

T&T-Indian Cine-Club

Monday, 2nd February, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.
Studio, Film Programme Building



PAKEEZAH (Kamal Amrohi, 1972)

“I’ve seen your feet; they’re very lovely. Don’t set them down on the earth—they’ll get soiled.”

Kamal Amrohi’s *Pakeezah* (“The Pure One,” 1972) is a classic courtesan film featuring the great actress, Meena Kumari, who died a few weeks after the release of the film. The central theme of the film is the struggle for respectability of a *tawai’if*, a courtesan trained in poetry, music, and dance, a glamorous “public woman” who is barred from marriage and family life. Made over 14 turbulent years that witnessed the break-up of the Meena Kumari-Amrohi marriage, and her subsequent alcoholism and illness, the film is famed for her performance as the courtesan, Sahibjaan, the musical score (considered among the best in Indian cinema), beautifully-choreographed dance sequences featuring the classical dance form of Kathak, opulent sets, and its delirious romanticism.

(The film is in Hindi with English subtitles.)

All screenings are free and open to the public. All queries regarding the series should be sent to Dr. Usha Iyer, usha.iyer@sta.uwi.edu

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