

PROJECT TIGER

Satyajit Ray

I. Read the passage and answer the following questions

No one can beat Hollywood when it comes to making films with animals in them. I remember films in my childhood - and there were quite a few of them – that had an Alsatian called Rin-tin- in. This dog's acting was more impressive than a human's. Later, we got to see three or four other films with a collie called Lassie. It seemed that the director could make Lassie do just about anything. These trained dogs were famous stars in their own rights, and the money they earned was no less than what a real film star got. Their owners could easily make as much as a hundred thousand rupees from just one film.

I realised how reverently these animal-actors were treated when I happened to see the shooting of a film twenty years ago in Disney Studio in Hollywood. The main character in this film was a large dog. I reached the studio to find that the shooting had not yet started; the camera man was getting the lights ready. It is customary for actors to be present when the lights are customary arranged, for they have to show the cameraman how they'll walk, or where they'll stand, in a particular shot. In the case of very famous stars, this job is done by their stand-ins. A stand-in is usually a person who is physically similar to the real star. The stars themselves arrive only when the lights are ready and it is time to take a shot.

Here, in Disney Studio, I noticed that a few actors were moving about in the set, and on one side, standing quietly, was the protagonist - the same large dog. The cameraman shouted to everyone to take their positions but the dog remained where it was. This puzzled me. Could it be that it was not required in the next shot?

Before I could ask someone, a strange thing happened. From nowhere appeared a little dwarf, followed by another man carrying a hairy dog-skin. Then, to my perfect amazement, the dwarf went down on all the fours on a chalk mark on the floor, just like an animal, and the dog-skin was draped over him. Then he crawled from one mark to another, and the cameraman got busy with the lights. It finally dawned upon me that this dwarf was paid to be the dog's stand-in!

1. How does Hollywood excel in film making?
2. Mention the names of the trained dogs who became famous stars in their own rights.
3. What is this article about?
4. What is the topic sentence in the first paragraph
5. Satyajith Ray presents films he had seen in his childhood days. Which were they?
6. Pick out the word which is opposite in meaning to the word 'notorious'.
7. Name the studio mentioned in the paragraph.
8. There was something customary in Hollywood. What was that?
9. What was the strange thing that happened at the shooting place?
10. What role did the dwarf play in the shooting?
11. Find out the word in the passage which has the same meaning as the word 'covered'

12. What did the dwarf do?
13. Who is a stand in?

Answers

1. Hollywood excels others when it comes to making films with animals in them.
2. A salutation called Rin-tin-tin and a collie called Lassie
3. Making films with animals
4. No one can beat Hollywood when it comes to making films with animals in them.
5. films with the stunning performance of a dog in the film Adventures of Rin-tin-tin and another dog collie in Lassie Series.
6. Famous
7. Disney Studio in Hollywood
8. It was customary for actors to be present when the lights are arranged, for they have to show the cameraman how they'll walk, or where they'll stand, in a particular shot
9. The strange thing happened at the shooting place was that from nowhere a little dwarf appeared followed by another man carrying a hairy dog skin.
10. The dwarf played the role of a dogs stand in.
11. Draped.
12. The dwarf went down on all the four on a chalk mark on the floor, just like an animal and the dog skin was draped over him. He then crawled from one mark to another.
13. Stand-ins are employed for famous film stars who physically resemble the real stars.

II. Read the passage and answer the following questions

Every animal in a Hollywood film is well-trained. It is not difficult to train a horse or a dog. But have you ever heard of trained ravens ? Not just one or two, but nearly a hundred of them? Even this was made possible in Hollywood, when the creator of some of the best suspense films in the history of cinema, Alfred Hitchcock, decided to make a film called Birds. In the story, birds from all over the world start attacking humans. Hitchcock needed a variety of birds, but what was required in the largest number was ravens. Notices were placed in the press all over the United States, asking people to contact the film maker if they knew how to get hold of trained ravens.

Someone replied within a few days. He was asked to bring his birds, and he arrived with almost a hundred trained ravens. Admittedly, their training had not gone very bad. That is to say, they could not do anything that might be seen as extraordinary. But if as many as fifty ravens are told to perch quietly in a row on a specified spot, and if they obey this command instantly, isn't that pretty impressive?

Needless to say, in our own country, it is not at all easy to find trained animals, although some films have been made in Bombay and Madras that involved working with elephants, horses

and tigers. Their performance did suggest that they were used to obeying commands. In Bengal, it is sometimes possible to find clever dogs, particularly police dogs which are quite intelligent. If one is prepared to be patient, it is not altogether impossible to get good performances out of them as we managed to do with Bhulo in Pather Panchali.

