



Columbia University Press, 1963



Oxford University Press, 1980

Indian Film

Hailed as the definitive study of Indian Film when it was first published in 1963, this book remains an unparalleled account of the film industry which outproduces that of any other country. The authors reveal a fascinating show-business pageant that interweaves constantly with political and social history.

What is the impact of this medium on an ancient culture with artistic traditions in drama, dance and music going back two thousand years? To what extent do the films reflect, and affect, the schisms of Indian society – between rich and poor, city and village? How have the films influenced age-old traditions? These are among the many questions Barnouw and Krishnaswamy consider.

Indian Film also depicts the industry's sharp contrasts, with works ranging from the noblest to the most preposterous, from the most hedonistic to the most devotional, from the most jovial to the most despairing – all reflecting the deep tensions of Indian society as a whole.

About the Authors

Erik Barnouw is Chief of the Library of Congress's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division.

Dr. S. Krishnaswamy is a filmmaker, critic and lecturer.

Reviews

"Immensely readable...- a richly alive and instructive book."

- Washington Post

"....should have a lasting usefulness as a handy reference volume.Certainly, among the more cerebral denizens of our own U.S. production complexes, many will read Indian Film with fascination and respect."

- Variety

"As regional and national cultures interpenetrate in the emergence of a global community, we shall be fortunate if we have more clear solid books like this."

- Annals of the American Academy of Political & Social Science

"India's gigantic film industry has been considerably neglected as a field of study and research and the public will be grateful for this analytical yet highly readable survey."

- The Hindu

"The story of the industry's development, including its relationship to ... social currents... is fascinatingly told in this informative volume."

- The Hollywood Reporter