Shri 420
Raj Kapoor
1955
Om namah Shivaya
(Prithviraj Kapoor)
Ranbirraj [RAJ] KAPOOR
1924 - 1988

“The Great Showman”
• 1935, clapper boy for Kidar Sharma, and first (small) film role at age 11
• 1947, first hero role in *Neel Kamal* (“Blue Lotus,” Kidar Sharma)
• 1948, founds “RK Studios”
• directs (and stars in), *Aag* (“Fire”), opposite Nargis
Nargis (Dutt), 1929 - 1981

Awara, 1951

Mother India, 1957
• 1949 *Barsaat* ("Monsoon")
• 1951, *Awara* (“The Vagabond”), first film to feature “Raj/Raju” character
• huge hit in Soviet Union and China as “socialist musical”
• Screenplay by K. A. Abbas of IPTA (Indian People’s Theatre Association, founded 1942)
• 1955, Shri 420
“Raju” in films directed by others:

• 1956, Jagte Raho (“Keep Awake!” Sombhu Mitra)
• 1959, Anari (“The Simpleton,” Hrishikesh Mukherjee)
• 1960, Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai (“The Land Where the Ganga Flows,” Radhu Karmakar)
• 1966, Teesri Kasam (“The Third Vow,” Basu Bhattacharya)
Selected later films:

- 1964, *Sangam* ("Confluence"), director & star
- 1970, *Mera Naam Joker* ("My Name is Clown"), director & star
• 1973, *Bobby*, director (star: son Rishi)
• 1978, *Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram* (“Truth, goodness, beauty”), director (star: brother Shashi)
• 1985, *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* (“God, Your Ganga is Polluted”), director (last film; star: son Rajiv)
The Kapoor Dynasty

• Basheswarnath Kapoor

Awara, 1951
• Prithviraj Kapoor, 1906-1972
  founded Prithvi Theatre, 1944

Sikandar, 1941

Awara, 1951

Mughal-e-Azam, 1960
• Prithviraj Kapoor, 1906-1972
• Sons: Raj, Shammi (b. 1931) Shashi (b. 1938)
Raj Kapoor’s sons:

• Randhir Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Rajiv Kapoor

Rishi Kapoor in *Bobby*, 1973

Rajiv Kapoor in *Ram Teri Ganga Maili*, 1985
Kapoor dynasty cont.:

- R.K.’s son: Randhir Kapoor (b. 1947)
- Randhir’s Daughters:
  - Karishma (b. 1974), Kareena (b. 1980)
Raj, Raju, Ranbir Raj, Rajkumar

(Ranbir Raj Kapoor)
Seth Sonachand Dharmanand (Nemo)

Seth = Merchant, Industrialist

Sona = Gold

Chand = Silver

Dharma = Virtue, piety, religion

Anand = Bliss, joy
Vidya ("wisdom")
(Nargis)
Maya ("Illusion")
(Nadira)
Hero as mediator between:

- tradition / modernity
- rural / urban
- India / the West
- spirituality / materialism
- cultural essence / cultural hybridity
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Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister
1947-1964
“Pandit-ji”
Nehru era policies

• Mixed capitalist-socialist economy
• State planning (5-year plans) emphasizing industrialization (dams and steel mills as “new temples”)
• Swadeshi (encouragement of Indian-made goods, ban on imports)
• “Non-alignment” in Cold War