

Partying in a Sari

The dilemma of 'white' presence at 'Indian' dance parties in 'Germany'



Bollywood – The Show

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Asia Centre, University of New England
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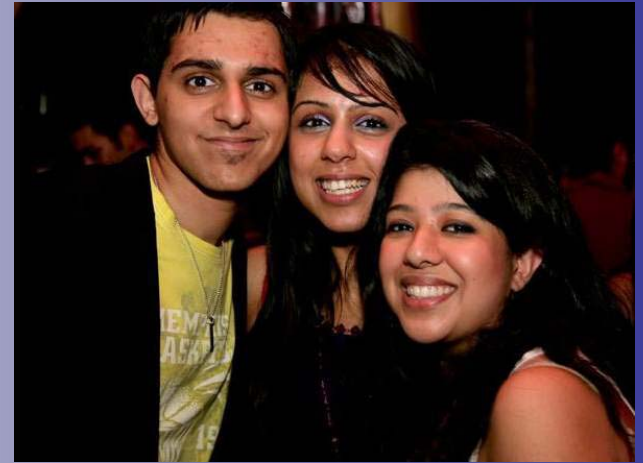
Structure

1. 'Indian' dance parties
2. The dilemma
3. 'White' irritation

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An ,Indian‘ party in Berlin



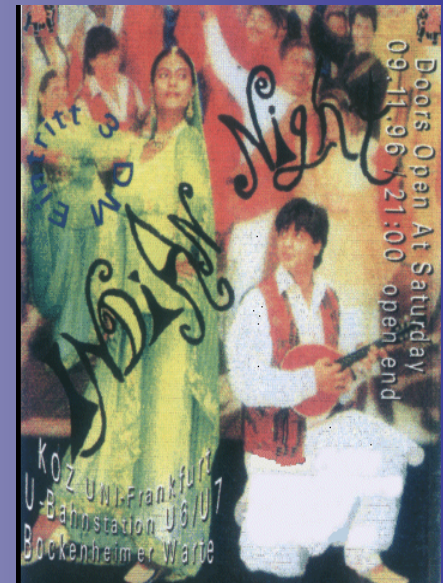
Pictures: Meena Club

Theoretical background

- theories of racism
 - in particular: Paul Mecheril
- Critical Whiteness Studies
 - in particular: Eggers et al (2005)

'Indian' parties in 'Germany'

- since 1996
- organised by 'Indians of the second generation'
 - definition: socialised in 'Germany' and marked as 'Indians'
- aims:
 - own space
 - representation
- made popular by 'India boom'
- increasing 'white' audience



Indian Night 1996

Conflicting aims

- one party organiser:
- “the most important idea was to create a space, **where one is not in the minority**”
- “mistake to advertise only in Asian circles”
- “this is also an exclusion”
- “one thing is not to be in the minority,
- but the other is **to represent oneself**”

Problem of 'political correctness'

- the same party organiser:
- “if one wants to be politically correct,
- **it does not matter where you are from,**
- which music is played,
- but the reality is,
- **it does matter, where one is from”**

'White' irritation

- 'white Germans'
 - needed as audience for representation
 - introduce the danger of othering
 - introduce their representations of 'India'
 - do not need to think about their 'whiteness' and respective privileges
- the 'Other Germans'
 - have to deal with the dilemma

Thank you!



Picture: private

More information on www.urmila.de