie Rose*, adapted from a story by David Ebershoff, *North Pole, New York*, an original feature screenplay, *Love, By Andy Warhol*, an original feature screenplay, and a screenplay adaptation and independent production of John Rechy's award-winning novel, *After the Blue Hour*.

Biographies

Jon Hart - Editor, Writer, Producer

Jon Hart is a Brooklyn-based filmmaker with a specialty in profiles of artists and designers, including work for Sotheby's and the New York Public Library with the production company Surrender Pictures. In 2018, he directed *On Location* with James Ivory, part of a series of architecture-related films for PBS, *Design in Mind*.

Ryan Homsey - Composer

Ryan Homsey is a versatile, award-winning American composer, equally at home writing for instrumental and choral ensembles, theater, dance, and film. His background in classical, electroacoustic, and popular music draws inspiration from his history as a professional ballet dancer. His works have been performed by JACK Quartet, PUBLIQuartet, Access Contemporary Music, and ensemble mise-en at such venues as the Taipei Cultural Center, the Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, HERE Arts, and National Sawdust. Ryan holds a B.M. from SUNY Purchase College's Conservatory of Music—where he subsequently taught for fifteen years—and a M.M. from New York University. www.ryanhomsey.com



Adam Scott - Post Production Supervisor & Sound Mixer

Adam Scott is an audio producer from New York. He writes music and works as a sound designer for Paramount and ShiftWave. He also regularly collaborates with the Santa Barbara Center for Arts and Technology developing generative audio software for multimedia exhibitions.

Joe Guthrie - Music Supervisor

Originally from Texas with a background in classical piano, Joe Guthrie began supervising music for film and television in Los Angeles in 1999. He has since supervised music for over 200 episodes of TV on networks including FOX, ABC, WB and CW as well as feature films for studios such as Touchstone, Sony, 20th Century Fox, Sundance and Warner Brothers. Recent work includes the series, *Filthy Rich*, starring Kim Cattrall (Fox/2020) and the feature film, *Breaking News in Yuba County*, with Allison Janney (MGM/2021). Upcoming documentaries include *A Case for Love* (2023) and *Merchant Ivory* (2023).

Participants



ACTORS

Academy Award-winning, Dame Emma Thompson, DBE
Helena Bonham Carter
Academy Award-winning, Vanessa Redgrave
Hugh Grant
James Wilby
Rupert Graves
Simon Callow
Sam Waterston
Mark Tandy
Madeleine Potter
Natasha McElhone
Greta Scacchi & Nickolas Grace
Felicity Kendal
Patrick Godfrey & Amanda Walker
Sam West
Adrian Ross Magenty
James Fox

PRODUCER

Paul Bradley

WRITERS

Kit Hesketh-Harvey, Screenwriter
Tama Janowitz, actor/screenwriter
Peter Cameron, novelist
John Pym, writer
Anna Kythreotis, Ismail Merchant's Ghost Writer
Ava Wood (Daughter of Ruth Jhabvala)

MUSIC DIRECTOR

David Bohanovich

CASTING DIRECTOR

Celestia Fox

EDITORS

Humphrey Dixon
Katherine Wenning
John Allen

COSTUME DESIGN, PRODUCTION DESIGN, HAIR & MAKEUP

Jenny Beavan & John Bright, Academy Award-winning
Costume Designers
Luciana Arrighi, Academy Award-winning Production Designer
& Jenny Beavan, Costume Designer
Production Designer, Andrew Sanders
Hair and Make-up, Carol Hemming

CINEMATOGRAPHER, PHOTOGRAPHY, LOCATIONS

Tony Pierce Roberts, DP
Seth Rubin, Stills Photographer
Joseph Freidman, Location Scout
Assistant Director & Assistant/Consultant
Simon Moseley, Assistant Director
Andy Litvack, James Ivory's Assistant during *Jefferson in Paris*

MERCHANT IVORY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Richard McCrory, Board President



