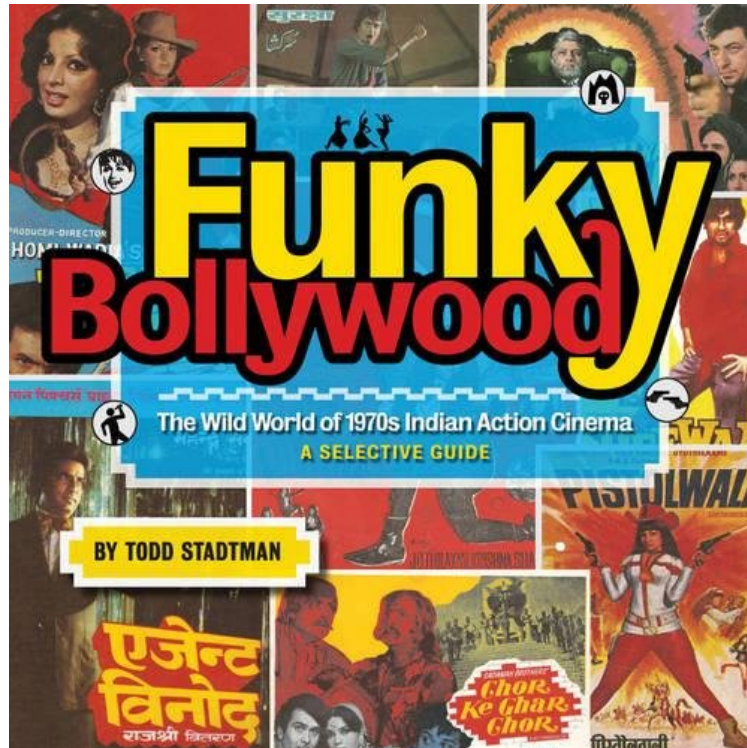


(Free pdf) Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Indian Action Cinema

Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Indian Action Cinema

Todd Stadtman

DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub



Download

Read Online

#1261786 in Books 2015-03-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .67 x 8.50l, 1.43 #File Name: 1903254779240 pages | File size: 26.Mb

Todd Stadtman : Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Indian Action Cinema before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Indian Action Cinema:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. love, and most importantly By Michael P. Barnum When I learned that Todd Stadmant was writing a book on 1970s Hindi action films, I knew right away that we were all in for a treat! I have followed Todd on his blog "Die,Danger,Die,Die,Kill" as well as his writing in magazines such as Famous Monsters of Filmland. He is one of those rare authors who can write about low budget and/or quirky cinema with humor, love, and most importantly, respect. Even the most casual fan of Bollywood cinema will enjoy this book! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bollywood Heaven By Roxanne Belli This book is a MUST HAVE for any Bollywood fan. Incredibly detailed really well written. I absolutely LOVE it!!!! 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. This was the decade of blockbusters like Sholay, Amar Akbar Anthony By Maddy The Indian film industry has long been synonymous with all-singing, all-dancing, melodramatic and escapist movies (it's a different matter that there are exceptions to the rule, and they are on the increase). But the masala film, a spice mix of everything from action to romance, drama, comedy, and pathos thrown in, is invariably what it means to most people. Over the century that Indian cinema has been in existence, one decade that has stood out for the total paisa vasool ('getting your money's worth') quality of the masala entertainer has been the 1970s. This was the decade of blockbusters like Sholay, Amar Akbar Anthony, Deewaar and Yaadon ki Baaraat. It was a time of some of the most fantastic (and I mean that in the sense of being 'hard to believe') stories, over the top costumes (not to mention set

