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Rashna Darius Nicholson

# The Colonial Public and the Parsi Stage

The Making of the Theatre of Empire (1853–1893)

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Rashna Darius Nicholson  
University of Hong Kong  
Hong Kong S.A.R., China

This book is the revised version of a doctoral thesis entitled 'The Theatre of Empire' submitted to the Faculty of History and the Arts, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany.

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This book is for Soona and Jehangir.

## GLOSSARY

<i>nāṭak</i>	theatre
<i>maṇḍalī</i>	club/company
<i>seṭh</i>	wealthy merchant leader/man of high social standing
<i>nazar</i>	sight/vision/surveillance/evil eye
<i>kalyug</i>	Hindu mythological age of discord or downfall

## TRANSLITERATION NOTE

All translations are my own unless specified otherwise.<sup>1</sup> I have used the ALA-LC transliteration system. Pha has been replaced with Fa in keeping with the Parsi model of transliterating names. Additionally, the more commonly used ‘za’ in Hindi and Urdu has been replaced with ‘ja’ or ‘jha’ when translating from Gujarati in keeping with the original character in the source text (e.g. Marajbāñ). However, I have retained the ‘za’ in common Hindustani terms such as ‘nazar’. Variations in the spelling of the names of actors, managers, and directors have been mentioned in the endnotes. I have adopted as the standard spelling the version that was used by the person or company themselves. In the absence of this information, the most commonly used spelling between the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries has been cited. The names of famous personalities (e.g. Dadabhai Naoroji) have been spelled according to popular usage. Colonial Anglicized spelling has been used for city names and for theatre productions primarily described in English newspapers.

### NOTE

1. For a more elaborate description of the transliteration system, see Rashna Darius Nicholson, ‘What’s in a Name? The Performance of Language in the Invention of Colonial and Postcolonial South Asian Theatre History’, in *The Methuen Drama Handbook of Theatre History and Historiography*, eds. Claire Cochrane and Jo Robinson (London: Bloomsbury, 2019), 199–209.



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## ABBREVIATIONS

BG	Bombay Gazette
BT	Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce
KIH	Kaysare Hinda
NA	Ek Jāñitā Pārsī Ekṭarṇo Ardhī Sadī Uparno Nāṭakī Anubhav
PNTT	Pārsī Nāṭak Takhtānī Tavārīkh
RG	Rāst Goftār
	Rāst Goftār tathā Satya Prakās
STOJ	Straits Times Overland Journal
TOI	Times of India

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