Blind Faith: Women at War in Khuda kay Liye and Escape from Taliban

Abstract

Blind Faith: Women at War in Khuda kay Liye and Escape from Taliban

Inspired by Huntington’s “Clash of Civilizations,” George W. Bush’s Manichean cold war rhetoric struck a responsive chord in the media, with the vilification of Islam or more precisely the conflation of Islam as though it was a monolithic religion with terrorism. For Hollywood and Bollywood, the Islamic terrorist became the archetypal villain and a new subgenre of thrillers emerged featuring terrorist cells with films such as Shoot on Sight: Is it a crime to be a Muslim? (Mundhra, 2007), New York (Khan, 2009) or My Name is Khan (Johar, 2010). Those binaries also underpin films about Pakistani and Afghan societies. The present paper discusses the issues of women’s rights, particularly forced marriage, and the growing influence of fundamentalism in the Pakistani box office success, Khuda kay Liye (Mansoor, 2007) and in the Bollywood film, Escape from Taliban (Chatterjee, 2003).
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Author Biography

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Dr Pascal Zinck is an Associate Professor of Postcolonial Anglophone Literature at the University Charles-de-Gaulle of Lille. I was a long-standing member of the VALE-ERCLA research institute at the Sorbonne where I obtained my PhD. I subsequently joined CECILLE, University of Lille’s research unit dedicated to Culture Studies, Languages and Literatures. I am affiliated to ESSE and EACLALS and am a member of SEPC. My research include Postcolonial Literature and Theory, Diaspora and Trauma studies. My current scholarly work has been driven towards disciplinary intersection and the cross-overs between globalisation, migration, ethnicity, identity and resistance across West and non-West, within the West, and between various non-Western locales (Pakistan, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Sri Lanka). Together with Dr Stephen Morton of Southampton University and Veronica Thompson of Athabasca University, our research team is currently investigating "Cultures of Terror" and terrorism in the wake of 9/11, in South Asian Literature and film. After publishing several articles on K. Shamsie, U. A. Khan, M. Hamid and HM Naqvi, I am currently working on a book on contemporary Pakistani fiction.
Peer Review Process

All scholarly articles submitted to Pakistaniaat go through a two-stage review process. First, our in house committee decides whether the submission is suitable for external reviews; if found suitable, the submission is sent to two reviewers for a double blind review. The external review process usually takes from six to eight weeks but may take longer if the reviewers refer an article to a specialist.
Shoaib Mansoor’s Khuda Kay Liye is indeed a historic event, being the first Pakistani film to be released in India after a hiatus of almost four decades. More importantly, it arrives with an awesome reputation of having created a storm at the international film circuit and having rattled the Pakistani film industry out of its somnambulism with a royal picking of Rs seven crore at the box office. More importantly, it espouses the concept of jihad as a war to overcome the failings within the fallible human self rather than as a synonym for terror. Khuda Kay Liye isn’t merely a powerful story; it’s a film that boasts of fine performances, a great music score and sophisticated production values. Nice for the women. Hi hello how was your trip to Pakistan. Mr. Shah very good actually. Good and. Mary is she at home? I haven’t heard from her she’s in Pakistan. Oh still in. Pakistan yes happily married what as I. Follow Christian faith or Muslim but you. Forgot something when they die would. They be buried the Muslim way or the. Christian women and when they go to heaven no our kids go to heaven when. They go to hell would it be a Muslim how. America a common Taliban kid the Shimano. Geezer of mothered cola. Bellator America Dallben kaduche Monica. Khuda Kay Liye was released on 20 July 2007 in Pakistan and on 4 April 2008 in India, as well as the screenings at various international film festivals. The film subsequently won a number of awards for its acting, notably three Lux Style Awards, one Silver Pyramid Award at Cairo International Film Festival, one Roberto Rossellini Award, Italy and one Fukuoka Audience Award at Fukuoka International Film Festival, Japan. Shah has won awards in his career, including three National Film Awards, three Filmfare Awards and an award at the Venice Film Festival. The Government of India has honoured him with the Padma Shri, Shah has also appeared in the Pakistani Film Industry, Lollywood, through the films Khuda Kay Liye and Zinda Bhaag.