

SEAN BEAN



Sharpe's Challenge

The fate of an Empire and the life of a General's daughter lie in one man's hands...



After 5 seasons of 14 action-packed adventure films which averaged an audience share of 47% on UK Television, and which still sell in over 50 territories—the award-winning SHARPE returns:

SEAN BEAN

(Flightplan, National Treasure, Troy, Lord of the Rings, James Bond: GoldenEye)

starring in

Sharpe's Challenge

Producers:

Malcolm Craddock
Muir Sutherland

Executive Producers:

Stuart Sutherland
Kathryn Mitchell
Steve Wilkinson

Writer: Russell Lewis

Director: Tom Clegg

**A Celtic Films
Entertainment/
Picture Palace Films/
BBC America
production for ITV1
In association with
Azure Films and
Harper Collins**

Two years after Wellington crushes Napoleon at Waterloo, dispatches from India tell of a local Maharaja, Khande Rao, who is threatening British interests there. Wellington sends Sharpe to investigate on what turns out to be his most dangerous mission to date.

The last scout sent—whom we discover is Sharpe's best friend, Sgt Harper—has gone missing. His latest report suggests that the real power behind the Maharaja is one Colonel Dodd (a malcontent East India Company officer 'turned rogue') and that the Maharaja has gathered into his impregnable fort a contingent of refugees from Napoleon's army—adventurers looking to make their fortunes in India. It's the French that trouble Wellington the most: their experience, tactics and discipline could help fashion the Indians into something more than 'just a perennial bloody nuisance'...

As usual, Wellington has not painted the full picture. For once in India, Sharpe discovers the situation is already far graver than he was led to believe; and things only get worse when the daughter of General Burroughs, the commander of His Britannic Majesty's forces in the region, is kidnapped and held in the Maharajah's fort by his villainous henchman, Colonel Dodd (**Toby Stephens**) and the scheming yet beautiful Madhuvanthi (**Padma Lakshmi**). The British were planning to storm the Maharajah's fort by blowing up one of the outer walls—but the Maharajah now vows to execute the General's daughter if any such attack is carried out. Worse still, it turns out that General Burroughs has gone down with a fever and that Sharpe's gutless nemesis, General Simmerson, is now in overall charge of the army.

Sharpe, now reunited with Harper (**Daragh O'Malley**), devises a plan. The two friends will disguise themselves as deserters and become part of the Maharajah's motley crew. Once inside the fort they will rescue the General's daughter and get word to him of her safety—together with details of which side of the fort they should attack.

General Simmerson reluctantly agrees. However once inside the fort things don't quite go as Sharpe has planned...

Epic in scale, this Sharpe was filmed on location in the sumptuous fort and palace locations of Jaipur/Jodhpur in Rajasthan India. The locations are replete with all that exotic India has to offer plus stunning, nail-biting fight sequences featuring thousands of extras.



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