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The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain
Ridham Janve

The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain They Love The Film. So Will You :)

“There is nothing constructed or structured about Ridham Janve’s hard-to-pin-down work. It’s like an unscripted slice of the mountain life that keeps evolving from its daily rhythms towards a philosophical core. It is an entrancing mix of mysticism, folklore and ethnography. It’s a slow burn of a film that makes demands of your mind, and patience. Surrender to it, and you will feel profoundly rewarded.”

- Namrata Joshi

“There’s a moment in *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* where the old shepherd walks his flock through the mountains, quiet haunting music plays in the background and one sheep turns to look at the camera. I watched this scene several times today. So calming, a cinematic wonder! Thank you MAMI YRP Home Theatre and Smriti Kiran for sharing the film with us. It was such a blessing in these troubled times. Thank you Ridham Janve for making this film.”

- Aseem Chhabra

“The film begins to delve into magic realism as the shepherd and his help moves closer and closer to the mountain. It’s an odd mix of folk stories, mysticism and spirituality, which somehow makes the film more obtuse in moments. The visual constancy of the sheep rolling on the slopes feels like the only marker of time in these wilderness. It’s meditative cinema with corners thrown in the road, like the shepherds encounter. A slow burn which is very demanding of your patience, but the beautiful vistas and the profound implication at the end make up for it.”

- Amartya Acharya



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“This film was visually stupendous! Cinematography was so breath-taking that even while watching on a small screen I simply could not shift my eyes even for a second! Loved the film. Congrats to the director and the unit. And thanks a lot MAMI.”

- Chitra Palekar

“The film had blown me in theatres and I saw it again at home precisely for the reason that it shakes your core. The deafening sounds and the imagery wraps you in awe instantly. The tension within is so deeply narrated. Kudos to the director and his team again. I still have goosebumps.”

- Swratmika Mishra

“A very simple but engaging story. Beautiful location and camera work. Thank you for the treat.”

- Akshay Vanjari

“Mountain life is different and some people liked it as a traveller but what about the locals who live there? I think *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* has shown how they face challenges and how their daily routine changes with the weather.

MAMI has always been a platform for different films. Thanks for this one. Looking forward to some more.”

- Vinay Raul



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“Thank you for the film! Really enjoyed it. This film suspends both time and disbelief. Poetic and beautiful.”

- Tanmay Dhanania

“*The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is a beautiful movie with brilliant direction and great camera work. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful movie.”

- Deepak P.

“Thank you for an awesome lively experience of one of the heavenly places of our country through this movie. Location is simply fantastic and fabulous work by the cast. Overall, it’s a superb movie with nature’s beauty. I want to congratulate the whole team of this movie, and expect more such experiences from the MAMI team.”

- Anil Lathkar

“I really loved the cinematography and the shots of this movie. Thank you for this amazing experience.”

- Vaidya Iyer



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“Thanks to the brilliant MAMI YRP Home Theatre, I got the privilege of watching Ridham Janve’s film *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain*. Based on the Gaddi community who reside somewhere in the Himalayas, the film meshes a travelogue like account of a life spent in the landscape with a larger morality tale of man’s greed and the Faustian bargain of soul he’s compelled to make.

Janve is intent on etching a precise ethnographic portrait and the authenticity is spot on. Springing from a vivid, avid interest in this place and these places, Janve’s vision and understanding is fully at sync with the landscape he captures. The scenery naturally lends itself to sheer stunning shots, but there is no attempt on unnecessary preened up beauty, it’s unforgiving and difficult territory these characters navigate. Sourabh Monga’s cinematography takes these wide long shots of figures trudging through vastness of terrain, trailed by flurry of sheep, gushing streams, and often there are entire few minutes devoted to the mist and cloud cover hovering over the hilly areas. It’s dreamy but also dire. The camera lingers as patiently as these people, willing to take stock of every ridge, every bend before proceeding.

Janve endows the film with a meditative stillness, which suffuses the spirit and it also develops a spiritual tenor. But the calmness is also potent, there is always the possibility of conspicuous trouble simmering. The inherent tranquillity is underscored by an unmistakable disquiet. The characters on a quest, trying to defy their circumstances almost, to better their lot, ultimately end up limited and undone by their overreaching, over spreading ambition.

Janve casts a mesmeric spell, unshakable and the effect is trancelike, I came away, my senses heightened and somewhat cautioned. This film speaks to the higher powers of divinity, nature and against our irredeemable moral turpitude, it’s necessary now more than ever.”

- Debanjan Dhar



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“Thank you MAMI for bringing to us through your programme, this meditative film. It has great anthropological value and straddles the boundaries of documentary and fiction beautifully through its austere treatment.”

- Utpal Borpujari

“Freezing air, chilled water makes life difficult in Himalaya. Geographical terrain is treacherous. Human life is a labour of survival. Men preparing food, staggering in snow show continuous struggle for life. In the end, you are fighting with nature to stay alive. People continue to live as sheep do, their only companions of living. They believe in god, as they believe in life. This is one of the best Indian films this year. This beautiful film evokes feelings of being among snow-capped mountains.