End Credits

Written by
Jon Hart
Stephen Soucy

Produced by
Stephen Soucy
Jon Hart

Executive Producer
Charles S. Cohen

Executive Producer
James Ivory

Directed by
Stephen Soucy

Featured Members
of
The Merchant Ivory Family

James Ivory
Helena Bonham Carter
Emma Thompson
Hugh Grant
Vanessa Redgrave
Felicity Kendal
Sam Waterston
James Wilby
Rupert Graves
Simon Callow
Madeleine Potter
Sam West
James Fox
Mark Tandy
Natasha McElhone
Greta Scacchi
Nickolas Grace
Patrick Godfrey & Amanda Walker
Adrian Ross Magenty
Ava Wood
Kit Hesketh-Harvey
Tama Janowitz
Peter Cameron
John Pym
Anna Kythreotis
David Bohanovich
Celesta Fox
Humphrey Dixon
Katherine Wenning
John Allen
Tony Pierce Roberts
Jenny Beavan
John Bright
Andrew Sanders
Carol Hemming
Simon Mosely
Joseph Friedman
Andy Litvack
Seth Rubin
Richard McCrory
Paul Bradley

Directed by
Stephen Soucy

Edited by
Jon Hart

Animation Director
Jack Cunningham

Merchant Ivory Film Soundtrack Compositions by
Richard Robbins
Zakir Hussain

Original Music by
Ryan Homsey

Music Supervisor
Joe Guthrie

Post-Production Supervisor and Sound Mixer
Adam Scott

Color Grading
Tim O'Brien

Narration by
Jacqui Rossi
Stephen Soucy

Archival Footage
Provided by / Courtesy of

The Wandering Company, 1984
Directed by Humphrey Dixon
Written by John Pym
Produced by Robert Angell

In Ismail's Custody, 1994
Directed by Derrick Santini
Produced by Verity White
Courtesy of DERRICK SANTINI
and GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM for digital transfer

Three Holy Rivers, 2004
Directed by Catherine Berge
CLC Productions
Cine Cinema

Signature (TV Series / CBS)

At The Movies / Siskel and Ebert (TV Series)

60 Minutes (TV Series / CBS)

LONDON, UK

Dragonfly Productions
Director of Photography
Adam Lewis
Camera Assistant & Sound
James Lahais
Additional Sound
Ryan Allen

PARIS, FRANCE

Director of Photography
Jean Marc Selva
Sound
Ouvrard Benoit

UNITED STATES

Man with a Cam, Inc.
Directors of Photography
Matthew Cady
Brian Frank
Sound
Adrian M. Martinez

Ebabil Video
Director of Photography
Sefa Karatekin

Additional Cinematography by
Peter Carroll
Tim O'Brien
John Nordoft
Stephen Soucy
Jon Hart

Additional Sound by
Thomas Becktold

Clearance Counsel
Donaldson Callif Perez, LLP
Chris Perez
Dale Nelson
Jacqueline Swett
Victoria Rosales

Dembitzer & Dembitzer, LLP
Stephen Dembitzer

Sendroff & Baruch, LLP
Jason Aylesworth

Featured Music from the films of Merchant Ivory
Productions

Ballad of the Sad Café
"Amelia's Work"

Composer: Richard Robbins
Licensing Rights/Clearances:
Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

A Room with A View

"The Pensione Bertollini"
"Lucy, Charlotte And Miss Lavish See The City"
"Windy Corner"
Composer: Richard Robbins
Licensing Rights/Clearances:
Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
and Goldcrest Films



Maurice

“In Greece/The Wedding”
 “Prologue: The Lesson”
 “End Titles”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

Howards End

“The Basts/Spring Landscape”
 “Helen and Paul Call It Off”
 “Leonard’s Death”
 “An Unexpected Proposal”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of Warner Chappell Music
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

The Remains of the Day

“Opening Titles, Darlington Hall”
 “Tradition And Order”
 “You Mean A Great Deal To This House”
 “A Portrait Returns/Darlington Hall/End Credits”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY Pictures Classics

Mr. And Mrs. Bridge

“Opening Titles”
 “She Was My Best Friend”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of Merchant Ivory Productions/James Ivory

Jefferson in Paris

“Pantograph: Opening Titles”
 “Balloon”
 “The Walk”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and Merchant Ivory Productions/James Ivory

A Soldier’s Daughter Never Cries

“Francis Fortescue”
 “Adoption Papers”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

Cotton Mary

“Lily and the Children Leave”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

The Mystic Masseur

“Partap Meets the Pundit”
 “Leela’s Foot”
 “The Funeral”
 “Political Life”
 “Oxford”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell and
 Zakir Hussain

Heat and Dust

“Anne in the Bazaar”
 “The Dust Storm”
 “The Banquet”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 BMG
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

