

Across Cultures

The film, *Such a Long Journey*, opened in Mumbai and Delhi in February 2001. Directed by Sturla Gunnarsson, based on Rohinton Mistry's 1991 novel, the film was shot on location in Mumbai, where Mistry was born. Produced by Canadians, the movie stars an all-Indian cast, and won three Genie awards. The film and its making is exemplary of the cooperation between the cultures of Canada and those of South Asia. In 1996, 100 million people per week went to a movie in India; even if only a fraction of this figure see *Such a Long Journey*, more people in India will have seen the film than in Canada.

Rohinton Mistry's novel won the Governor General's Award in 1991. Perhaps the best known Canadian writer with roots in South Asia is Michael Ondaatje (Officer of the Order of Canada 1988), who won the Governor General's Award for literature several times, won the Booker Prize in 1992 for *The English Patient*, and whose most recent novel is *Anil's Ghost*, set in Sri Lanka. Other Canadian writers born in South Asia include Shyam Selvadurai (*Funny Boy*) and Anita Rau Badami.



Rohinton Mistry
McClelland and Stewart



Shyam Selvadurai
McClelland and Stewart



Anita Rau Badami Photo courtesy of
Random House Canadian Imprints

Did you know

that in 1995 Canada had fewer cinemas than Pakistan did in 1999? (590 to Pakistan's 600).



Michael Ondaatje Photo courtesy of McClelland and Stewart