



The Melodramatic Public: Film Form and Spectatorship in Indian Cinema

By Ravi Vasudevan

Permanent Black, New Delhi, India, 2010. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Dust Jacket Condition: New. First Indian Edition. What role has Indian cinema played in the history of Indian cultural and political transformations? How have Indian films addressed notions of nationhood, ideas about nation and region, matters of social difference, and conflicts over caste and religion? What cultural visions can be traced through the history of Indian cinema, and how have their co-ordinates changed? What new vistas have emerged of national territory, new lifestyles, and urban cultures as India has moved from the early days of state formation, through the unravelling of national consensus, down to contemporary globalization? The Melodramatic Public explores these issues as they play out in different historical moments, and in response to larger theoretical formulations for example, vis-à-vis the place of film in discourses of secularism and citizenship. At the same time, it deploys the category of melodrama to navigate this variegated field. Drawing on debates in film studies, it reveals how melodrama relates the public and the private, as well as modes of aesthetic expression, in different historical and cultural settings. Vasudevan explores significant crossovers and comparative registers in Indian and American cinema, as well as changes in the...



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