1. Name the director mentioned in the paragraph
2. Name the film made by Hitchcock mentioned in the passage.
3. What is the theme of the film 'Birds'
4. What did Alfred Hitchcock want?
5. What did Hitchcock do to get ravens for his film?
6. What was taught to the birds for making the film?
7. Who is Bhulo?
8. According to Satyajit Ray how should the directors be to get good performance from animal actors?

Answers

1. Alfred Hitchcock
2. 'Birds'
3. The birds from all over the world start attacking humans is the theme of the film 'Birds'
4. He wanted hundred trained ravens for the shooting of a film called 'Birds'
5. Notices were placed in the press all over the United States, asking people to contact the film maker if they knew how to get hold of trained ravens.
6. The birds were taught to perch quietly in a row on a specified spot.
7. Bhulo is an animal character in Pather Panchali. He was a clever Police dog
8. Directors should have patience.

III. Read the passage and answer the following questions

Yet, a dog might be difficult, not impossible to handle. What was one supposed to do if there was a need for a tiger in a film? We had to deal with this problem, too, when we were shooting Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne . In the film Goopy who is banished by the king wanders in the forest, meets Bagha who is also banished. They see a tiger and freeze. But the tiger simply walks about in the forest, without paying them the slightest attention.

Having thought of the scene, I simply had to shoot it. But where were we going to find a tiger? The obvious thing to do was to look in a circus since they were likely to have trained animals.

As a matter of fact, one called Bharat Circus was visiting Calcutta at the time, holding shows in Marcus Square. We sent someone to make an appointment with its Tamil manager and then went to meet him one morning. He greeted us warmly and ordered South Indian coffee for us. The manager heard the reason for our visit, then sent for one Mr Thorat. He turned out to be the ringmaster. He, too, was a South Indian, very well built, with features somewhat like those of a Nepali. He was perhaps no more than forty. He showed us an old scar on his forearm, which had been caused by a tiger.

We told him what we wanted. The shooting was taking place near Shiuri in Birbhoom. We wanted to show a tiger in a thick bamboo grove. All the animal was required to do was come out of the bamboo grove into an open space, pace gently for a while, look at the camera if possible, and then go back. Could a tiger from Bharat Circus do this job? Mr Thorat nodded. 'How long will you need it for?' asked the manager. 'Perhaps a couple of hours for the shooting,' I replied. 'But that would be in addition to the time it'll take to travel to and from Shiuri.' On being told that the travel itself should take no more than two days, the manager agreed to put the tiger in its cage and send it in a lorry. He invited us to take a look at the tiger. Do you think it's going to be easy to set the animal free in the bamboo grove?' I couldn't help asking. What! Were all our plans going to go down the drain? How could we let the tiger's trainer be seen with the animal? How could Goopy and Bagha be petrified with fear if the supposedly ferocious animal was accompanied by a man? No, we could not allow that to happen.

1. Whom did Ray approach to get the tiger for his film Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne?
2. Who is Mr. Thorat?
3. What did Ray Want?
4. Where was the shooting taking place?
5. What was the tiger supposed to do?

Answers

1. The manager of Bharat Circus company
2. Mr. Thorat was a ringmaster. He was a South Indian. He was very well built and has features somewhat like those of a Nepali. He was in his forties. He has an old Scar on his forearm which had been caused by a tiger.
3. Ray wanted a tiger for the shooting of the film Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne
4. Shiuri in Birbhoom
5. The tiger had to come out of the bamboo grove into an open space gently for a while, look at the camera if possible and then go back.

IV. Read the passage and answer the following questions

Mr. Thorat found a solution. 'I'll tie a wire round the tiger's neck. It will be thin, but strong.' If the wire was thin enough, perhaps it would remain invisible to the camera. But it was likely that the hair on the tiger's neck would be flattened by the wire, which would give the whole thing away. 'What if we found a collar made of tiger skin, fixed the wire to this collar and then tied it round the tiger's neck?' I said.

In a village called Notun Gram we found a suitable bamboo grove to film the first meeting between Goopy and Bagha and the appearance of the tiger. Mr Thorat reached the shooting location with the tiger. There were about twenty five people in the location. A few local people took our permission to go with us to watch how we tackled the tiger. The cage on the lorry was covered. When the cover was removed we were surprised to see not one, but two well-fed and robust tigers. We mounted the camera on its tripod that it faced the bamboo grove. The audience was instructed to get behind the camera and to stand as far back as possible. We had to stay relatively close to the bamboo grove, and Goopy and Bagha too, had to be within yards of the camera, for it was necessary to have at least one shot that showed them together with the tiger.

