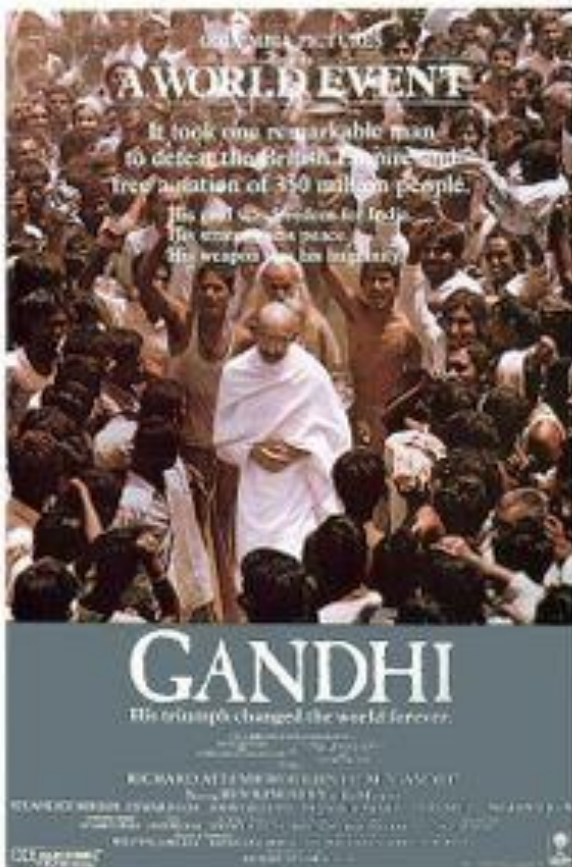


The Renaissance

2008-09: volume 48



May 18, 2009, 7:00 PM
at the Renaissance Theatre

Gandhi
1982

Directed by: Richard Attenborough
Written by: John Briley
Starring: Ben Kingsley

Ben Kingsley looked so much like Gandhi, many natives thought him to be Gandhi's ghost.

Ben Kingsley's (born Krishna Bhanji) paternal family was from the Indian state of Gujarat, the same state Mahatma Gandhi was from.

300,000 extras appeared in the funeral sequence. About 200,000 were volunteers and 94,560 were paid a small fee (under contract). The sequence was filmed on January 31, 1981, the 33rd anniversary of Gandhi's funeral. Eleven crews shot over 20,000 feet of film, which was pared down to 125 seconds in the final release.

In its theatrical release, the 1982 biopic *Gandhi* won eight Academy Awards, including:

- Best Picture,
- Best Actor (Ben Kingsley),
- Best Director (Richard Attenborough),
- Best Adapted Screenplay (John Briley).