design, makeup, art direction, and more), and a cinema that was, in every way, much larger than life. This is the period, and these the films, which Todd Stadtman sets out to explore in *Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Indian Action Cinema: A Selective Guide*. The title of the book says it all: the 70s action film, whether it was a relatively slick one like *Gaddaar* or a trashy one like the *Gunmaster G-9* film *Suraksha*, was invariably pretty wild. There was loads of action, lots of *dhishoom-dhishoom*. And this guide doesn't aim to be comprehensive (that would be a tall order, indeed); it is decidedly selective. Stadtman's book begins with a brief introduction to the Indian action film of the 70s, followed by brief biographies of the leading lights of the period not just actors, but directors, singers, composers, and more; and a quick summary of the main tropes that characterised these films. This is followed by what comprises the bulk of the book: in-depth reviews of nearly seventy films, most of them Hindi. Each review begins with a list of the cast and the main crew, followed by a detailed synopsis (watch out: there are spoilers here!), and finally, Stadtman's own take on what works in the film and what doesn't. There are colourful reproductions of posters and lobby cards, stills, and occasional text boxes about certain actors, songs, and so forth. At the end of the book are two separate, smaller sections that deal with particular sub-genres of the Indian action film: the spy film and the *curry Western*. This isn't a book to read if you're looking for behind-the-scenes tidbits about these films. It is also not (as Stadtman points out in the introduction) an academic book. It is, as is evident from the glorious funkiness of the cover itself, a book to enjoy the action films of the 70s, to reminisce (if you've already seen these), or to find more films to watch. What adds to the enjoyment is Stadtman's excellent sense of humour and his obvious and intense affection for these films, warts and all. Just reading his writing is a joy. Indian readers might find certain errors in transcription irritating (I couldn't help but wince at *Shantinagar* being repeatedly spelled *Shantinagan*, or *Hotel Mansarovar* as *Mansaro*, among others). Also, I'd have liked some additions to the book: for instance, a more detailed history of the action film in Indian cinema (Stadtman does mention the *Fearless Nadia* films, but it might have been interesting to also look at how we got from *Fearless Nadia* to *Humsaaya*, *Kismat*, *Yakeen* and *Aankhen*). Also, while the book does have reviews of a couple of Telugu action films, there is no mention of other Indian action films (were there any, was the question left in my mind, or should this book have been titled *Funky Bollywood: The Wild World of 1970s Hindi Action Cinema*? Which is anyway probably more apt, considering *Bollywood* is a term applied to Hindi cinema, not the many regional language cinema industries across the country...) If you've ever attempted a *Helen shimmy* or muttered out of the side of your mouth, "*Kitne aadmi the?*" (or want to know what that means), this book is recommended.

Despite the often stereotypical notions of *Bollywood*, it's not all weddings, wet saris and running around trees. In the 1970s, Indian cinema gave birth to a new breed of action movie, one that combined its own exuberant traditions with foreign influences like the gritty urban crime thrillers of the *New Hollywood*, *Hong Kong* martial arts cinema, and Italian exploitation fare. This was the domain of hard fighting he-men stars like *Amitabh Bachchan*, *Dharmendra* and *Feroz Khan* and badass, whip-wielding heroines played by the likes of the gorgeous *Zeenat Aman*, *Hema Malini*, and *Rekha*. Let world cult cinema fanatic Todd Stadtman be your guide through this world of karate killers, femme fatales, space age lairs, bombshells and booby traps with *Funky Bollywood*, a book with an attitude as freewheeling and feisty as its subject matter, bursting with colour and imagination on every vibrant page.

About the Author Todd Stadtman has been writing about world cult cinema since 2008 on his Rondo Award nominated blog *Die, Danger, Die, Die, Kill!* and as a regular contributor to *Teleport City*, one of the longest running cult cinema websites on the Internet. His work has appeared in *The Times of India*, *Famous Monsters* magazine, and on the websites *io9*, *Mondo Macabro*, *The Cultural Gutter*, *Permission to Kill*, *Monster Island Resort*, and *Movie Fan Princess*. He also contributed to the Turkey edition of the *World Directory of Cinema*, published by *Intellect Ltd.* Excerpt. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. These days pretty much every westerner has some idea in their head of what a *Bollywood* movie looks like: The vibrant colors! The over-the-top acting! The constant singing! However, those ideas are more frequently derived from the countless parodies and pastiches of *Bollywood* that are floating around popular culture than they are from any exposure to the real thing. In fact, in my own United States, there are no doubt many people who would tell you, with absolute conviction, that they had seen a *Bollywood* movie. This despite the fact that what they had actually seen was something along the lines of *Slumdog Millionaire* or *Bride and Prejudice* both of them British productions, albeit with some ethnic Indians among their cast and crew, that pick and choose from *Bollywood* traditions as suits their creative ends, but which ultimately fall short of bearing all the hallmarks of that very particular branch of world cinema. Of course, there are also those rare Westerners, cineastes and cultural tourists alike, who harbor a genuine curiosity about *Bollywood*. And for those folks there exists no shortage of published materials on the subject. In my experience, the books on Hindi cinema that are available in English tend to fall into one of two categories. On the one hand, there are scholarly tomes that will tell you all you want to know about the canonical classics of Indian popular cinema films like, for instance, *Mehboob Khan's Mother India*, or the works of auteur director *Guru Dutt* and discourse eloquently upon subjects such as the trauma of partition and how it evidences itself in the films of *Bollywood's* golden age. On the other, there are those lush coffee table books that celebrate the

glamour of modern Bollywood with all of its gorgeous stars, lavish production design and fabulous costumes as a return to the irony-free glitz of old Hollywood. But what if you are someone whose interest in Bollywood is neither academic nor motivated by a desire to worship at the altar of its current stars? What if you are, for instance, someone like me a person who has left the world of high-brow film connoisseurship behind and dedicated himself to trolling the more disreputable regions of world popular cinema in search of, for lack of a better word, cheap thrills? Well, if that's you, welcome to the world of 1970s Indian action cinema.