Mr Thorat's men had fixed a five foot iron rod to the ground, about thirty feet from the area where the tiger was supposed to take a walk. They took a thin, long wire and fixed one end to the collar made of tiger-skin that the tiger was already wearing. The other end was tied firmly to the visible portion of the iron rod. The door of one of the cages was unfastened and Mr Thorat called out to the tiger. It responded almost at once and sprang out of its cage to land on the open space outside. What followed was totally unexpected. One look at Mr Thorat's startled and helpless face told us that he was as taken aback as the rest of us. Instead of walking sedately in a dignified manner, the tiger started prancing tremendous enthusiasm. It leapt, it jumped, it rolled about, dragging its poor trainer who was desperately clutching the wire tied to the tiger's collar in a futile attempt to bring it under control. We stood around foolishly, watching a new and strange kind of circus which we were getting to see for free! The camera was still standing on its three legs, staring into the wood, but the tiger was showing no sign of making its way there.

1. What was Mr. Thorat's suggestion to control the tiger?
2. Why should the wire be thin? What was the solution found?
3. Where was the setting for the shooting of the film?
4. How was the tigers brought to the location?
5. How many people crowded to see the shooting?
6. Who were the characters in the film?
7. What was the scene?
8. Why was Ray surprised when the cover of the cage was removed?
9. Why did Mr. Thorat bring two tigers instead of one ?
10. What were the precautions that the crew had made?
11. Something unexpected happened. What was it?

Answers

1. Mr Thorat suggested tying a thin strong wire round the tiger's neck.
2. If the wire was thin enough, it would remain invisible to the camera. The solution was to make a collar made of tiger skin and fix the wire to the collar.
3. In a village called Notun Gram.
4. The tiger was put in a cage and brought it in a lorry.
5. There were about twenty five people on the location
6. Goopy, Bagha and the tiger
7. The first meeting of Goopy, Bagha and the tiger.
8. There were two tigers instead of one.
9. If the First tiger couldn't follow the instructions, he could use the second one.
10. The crew fixed the end of a wire to the collar which the tiger was wearing and the other end was tied to a strong iron rod fixed on the ground.
11. When the tiger came out of the cage and it behaved frantically. It started to leap, roll and jump, dragging the trainer. The trainer couldn't control the tiger.

V. Read the passage and answer the following questions

Once the tiger had calmed down, we managed to take the few shots we needed. This should have been the end of the story. But, when we returned to Calcutta and looked at the scenes with the tiger, we realised that the camera had failed to work properly. The shots were too dark, so much so that the tiger was merging almost completely with the background of the trees and leaves. We had to shoot the scenes all over again. We spoke to Mr Thorat and he agreed to give it another go. We found another bamboo grove closer to Calcutta in a village called Boral. The lorry arrived once more, with Mr Thorat, the tiger, the steel wire, the special collar and the iron rod. And with the lorry came the whole village. We told the villagers that they should stand at a distance of seventy feet. No one paid any attention to what they were told. The entire crowd moved as close to the camera as they could. We could not afford to waste any more time explaining and arguing. So we got the camera ready and signalled to Mr Thorat.

He opened the door of the cage. The instant the door opened with a clang, our tiger emerged with a loud roar, and charged straight at the villagers gathered behind the camera. The crowd, consisting of about a hundred and fifty people, melted away as if by magic. After that great burst of energy, the tiger calmed down very quickly. Like an obedient child, it walked over to the spot we had chosen, paced about quietly as it was led back to its trainer. required to, and then ambled back to its trainer. Even the camera behaved this time, which we realised two days later, when we returned to Calcutta and saw the scenes we had shot.

1. What made them shoot the scene again?
2. When did they understand that the camera had failed to work properly?
3. Which was the new location?
4. What did the crew members ask the villagers to do?
5. What was the magic performed by the tiger?
6. What did the tiger do after the initial burst of energy?
7. How did the camera perform this time?

Answers

1. The camera had failed to work properly and the shots were dark. Tiger was merging almost completely with the background of the trees and leaves.
2. They understood that all their efforts went in vain when they reached Calcutta.
3. The new location was in a bamboo grove closer to Calcutta in a village called Boral .
4. They told the villagers that they should stand at a distance of seventy feet.
5. The moment the door was opened the tiger charged straight at the villagers and all of them melted away by the tiger's magic.
6. After the initial burst of energy the tiger calmed down and obeyed the instructions.
7. The camera behaved well this time.

VI. Prepare a short profile of Satyajit Ray using the hints given below.

Born : May 2 1921, Kolkata
Known as : Indian film Maker
Famous : Writer producer, Screenwriter, lyricist, composer.
Awards : Academy Honorary Award, Bharat Ratna
Education : Viswa Bharati university, Presidency university,
Bally gunge Government High School
Died : April 23 1992, Kolkata

Satyajith Ray

Sathyajith Ray the renowned film director was born on 2nd May, 1921, in Kolkata. He was known as a filmmaker. He was famous as a writer, producer, screenwriter, lyricist and composer. He was honoured with the Academy Honorary Award and Bharat Ratna . He was educated at

BallyGunge. Government High School, Viswa- Bharati University and Presidency University Kolkata. He passed away on April 23, 1992 in Kolkata.

