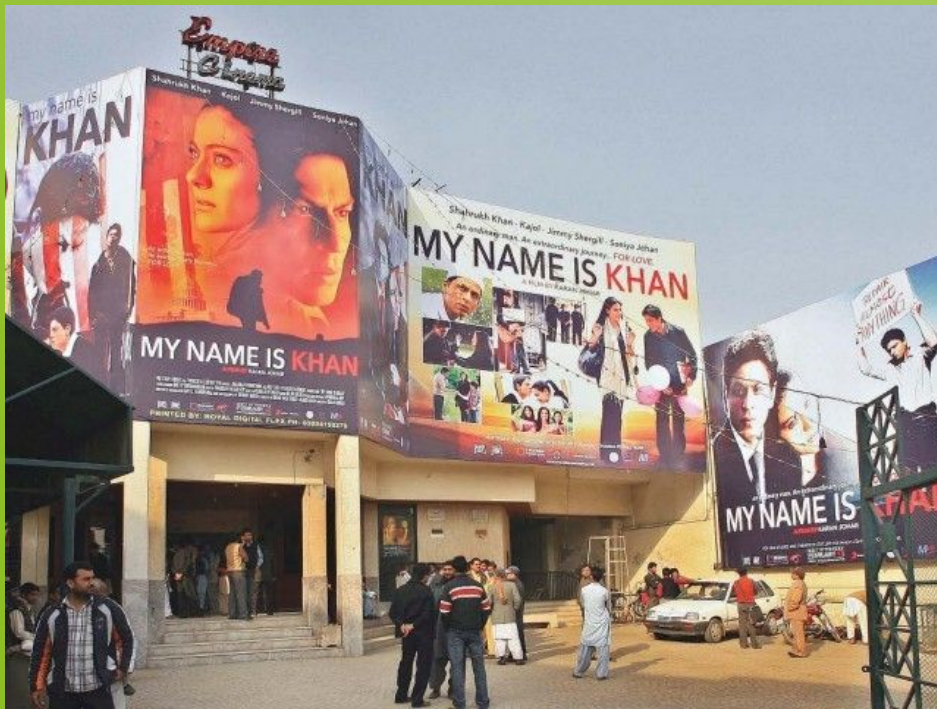


English-speaking Countries

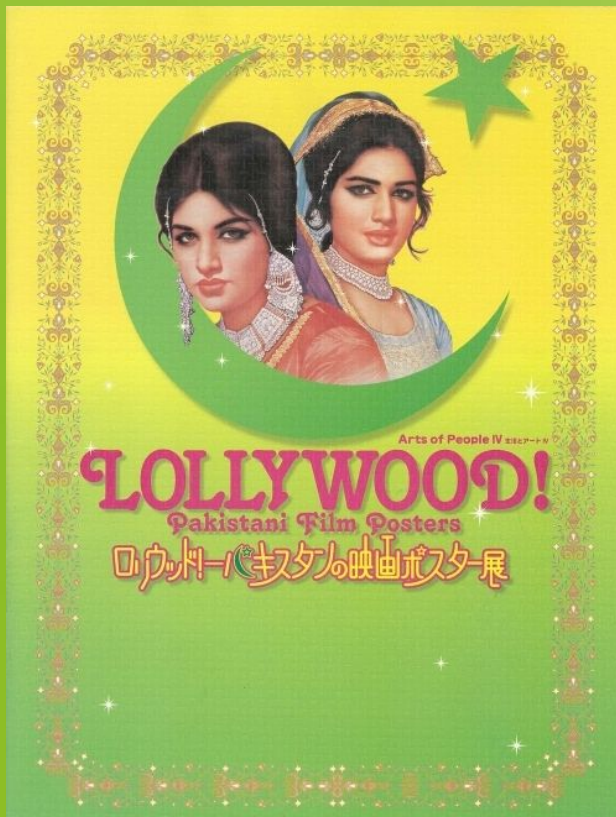
Pakistan. Cinema and theater



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Cinema of Pakistan

Most of the feature films shot in Pakistan are in Urdu, the national language, but may also include films in English, the official language, and regional languages such as Punjabi, Pashto, Balochi, and Sindhi. Lahore was the epicentre of Pakistani cinema and Pakistan's largest film industry was Lollywood.



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Before the separation of Bangladesh, Pakistan had three main film production centres: Lahore, Karachi and Dhaka. Dhaka as a film centre was lost after the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. The regime of Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq, VCRs, film piracy, the introduction of entertainment taxes, and Islamic laws and the subsequent 'Islamization' of Pakistani society, have been some of the many obstacles to the industry's growth. Once thriving, the cinema in Pakistan had a sudden collapse in the 1980s and by the 2000s "an industry that once produced an average of 80 films annually was now struggling to even churn out more than two films a year."



