

A brilliantly original study of the links between India's and Pakistan's film industries that puts into question the role of partition, war and nationalism in the cultural history of South Asia.

Faisal Devji, St Antony's College, University of Oxford

Unearthing stories of the displaced persons who transformed Bombay and Lahore into national film hubs, Salma Siddique brilliantly refutes the notion that amnesia and silence characterised their film industry's response to partition. Delving into popular, archival and private records, *Evacuee Cinema* offers breathtaking insight into the frenetic world of film stars, crews, companies and theatres altering their creative trajectories to adapt to cataclysmic times. We owe a large debt of gratitude to Siddique for this riveting and immersive account of émigré film personnel whose paths crossed and recrossed the increasing political distance and hostilities between India and Pakistan during the long partition. An indispensable book that reminds us, powerfully, how two vibrant centers of film production were born from the work, life, privation and imagination of migrants and evacuees.

Priya Jaikumar, author of *Where Histories Reside: India as Filmed Space*

This is a pioneering study of the entangled histories of Indian and Pakistani cinema. Analysing the film industries in Bombay and Lahore in the run-up to the partition of colonial India and in the years after, Salma Siddique has done groundbreaking work on Muslim networks in the Bombay film industry, on production companies in pre-partition Lahore and on emblematic figures such as actress Meena Shorey to capture the complex imprint of new nation-states on industrial form and individual lives. The book showcases innovative research on key genres such as the Muslim social film and the adaptation of Hollywood genres such as 'screwball', draws attention to the remarkable *charba* films that remade Bombay films through a Pakistani lens, and casts light on the ambiguities of Prithviraj Kapoor's progressive theatre practice. *Evacuee Cinema* is based on careful research in a range of archives, including the collections of Pakistani cinephiles. It is a compelling, indeed indispensable work that suspends national historical approaches to capture the complex interweaving and separating out of cultural forms and practices under the imprimatur of new nation-states.

Ravi Vasudevan, Co-Director, Sarai, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Image: Actress Meena Shorey, *Filmfare*, May 1952.

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Siddique

Evacuee Cinema

Evacuee Cinema

Bombay and Lahore in
Partition Transit
(1940–1960)



Salma Siddique

METAMORPHOSES OF THE POLITICAL



MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACHES