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The Marginalization and Complexities of Muslim Identity on Screen: A Critique

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Abstract: This study examines the evolution, complexities, and socio-political implications of Muslim identity representation in Indian cinema and web series. Tracing the historical trajectory from early romanticized and idealised narratives, through the classical "Muslim Social" genre and the nostalgic celebration of Nawabi culture, to the subsequent rise of post-1990s stereotypes, Islamophobia, and anti-hero archetypes, the critique highlights how mainstream media frequently marginalizes minority identities. While traditional cinematic storytelling often reinforces majoritarian ideologies and reductive tropes, contemporary digital platforms and

emerging critical frameworks offer new spaces for more nuanced, pluralistic depictions. Ultimately, this critique underscores the necessity of fostering sociopolitical literacy and inclusive narratives to challenge prejudice and promote deeper cultural understanding.

Key Words:

- Muslim Identity
- Indian Cinema
- Representation
- Stereotypes
- Marginalization

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