

Saswati Sengupta • Shampa Roy
Sharmila Purkayastha
Editors

'Bad' Women of Bombay Films

Studies in Desire and Anxiety

palgrave
macmillan

Editors

Saswati Sengupta
Department of English
Miranda House, Delhi University
Delhi, India

Shampa Roy
Department of English
Miranda House, Delhi University
Delhi, India

Sharmila Purkayastha
Department of English
Miranda House, Delhi University
Delhi, India

ISBN 978-3-030-26787-2

ISBN 978-3-030-26788-9 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-26788-9>

© The Editor(s) (if applicable) and The Author(s), under exclusive licence to Springer Nature Switzerland AG 2019

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are solely and exclusively licensed by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use. The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, expressed or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made. The publisher remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Cover illustration: Dinodia Photos / Alamy Stock Photo

This Palgrave Macmillan imprint is published by the registered company Springer Nature Switzerland AG.
The registered company address is: Gewerbestrasse 11, 6330 Cham, Switzerland

“itni bhi mahaan main nahi hoon, raja!”
 (I’m not that Great, O King): The Angry
 Young Woman of the 1970s

Menka Ahlawat

I

The decade of the 1970s is acknowledged by film scholars as being crucial for the Bombay film industry in terms of the major cinematic shifts—new scripts and topoi and styles of film-making—which accompanied the changing social and political gears of the moment.¹ Popular imagination recognizes the new cinematic pulse of the 1970s most readily in the form of the Angry Young Man. This genre of films began with Prakash Mehra’s *Zanjeer* (Chains, 1973, written by Salim-Javed), which also catapulted Amitabh Bachchan to stardom as the face of the rebellious persona of ‘Vijay’ (Victory). He went on to enact this role for the next two decades in scores of films: Gulshan Rai’s *Deewar* (The Wall, 1975), G.P. Sippy’s *Sholay* (Embers, 1975), A.K. Nadiadwala’s *Adalat* (Court, 1976), Gulshan Rai’s *Trishul* (Trident, 1978) and so on. The plotline of

¹ See Biswas (2007: 4), Joshi and Dudrah (2014: 2) and Viridi (2003: 145).

M. Ahlawat (✉)

Mata Sundri College for Women, Delhi University, Delhi, India

© The Author(s) 2019

S. Sengupta et al. (eds.), *‘Bad’ Women of Bombay Films*,
https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-26788-9_12