Lahore's cinema theater



Poster of «Karachi» (documentary)

Pakistan. Cinema and theater

- **Lahore film industry:** Pakistan's largest domestic film industry is based in the city of Lahore. The industry was established in 1929 with the opening of the United Players Corporation Studios on Ravi Road (now Timber Market) in Lahore and mostly produces films in the Urdu and Punjabi languages. The industry was first called Lollywood in 1989.
- **Peshawar film industry:** The film industry based in Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is the second largest in the country.
- **Karachi film industry:** The film industry in the southern port-city of Karachi mostly produces films in Urdu. Some recent films have also been produced in the English and Sindhi languages.
- **Pahariwood:** Pahariwood is the name of the Pothwari filming industry that is based in the city of Mirpur, Azad Kashmir in Pakistan. Films produced by Pahariwood are in the Pothwari language.
- **Sindhi cinema:** Sindhi movies, are films in Sindhi language or with Sindhi ethnic emphasis.



English-speaking Countries

Famous Pakistani film actors:

Pakistan. Cinema and theater



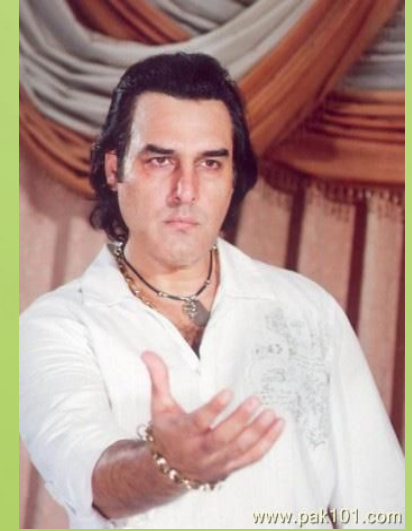
Abdur Rashid
Kardar (1904-1989)



Adnan Sami (1973)



Afzal Khan (1966)



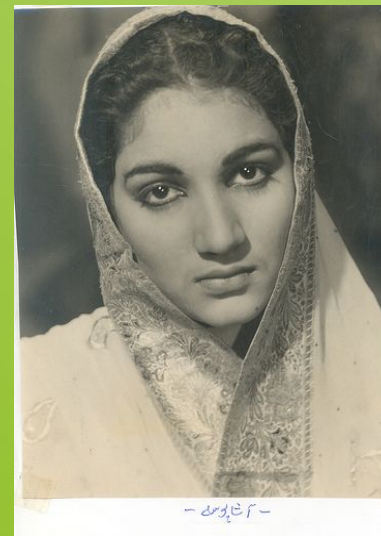
Ajab Gul



Aleena (1986-2007)



Aaminah Haq



Asha Posley
(1927-1998)



Atiqa Odho (1962)

Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Film Festivals:

KARA Film Festival, Karachi (suspended nowadays)

LUMS Films Festival, Lahore

Margalla Film Festival, Islamabad (started in 2012)



