

BOLLYWOOD and INDIAN POP (Draft)

The following three music videos are meant to accompany readings from Jhumpa Lahiri's book *The Interpreter of Maladies*.



I. Madhuri Dixit. Lahiri's story "Sexy" mentions one of Bollywood's biggest stars. In this video of the song "[Chane ke khet mein](#)" (from the film *Anjaam*) she cavorts with another of Bollywood's mega-stars, Shahrukh Khan. This is what the story's protagonist is up against, so to speak.



II. Nusrat Fateh Ali Kahn. Nusrat is one of the biggest music stars of all time—big literally, but also Beatles-and-Elvis influential. "[Dam Mast Qalandar](#)" ("Mustt Mustt"), for example, has been done, re-done, and re-mixed incessantly. This is one of my favorite "Westernized" versions, though, as you will see, there are many other versions, some done by Nusrat live in the traditional Sufi "qawwali" style. Another important song is "Loye Loye Aajaa Mahi." Watch this video of the [Simon & Dimond Re-mix](#). Probably best to keep the screen small since video quality is not the best. Watch as closely as you can and wear head phones to catch Simon & Dimon's music more fully. It's Nusrat's voice, and there are constant shots of the fireplace which has a bit picture of Nusrat in it.



III. *Love Aaj Kaal* ("Love Today"). From this very popular film comes the song "[Aahun, Aahun](#)" featuring another pair of Bollywood mega-stars Saif Ali Khan and Deepika Padukone.

WRITING

On your Group Discussion Board on Blackboard, please post a short "reading" of either the Simon & Dimond re-mix of "Loye Loye" or the "Aahun, Aahun" song by Sunday evening. Then by Tuesday noon please comment on at least one of your group member's posts.

By "reading" we mean your interpretation of what you think either video might "mean" or what it—or a significant moment of it—might symbolize. Also, if you see any connections to either the Lahiri stories or to the Race, Ethnicity, and the American Experience course in general, please make them. What, for example, might either song be saying about how Indians view or adapt to American culture? What

might either song say about pursuing an American (or *global*) life-style, the tensions this might cause, or the resources that might help allay such tensions?