

Cinema & Film Studies Catalogue

September 2026

A critical study of Deepa Mehta's trilogy: Fire, Earth and Water by Manju Jaidka

Deepa Mehta is an acclaimed Indo-Canadian script writer and film director. She challenges conservative social mores and attempts to rewrite history, representing 'her' story instead of 'his'. Mehta has been a controversial figure ever since 1998 when her film *Fire* was banned in India for its explicit portrayal of lesbianism. Her next film *Earth* spoke of the Partition of India and how it affected the lives of women. With her third film *Water*, Mehta again ran into trouble with fundamentalists when she tried to focus on the shabby treatment meted out to widows by traditional Hindu society. This book makes a critical study of Deepa Mehta's 'Elemental Trilogy'— *Fire*, *Earth* and *Water*. Focusing on the film texts, it examines the silent spaces in-between the signifiers and tunes into the unheard voices that patriarchy has been deaf to. It also studies the impact of Mehta's work, critically analyzing the hostile reception accorded to her work, and the by-and-large-favourable response of the female section of the society. | Hardback - 1st Edition, 2011, 108 p., 23 x 14 cm (Case Bound), ISBN 9789350180617 - ₹ 395/- | eBook (EPUB) -, ISBN 9789350181065 - ₹ 395/-