We see die-hard efforts by director Ridham Janve to shoot this film. Thank you MAMI YRP for bringing such wonderful films for movie lovers!”

- Umesh Patil

“These scripts are very rare in feature films and the cinematography is the major success of the film. Thank you to the cast and crew making this kind of film in India. Thank you Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival.”

- Manoj Kumar

“Thanks for presenting the opportunity to watch *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain*. Overall, the experience was immersive. In a sense, it had a documentary touch when it came to depiction, along with long shots characteristic to Tarkovsky.”

- Berges Santok

“The cinematography in *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is excellent. It’s an eye-catching movie and the characters played their role excellently.”

- Anil Uplekar



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“More than a viewer I felt like I was living with the herd and shepherd, wandering along with their sheep and the dog across the mountains. One of the well-made folktales in Indian cinema.”

- Gridaran MKP

“*The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is a lovely film and very well shot and enacted. The few characters and the performances in the film are very impactful and I loved the picturization. Thank you MAMI and I look forward to more such films.”

- Divya Jain

“Director Ridham Janve’s award winning debut film, *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is a story based on the myth of Sacred Mountain among the Gaddi Shepherds. This folklore becomes the central theme of the film. The film comprises long takes, authentic performances and daunting sound design. The visuals are breath-taking and unsettling at the same time which is a complement for sure. Throughout the film you have a feeling that nothing much is happening on the screen but towards the end everything starts to make sense and you are left in complete awe of the film.”

- Saurabh Sahastrabudhe

“I had missed out on watching *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* in 2018 and now finally got to watch it. In this lockdown I just wish to be transported to those mountains and peaceful silence. The visual delight is worth sitting for and so is the story line. Really poetic in spirit.”

- Aakanksha Chandra



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“I must start with saying that it was an escape from the lockdown blues. Looking at the mountain, streams, you actually feel the fresh air with beautifully composed shots. Looking at a life and experiencing what your fellow being someone who lives miles away from you does is very exciting and for that reason you are inclined towards the story. It really intrigues me that the old man, whom I felt is so different and unique in many ways but surprisingly craves the same thing that any person living in a metro city. The most interesting aspect of the film that invoked thought in me is how even after death a human body becomes hope for so many other living beings.

Thanks to the director, the team and MAMI YRP Home Theatre.”

- Siddesh Iyer

“Thank you very much for this MAMI Year Round Programme Home Theatre. I will remember the film for its breath-taking cinematography. The background score was also great. Kudos to the film crew. MAMI team, please continue the good work.”

- Sanjay Sharma

“I had a good time watching this movie. As I have heard and read, Cinema is meant to be silent- silent in sense with proper balance between a scene with dialogue and scene without dialogue. The character is determined by action and thoughts. Most of the story is said without dialogue is what makes me admire the most about these kinds of movies. As a cinema student, I learned many things from this movie. Thank you MAMI and Ridham Janve.”

- Vimal Raj

“Thanks for this amazing opportunity. *The Gold-Laden Sheep & the Sacred Mountain* is an amazing film with some stunning visuals. I wish I had a chance to see this on the big screen.”

- Pramoth Durai



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“It was a wonderful experience and my love for mountains made it special for me, with deep insight into the lives of Gaddi tribes, their triumph, tribulations, uncertainties, dreams for a better life. A community of shepherds, highly neglected and not a part of the mainstream of society, but so pure.

Loved it immensely.

Special thanks to the Director and their DOP for bringing it live before our eyes. Looking forward to such path-breaking movies shot with so much of constraints and shoestring budget.”

- Saswata Chaudhuri

“If one has to learn how to capture the essence of the Indian mountains and its people, *The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is the film. The cinematography is beautiful and perfect, especially keeping in mind the uneven terrains. The subtlety of the narrative is quite engaging. There is a balance between the smoothness and the build-up of the narrative.”

- Sweekriti Tiwari

“Brilliantly conceived and executed. Thanks”

- Dr. Neha Tiwari

“The intriguing but throwaway line about the solid mountain being a fluid wave in the mind was an idea that became a felt experience. Sorely missed watching a film like this on the big screen but was still a beautiful experience watching it at the MAMI Year Round Programme Home Theatre. Thanks.”

- Soudhamini V.



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“Poetic. Period.”

- Dipankar Sarkar

“The film explores many areas in terms of geography, language, culture-tradition, and problems faced by the people of that land (economic or otherwise), use of myth is also artfully used to carry on the film. The film moves away from the banality in terms of things expressed above and engages with themes that are on the whole not given importance or noticed. It is these kinds of films that are needed to emerge and develop.”

- Jay Patel

“*The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* was a visual treat. Great cinematography and superb direction. Looking forward to catching more of such great cinema.”

- Vikas Chauhan

“*The Gold-Laden Sheep & The Sacred Mountain* is a slow and meditative film that feels almost like a documentary. The non-actors and local dialect made it feel very intimate and realistic. It’s shot in proximity to my place and I was never aware that such a powerful work of art even existed.

Thank you so much for this programme and providing me the opportunity to watch this film. Now I’m looking forward to watching more independent films through this Home Theatre programme.”

- Anshit Bhardwaj
