



A Merchant Ivory production  
**Shakespeare Wallah**  
 Directed by James Ivory

BFI Blu-ray release on 15 April 2019, followed by iTunes release on 29 April

*Shakespeare Wallah*, the film that brought Merchant Ivory to international attention in 1965, is presented on Blu-ray for the first time in the UK, in a new 2K restoration, released by the BFI on 15 April 2019 with an iTunes release on 29 April. Shot by Satyajit Ray's cameraman, Subrata Mitra, and scored by Ray himself, the film is a delicate love story that sets the tone for many of the partnership's collaborations and remains a beguiling, multi-layered cinematic landmark.

During the early days of post-colonial India, a company of nomadic actors travel across the country performing Shakespeare. When a young troupe member, Lizzie (**Felicity Kendal**) falls in love with playboy Sanju (**Shashi Kapoor**), the pair must overcome cultural differences and the scheming of film actress and rival for Sanju's affections Manjula (**Madhur Jaffrey**).

**Special features**

- New 2K restoration
- *The Guardian Lecture: Ismail Merchant and James Ivory* (1983, 82 mins): the director and producer in conversation with David Robinson at the NFT
- *The Guardian Interview: Shashi Kapoor* (1994, 54 mins, audio only): the actor in conversation with film critic Derek Malcolm at the NFT
- *Conversations from the Quad with James Ivory and Madhur Jaffrey* (2018, 48 mins): the director and actor discuss working together
- *A Road in India* (1938, 9 mins)
- Technicolor travelogue shot by award-winning cinematographer Jack Cardiff
- Original trailer (1965)
- Restoration trailer (2017)

**Product details**

**RRP: £19.99/ Cat. no. BFIB1334 / Cert PG**

UK / 1965 / black and white / 122 mins / English language, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / original aspect ratio 1.85:1 / BD50, 1080p, 24fps, PCM 2.0 mono audio (48kHz/24-bit)

**Press contact for more information, review copy requests and images:**

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BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

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The BFI is the UK's lead organisation for film, television and the moving image. It is a cultural charity that:

- Curates and presents the greatest international public programme of World Cinema for audiences; in cinemas, at festivals and online
- Cares for the BFI National Archive – the most significant film and television archive in the world
- Actively seeks out and supports the next generation of filmmakers
- Works with Government and industry to make the UK the most creatively exciting and prosperous place to make film internationally

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

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