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| Shah, Kundan (1947--) |
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| Kundan Shah is an Indian film director and scriptwriter. A graduate of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), he directed one of the few comedies of the New Cinema Movement in the 1970s and 1980s. Though not commercially successful during its first release, the absurdist amalgam of various forms of comedy (especially satire and silent-era slapstick) in *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro* (1983) made it a cult hit, and a standard against which new comedies were measured. The film remains an anomaly, even in the context of Indian Parallel Cinema, with its pastiche-like almost post-modernist approach — a style taken up only by Pankaj Advani in films like *Urf Professor* (2001) and *Sankat City* (2010). After *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro*, Shah focused his attention on television, only occasionally directing film, including the films *Kabhi Haan Kabhi Na* (1993) and *Kya Kehna* (2000). The hugely popular sitcom *Yeh Jo Hai Zindagi* (1985) and the equally successful drama-comedy *Nukkad* (1986-1987) are among the most popular of his TV works, along with *Circus* (1990), and the TV film *Police Station* (1987) (which was planned as a TV series, but shortened after running into censorship problems). In most of these series or films, Shah collaborated with other FTII graduates including Sudhir Mishra, Saeed Akhtar, Aziz Mirza, and others, eventually forming the production company Iskra. |
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| Further reading:  (Rajadhyaksha and Willemen)  (Singh)  (Kundan Shah ) |