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Theatre of Pakistan

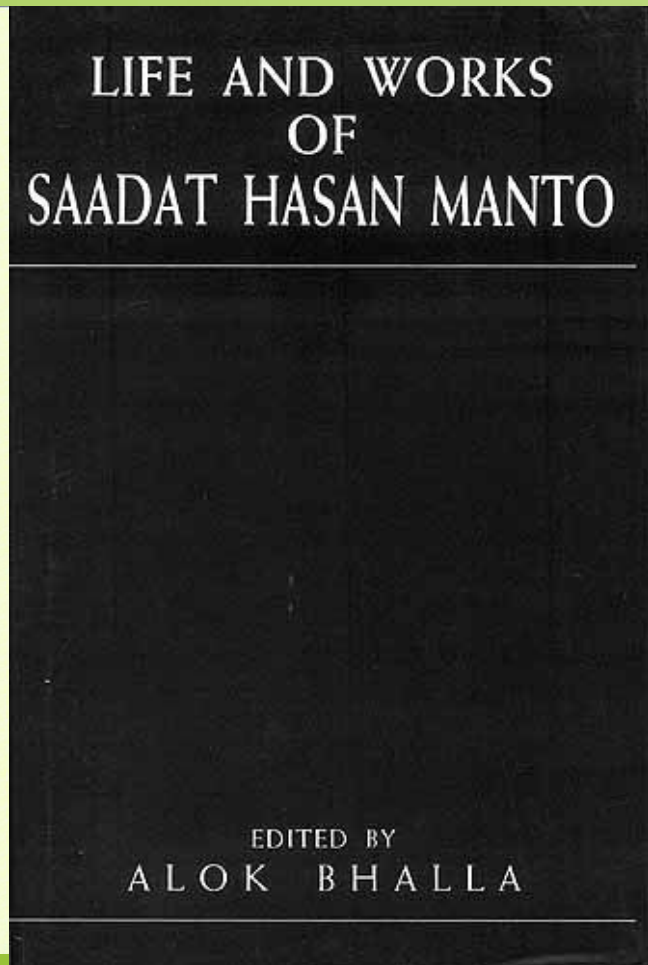
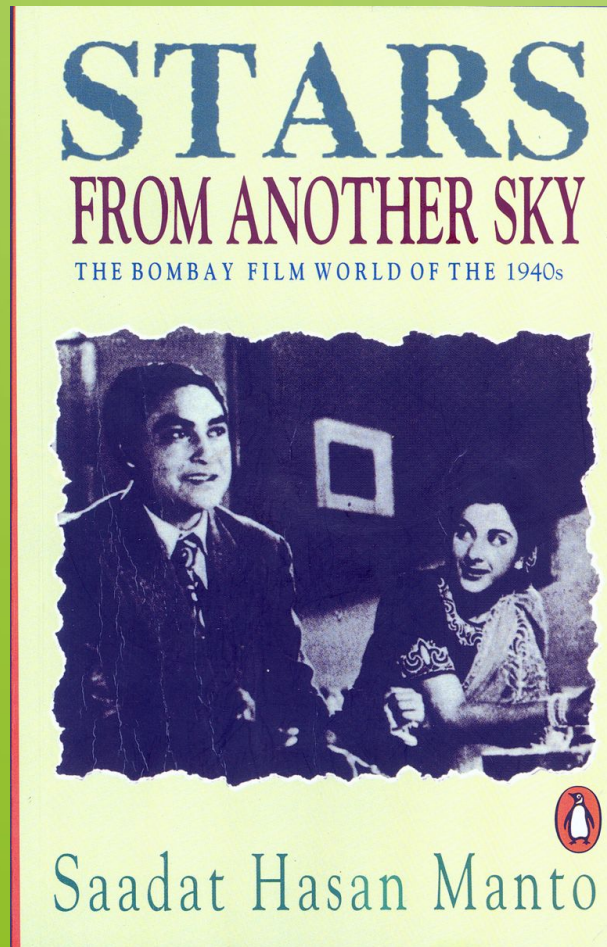
In 1855, the enactment of the play *Inder Sabha* (the Heavenly Court of Indra) written by Agha Hasan Amanat in the courtyard of the last Nawab of Oudh, Wajid Ali Shah, marked the beginning of Urdu theatre. The drama dealt with the love story between a fairy and a prince. The Nawab, who was a Kathak dancer and had written theses on stage techniques, composed some of the songs and choreographed the dances for the play. It was a huge success. Its characters (Sabaz Pari (Green Fairy), Kala Deo (Black Devil) and Lal Deo (Red Devil)) live on as a part of the vocabulary of South Asia.



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Saadat Hasan Manto

Manto is arguably the most influential Urdu writer of the 20th century. He was one of the most controversial as well. Manto also wrote plays and many of his stories have been successfully adapted for the stage. Some of his characters have become legends in the minds of theatergoers.



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Types of theatre:

- Local Theatre;
- Punjab Lok Raqs theatre Group;
- Theatre in the Capital;
- Improvisation Theatre («The Acting Wheel», «Black Fish»);
- Modern Theatre;
- School Plays;
- Foreign Theatre Companies.



English-speaking Countries

Pakistan. Cinema and theater



Pakistan. Cinema and theater

Ajoka Theater (**Ajoka** means **Today**) is a **Pakistani theater group** that was founded by Madeeha Gauhar and Salman Shahid. Ajoka stages society critical performances and has performed in Asia and Europe. In 2006 founder Madeeha Gauhar was honored for her part in Ajoka with a Prince Claus Award from the Netherlands. Ajoka was founded in 1983, at the peak of the tensions during the state of emergency under the regime of General Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq. Ever since, the theatre group stages popular society critical pieces in theaters, on the streets and in public spaces, as well as in productions for television and on video. Ajoka does not only perform in Pakistan, but has also done so in other countries in the region, like India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, as well as in Europe.



English-speaking Countries

Pakistan. Cinema and theater

«Na Maloom Afraad» (2014) Film Trailer



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