The Proprietor

“Memories of Maxim’s”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

Le Divorce

“Seductions”
 “Train To The Country”
 “Train To The Country Part II”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of Fox Music Publishing/20th Century Fox
 and The Estate of Richard Robbins/Michael Schell

The Golden Bowl

“The Inn”
 Composer: Richard Robbins
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of SONY MUSIC PUBLISHING/ATV
 and Merchant Ivory Productions/James Ivory

Bombay Talkie

“Title and Theme”
 “Typewriter Tip, Tip, Tip”
 Composers: Shankar-Jaikishan
 “Typewriter Tip, Tip, Tip”
 Sung by: Kishore Kumar, Asha Bhosle
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of Merchant Ivory Productions/James Ivory

The Householder

“Title Music”
 “Farewell to Earnest”
 Composer: Satyjit Ray
 Performers: Jyotitindra Moitra and Ustad Ali Akbar Khan
 Licensing Rights/Clearances:
 Courtesy of Merchant Ivory Productions/James Ivory

Featured Clips from the films of Merchant Ivory Productions

The Householder (1963)
Shakespeare Wallah (1965)
The Guru (1969)
Bombay Talkie (1970)
Savages (1972)
The Wild Party (1975)
Autobiography of a Princess (1975)
Roseland (1977)
The Europeans (1979)
Jane Austen in Manhattan (1980)
Quartet (1981)
The Courtesans of Bombay (1983)
Heat and Dust (1983)
The Bostonians (1984)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP
A Room with a View (1985)
GOLDCREST FILMS

Maurice (1987)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP

Slaves of New York (1989)
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

Mr. & Mrs. Bridge (1990)
MIRAMAX
and PARAMOUNT STUDIOS for digital transfer

Howards End (1992)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP

The Remains of the Day (1993)
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

In Custody (1994)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP

Jefferson in Paris (1995)
DISNEY/TOUCHSTONE PICTURES

The Proprietor (1996)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP

Surviving Picasso (1996)
WARNER BROS.

A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries (1998)
MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTIONS
and GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM for digital transfer

The Golden Bowl (2000)
MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTIONS
and GEORGE EASTMAN MUSEUM for digital transfer

The Mystic Masseur (2001)
COHEN MEDIA GROUP

The White Countess (2005)
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

The City of Your Final Destination (2009)
HYDE PARK INTERNATIONAL
and MERCHANT IVORY PRODUCTIONS

Call Me by Your Name (2017)
SONY PICTURES CLASSICS

SPECIAL THANKS

James Ivory

Peter Cameron

Cohen Media Group
Charles S. Cohen
Robert Aaronson
Liz Mackiewicz
Tim Lanza

SONY PICTURES CLASSICS
Sony Pictures Entertainment
Sony Music Publishing/ATV
Michael Barker
Adam Abrams
Harrison Gish
Margarita Diaz
Kendra Guffey
Kaitlyn Chew
John Ayala
Patrick Massaro
Jaime Cyr

Miramax
Cindy Hochman
David Mittleman

The George Eastman Museum
Anthony L'Abbate
Chris Crouse
Graham Brown
Beth Rennie

Cinémathèque Française
Elodie Dufour
Bacharach Paul
Trujillo Gabriela
Ghermani Wafa

Goldcrest and Visual Icon, Inc.

Donaldson, Callif, Perez Law

SPECIAL THANKS
Continued

Melissa Chung

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Zakir Hussain
Antonia Minnecola

Luciana Arrighi

Hiroyuki Sanada
Anthony Roth Costanzo
Fred Da
Susie Lindeman
Nicola Duffett

Derrick Santini
Seth Rubin
Mikki Ansin
Sarah Quill

John Pym

Vivien Irish
Donna Coulling

Chris Terrio

Peter Robbins

Ryan Allen

Barry and Margaret Kemp

Tim Biggins
Erik Olson
Elizabeth Pritzker
Patricia Haladay
Jesse Einstein

Amelia Green-Dove

Eric Whedbee
Hammad Hassan
James Kicklighter
Firoza Jhabvala

Esther Friedman
Micki Stern
Annamarie Mayer
David Leiman

Jay Rubin
Dillon VanOort
Paul Grondahl
Loida Vera Cruz

OUTFEST

New York State Writers Institute

Titles by
J. Hart / S. Soucy

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In memory of
Kit Hesketh-Harvey
(1957-2023)

A
STEPHEN SOUCY
JON HART
CHARLES S. COHEN
JAMES IVORY
PRODUCTION