

Recent Books of Cinema Studies - February 2008

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Satyajit Ray : Essays (1970-2005) / Gaston Roberge
New Delhi : Manohar Publishers & Distributors, c2007
280 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Includes references and index.
81-7304-735-9
\$ 19.50

[The essays offered here with written between 1970 and 2005. Teaching assignments, requests for articles, and the author's own evolving interests prompted them. They were not written with the view to form a book. They are now published together in the conviction that, both singly and as a whole, they can contribute to a better appreciation of Satyajit Ray's legacy. The essays deal with Ray as a filmmaker. The date on which each essays was written is indicated as it situates each in the cultural context in which it was conceived.]

Leave disco dancer alone! : Indian cinema and soviet movie-going after stalin / Sudha Rajagopalan
New Delhi : Yoda Press, c2008
xvi, 241 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Includes bibliography, references and index.
978-81-906186-0-1
\$ 10.00

[In this important new book, Sudha Rajagopalan explores the consumption of Indian popular cinema in post-stalinist soviet society. In doing so, she highlights the enthusiastic response Indian Popular films and their stars received from the soviet audience, as well as the discursive and institutional context in which this consumption occurred from the mid-fifties till the end of the soviet era in 1991. The death of stalin in 1953 was followed by the introduction of important changes in government policy in the soviet union, including a relative liberalisation of leisure and culture which revealed the state's resurgent interest in addressing popular tastes.]

The life and times of Nargis / TJS George
Chennai, India : East West Books (Madras) Pvt. Ltd., c2007
xii, 194 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.
Includes Index.
978-81-88661-68-8
\$ 8.00

[The life and times of Nargis is a complete study of one of the most beautiful and talented stars of the Golden Era of the 1950s. She was considered the icon of that period as Devika Rani was of the earlier Golden Era the 1930s. The anecdotes and minutiae the author has assembled with unsparing research make for a book that is extraordinary informative as well as elegantly readable. The

value of this study is vastly enhanced by a portfolio of photographs, and the fullest filmography to date of Nargis.]

Films, Literature and Culture: Deepa Mehta's Elements Trilogy / Edited by Jasbir Jain
Jaipur : Rawat Publications, 2007

x,258p. ; 23cm.

81-316-0009-2

\$ 15.00

[Films, Literature and Culture is a collection of nineteen essays that focus on Deepa Mehta's Elements Trilogy in order to explore the interconnections in the three categories and the manner in which they feed into each other. Films and literature are two mediums -one literacy, the other performative -which use language and image, in order to capture the lived reality of cultural constructs. But the processes of producing meaning and interpreting meaning are complex and multilayered. They get caught up in histories, locations and experiences. Neither film nor literature is a self-contained autonomous medium or artifact and even as they use and produce culture, they become its subverters. The range of the interpretative strategies is amazing: social and political history, gender positions and feminist theory, cinematic frameworks and the theory of the gaze; landscape, space and exteriority; diasporic location and relationship to the culture of origin; religion and patriarchy; the city and its history, and the history of the making and reception of the three films Fire. 1947 -Earth and Water. The various interpretations provide a base for working out the psychodynamics of the relationship of the viewer with the text and invite the reader to participate in this multi-directional debate between reality and representation.]