VII. Complete the conversation between Satyajit Ray and Mr. Thorat

Mr. Thorat : Good Morning Mr. Ray

Ray : Good morning. You are Mr. Thorat.....:(a).....?

Mr. Thorat : Yes(b).....?

Ray : I want a tiger for the Shooting of my film

Mr Thorat :(c).....

Ray : I need it for a couple of hours.

Mr Thorat : Ok. I will bring the tiger.

Ray : Can you make the tiger act the scene?

Mr. Thorat : If I train the tiger(d).....

Ray : How will you bring the tiger

Mr. Thorat :(e).....

Ray : Yes You may bring the tiger in a lorry.

Answers a) aren't You? b) What can I do for you? c) For how long will you need it?
d) It will act. e) I will bring it in a lorry

VIII. There are certain errors in the passage given below. They are underlined. Edit them.

Mr. Thorat's men had fix (a) a five foot iron rod to the ground, about thirty feet from the area whom (b) the tiger was supposed to take a walk. They took a thin, Long wire and fixed on end to the collar maid (c) of tiger- skin that the tiger was already wearing. The other end were (d) tied firmly to the visible portion of the iron rod.

Answers a) fixed b) where c) made d) was

IX. Alfred Hitchcock decided to make a film called 'Birds' Hitchcock needed ravens in large numbers. Prepare a notice.

Notice

Donald film Company Requires Raven

Donald film Company has decided to make a film called 'Birds'. It needs a variety of birds, especially ravens in great numbers. Well trained ravens and other birds who can follow the instructions will be paid reasonably. Those who have well trained ravens please contact Alfred Hitchcock, phone number 123460789. For further details visit our website films.com.

Sd/-

19.01.2021

AlfredHitchcock

California.

Proprietor

X. Imagine that Satyajith Ray writes a letter to one of his friends describing his efforts to make a tiger act in one of his films. Prepare the likely letter.

Chennai17th

June 1950

Dear Gopalakrishnan Sir,

How are you? Hope you are fine. It has been a long time since we communicated last. You may be busy with films. I write this letter to tell you about a wonderful experience I had recently. I needed a tiger for my film 'Goopy gyne Bagha Byne' I went to Bharat circus in Calcutta for getting a tiger for shooting. The manager of the circus company arranged the ring-master Mr.Thorat to help us Mr.Thorat agreed to give a trained tiger. He brought the tiger in a lorry.

The shooting was arranged in a village called Noturn Gram. When the door was opened, the tiger began to roll, jump and leap. The trainer couldn't control the tiger. After sometime we managed to take a few shots. When we reached Calcutta, we realized that the Camera had failed to work. We had to shoot the scenes again. This time I decided to shoot in a village called Boral. But the tiger jumped out with a loud roar and came to the front of the camera. The people who were standing next to the camera disappeared as if by magic. I was able to shoot correctly this time. I hope that the film will be a great success.

Your's lovingly

Sd/-

Satyajith Ray

XI. Satyajit Ray writes a letter to the manager of Bharat Circus for providing a tiger for shooting of his new film .Write the letter

From

Satyajit Ray

NO 83 Lane

Hill Palace, Calcutta,

20 June 1953

To

The Manager

Bharat Circus

Calcutta

Sir,

Sub: Providing a tiger for shooting.

We are engaged in producing new film “Goopy Gyne Bagha Byne”. The shooting site is set in Shiuri in Birbhoom. In the story, a tiger plays a dominant role. We learned that your company is holding shows in Marcus Square with tigers. It would be a great help if you could provide a trained tiger for the shooting.

Hope you will co operate in our new venture

Yours Faithfully

Sd/-

Satyajit Ray.

XII. Attempt a character Sketch of Mr. Thorat.

Mr. Thorat was the ring-master in Bharat Circus. He was a South Indian. He **was** well built. He had features **somewhat** like those of a Nepali. He was more than forty. He had an old scar on his **forearm** which was caused by a tiger. He was not sure about the success of the plan of shooting a scene with a tiger. He made a collar out of tiger skin and tied a wire to it, to control the tiger. He brought two tigers for the shooting instead of one.

XIII. Prepare the diary of Satyajit Ray after the successful shooting of the scene with a tiger.

20 June 1950

Monday

It was an unforgettable day in my life. How relieved am I now! If I had failed in my attempt to shoot the film I would have stopped it. I can't imagine that.....The shooting was very difficult. Mr. Thorat helped me a lot. If he was not there, I would not be able to complete it. He was really helpful. How lucky we were! After all, we succeeded in shooting the film. Everyone praised us. Anyway it was a great hit. It really was a memorable day in my life.