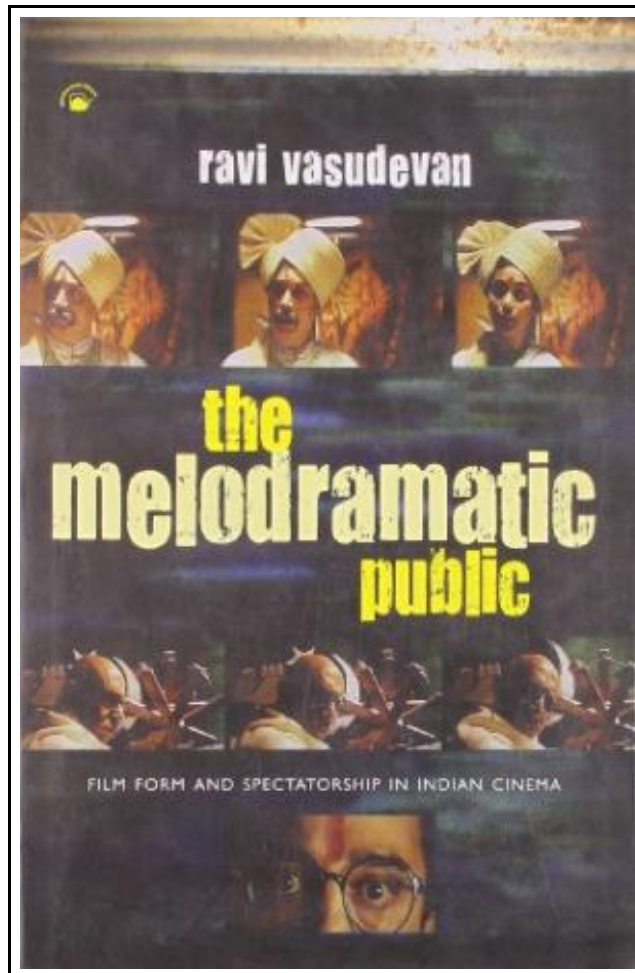


The Melodramatic Public: Film Form and Spectatorship in Indian Cinema



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Reviews

It is one of the most popular books. I am quite late in starting to read this one, but better than never. Once you begin to read the book, it is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding.
(Camille Larson)

THE MELODRAMATIC PUBLIC: FILM FORM AND SPECTATORSHIP IN INDIAN CINEMA

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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 nature of Indian cinema and melodramatic form, especially between the classical 1950s and the contemporary period. Several features make this a work of seminal importance in film studies. First, it moves away from generalities about the ways in which film represents or contributes to large political and cultural issues: it does so by attending to the specifics of cultural address, film style, and film technology. Second, it analyses the transformation of the film industry since the 1990s in terms of the changing location of cinema in a new globalized environment. Third, it considers the impact of digitization, both in terms...



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