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Bollywood: A Guidebook To Popular Hindi Cinema (Routledge Film Guidebooks)



Synopsis

'Bollywood' is the dominant global term to refer to the prolific Hindi language film industry in Bombay (renamed Mumbai in 1995). Characterised by music, dance routines, melodrama, lavish production values and an emphasis on stars and spectacle, Bollywood films have met with box-office success and enthusiastic audiences from India to West Africa to Russia, and throughout the English-speaking world. In Bollywood, anthropologist and film scholar Tejaswini Ganti provides a guide to the cultural, social and political significance of Hindi cinema, outlining the history and structure of the Bombay film industry, and the development of popular Hindi filmmaking since the 1930s. Providing information and commentary on the key players in Bollywood, including directors and stars, as well as material from current filmmakers themselves, the areas covered in Bollywood include: history of Indian cinema narrative style, main themes, and key genres of Hindi cinema significant films, directors and stars production and distribution of Bollywood films interviews with actors, directors and screenwriters.

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Customer Reviews

Tejaswini Ganti is an Associate Professor of Anthropology in the Program in Culture and Media at New York University.

If you were in film school, this book would probably be the first one to read regarding Hindi cinema. I am new to Bollywood, and found this book very helpful.

Book was in great quality. Got delivered quickly. I am very satisfied with this product. A very good read if you are interested in Bollywood Cinema

I used the kindle version and found it worked well enough for my purpose. In fact I hardly used it and so the electronic rental was handy!

This little book by Tejaswini Ganti is the ideal introduction for anyone who wants to get to know Bollywood. Smart, concise, it's a very easy and informative read. After an historical introduction to Indian cinema from the beginnings (just after the invention of cinema) to the glossy new millenium Bollywood of ZeeTV and NRI romances; Ganti proceeds to a general presentation of the inner workings of the Hindi Film Industry (name usually preferred by scholars to the term Bollywood): how is a film made in Bombay ? who produces, how? who distributes, where? who has the power? This part along with the long historical introduction are the core material of the book, short but truly essential. NB Ganti focuses on Bollywood (located in Bombay). for beginners who think that Indian cinema is Bollywood, take note: it's not. Therefore the book acknowledges Middle cinema, art cinema, tamil, telugu, bengali cinema but never deals with these topics. After the "technical" part of the book, the rest is dedicated to an overview of the major films and personalities of the profession. The major films chapter provides a very useful filmography that gives the neofit a very interesting selection of films to get to know Bollywood thru the ages. Each film has a detailed summary that sometimes includes historical insights or important trivia. Then there is the chapter about who's who in Bollywood, she lists major directors (although for most recent cinema many names are missing, as she herself underlines in the end notes), music and lyrics writers, actors and actresses (here again many recent actors and actresses box office sweethearts are overlooked but it's difficult to keep up with the star system and not all stars deserve such academic attention anyway, so if you're a Bollywood geek get over the absence of Salman Khan or Rani Mukherjee in that section). The end of the book is a series of interviews with directors, actors, producers... and this is where you will eventually find the "new comers" such as ShahRukh Khan (in a really cute itw for that matter) ... Ganti provides a short bibliography which is also very needed since ressources on Bollywood are not necessarily the easiest to find. Overall a great little guide that can prove essential to any world cinema class or even (in my case) anthropology class. as a complement to that guide I recommend Prasad's book Ideology of the hindi film a historical construction, a very insightful book with detailed analysis of such classics as Deewar for instance.

This book is truly an asset that gives a fresh perceptive of Bollywood - The Hindi Language Movie Industry of India. Could have added more photographs.

interesting and easy to read. A good first approach of the bollywood film industry. Not enough photos and no colours.

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