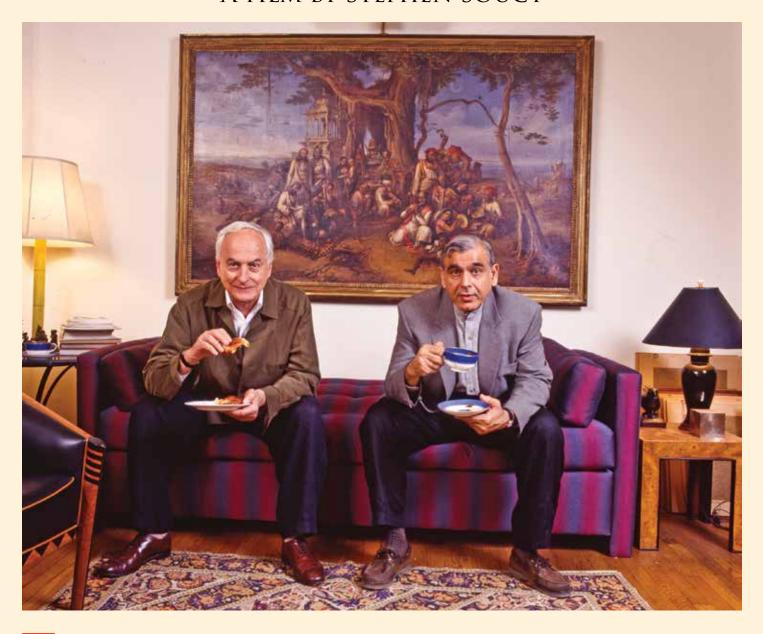
# Merchant Ivory A FILM BY STEPHEN SOUCY





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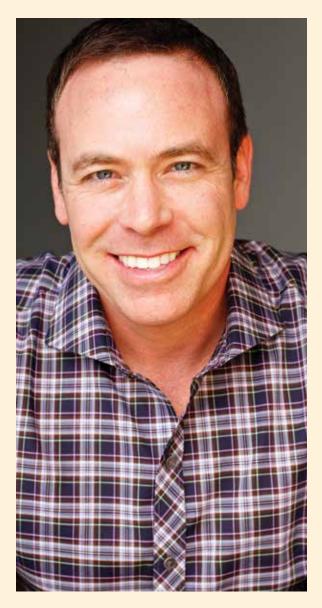
Aspect Ratio: 1.89 / Country: USA / Run Time: 112 minutes

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 Prawer 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.

lvory'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, lvory 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, lvory became the oldest-ever winner in any category for both awards. lvory 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*.



## 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

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

Written by Jon Hart Stephen Soucy

Produced by Stephen Soucy Jon Hart

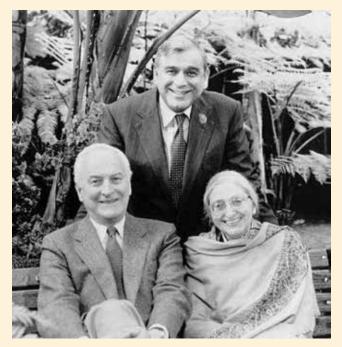
Executive Producer Charles S. Cohen

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





#### 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

Michael Schell

Steve Dembitzer

Jeremiah Rusconi

Thomas Becktold

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)

Α

STEPHEN SOUCY JON HART CHARLES S. COHEN JAMES IVORY PRODUCTION