

## From Nirbaak to Projapoti Biskut, here are 10 underrated Bengali movies

You are not a Bong if you don't vote for *luchi*, afternoon naps, or like to unearth underrated films. We can spend an entire evening tirelessly arguing over who is better Srijit Mukherjee or Kaushik Ganguly, but we never get tired of finding hidden gems of Tollywood on OTT platforms. So here we have curated a list of 10 underrated Bengali movies for you to binge on the weekend.

1. **Shunyo E Buke** – It's the second movie directed by Kaushik Ganguly. During her visit to Khajuraho, Tista (played by Churni Ganguly) meets Saumitra (Kaushik Sen) and soon they fall in love. But on their wedding night when Saumitra finds out Tista is flat-chested, he blames Tista for cheating him. Heartbroken, Tista eventually divorces him. A few years later Saumitra again comes across Tista and finds out that she is now married to his friend Anjit (Tota Roy Choudhury) and they have a beautiful daughter. Tista tells him that her daughter has grown up feeding on her 'small' breasts and Anjit loves her as a woman and not her physical features. Saumitra finally regrets his choices.
2. **Kadambari** – Directed by Suman Ghosh, this is a biopic of Kadambari Devi – the sister in law of Rabindra Nath Tagore, played by Konkona Sen Sharma and Parambrata Chatterjee respectively. The movie captures the time when the relationship between Tagore and Kadambari Devi blossomed into friendship after she got married to the family, till the time of her suicide.
3. **Kedara** – A tribute to the dying art form ventriloquism, this movie is about the protagonist's (Kaushik Ganguly) struggles with intense loneliness, monotony, and desire for transformation. Living in his ancestral house all by himself, the docile man spends his days striking up conversations with people from his past, until he meets a junk dealer (Rudranil Ghosh) who gives him an old armchair and things begin to spiral at the cost of his sanity.
4. **Nirbaak** – Directed by Srijit Mukherjee, Nirbaak was Sushmita Sen's first Bengali movie. Starring an ensemble cast – Anjan Dutt, Jisshu Sengupta, Ritwick Chakraborty – the movie has five stories of affection, lust, jealousy, love, and separation. All these stories are interconnected by a common thread – Sushmita Sen. The movie has very few dialogues, hence the name 'Nirbaak'.
5. **Asha Jaoar Majhe** – Directed by Aditya Vikram Sengupta, Asha Jaoar Majhe or Labor of Love bagged many awards, including the 62<sup>nd</sup> National Film Awards for the best debut film. Inspired by Iran's Keywan Karimi's short film 'The Adventure of a Married Couple', Sengupta's movie, sans any dialogue, is a story about a married couple (Ritwick Chakraborty and Basabdatta Chatterjee) struggling to make ends meet in 2008-09 recession hit Kolkata. The wife works in a handbag factory and the husband works the night shift in a printing press and they get no chance to see each other except for a brief moment when they cross paths. Thanks to the background score and screenplay, the movie is nothing less than visual poetry.

6. **Shantilal O Projapoti Rohoshyo** – Directed by Pratim D. Gupta, this movie also stars Ritwick Chakraborty, along with Paoli Dam and Goutam Ghosh in key roles. Shantilal (Chakraborty) is a reporter stuck in a dead-end job. Actress Nandita (Dam) wants to venture into politics. Things start to take a different turn for Shantilal when he finds out Nandita's body parts are clipped on Padma Picture's famous porn star, Miss Roshni. Intrigued to find out the truth, Shantilal goes to Chennai, from there to Singapore, to investigate Padma Pictures, but no one is willing to unravel the reality.
7. **Sweater** – This is a story about Tuku (Ishaa Saha) – a simple and timid girl, whose parents are worried about her marriage because she has no special qualities. Families came to see her, but she was rejected each time. During one such visit, the mother of a potential groom places an odd demand that Tuku must learn knitting to finalize the wedding. She then goes to her aunt's place to learn the art and that eventually opens up the door to a new life for her. The film also stars June Maliah, Sreelekha Mitra, and Kharaj Mukherjee.
8. **Projapoti Biskut** – Starring Ishaa Saha and Aditya Sengupta as husband and wife, this movie talk about the social pressure to become pregnant on newlyweds – touching upon the issue of polycystic ovary syndrome. After leaving the restrictive in-laws' household, independent and opinionated Shaon (Saha) one day runs into her estranged husband Antor (Sengupta). She opens her heart about how she feels stifled at his house due to cultural differences. Antor finally understands her and took his transfer to Bhilai. He asks her to accompany him and promises a better future.
9. **Bibaho Diaries** – A romantic comedy directed by Mainak Bhaumik, the movie stars Ritwick Chakraborty and Sohini Sarkar in lead roles. In Bhaumik's atypical signature style, Bibaho Diaries is a hilariously real chronicle of the before and after of urban marriage. This light-hearted movie is a perfect concoction of good performance and well-timed comedy.
10. **Generation Ami** – Another good one by Mainak Bhaumik, Generation Ami has Rwitobroto Mukherjee and Sauraseni Maitra in lead roles. Under confident teenager, Arunava (Mukherjee) lives with his overprotective mother and dominating father and leads a life where he has no control over the things he likes to do until his cousin Durga (Maitra) comes to live with them. Although suffering from depression, her bold and rebellious attitude towards life slowly changes Arunava.

