1. Record Nr. UNISA996435447003316 Autore Weidman Amanda J. <1970-> Titolo Brought to Life by the Voice: Playback Singing and Cultural Politics in South India / / Amanda Weidman [s.l.]:,: University of California Press,, 2021 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-520-97639-8 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource Collana South Asia Across the Disciplines 781.5/4209548 Disciplina Social Science / Anthropology / Cultural & Social Soggetti Music / Ethnomusicology History / Asia / India & South Asia Music Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Nota di contenuto Frontmatter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Acknowledgments --Note on Transliteration and Spelling -- Introduction: Theorizing Playback -- Part I. Prehistories -- 1. Trading Voices: The Gendered Beginnings of Playback -- Part II. Playback's Dispensation -- 2. "A Leader for All Song": Making a Dravidian Voice -- 3. Ambiguities of Animation: On Being "Just the Voice" -- 4. The Sacred and the Profane: Economies of the (II)licit -- Part III. Afterlives -- 5. The Raw and the Husky: On Timbral Qualia and Ethnolinguistic Belonging -- 6. Anxieties of Embodiment: Liveness and Deadness in the New Dispensation -- 7. Antiplayback -- Notes -- References -- Index Sommario/riassunto To produce the song sequences that are central to Indian popular cinema, singers' voices are first recorded in the studio and then played back on the set to be lip-synced and danced to by actors and actresses as the visuals are filmed. Since the 1950s, playback singers have become revered celebrities in their own right. Brought to Life by the Voice explores the distinctive aesthetics and affective power generated by this division of labor between onscreen body and offscreen voice in South Indian Tamil cinema. In Amanda Weidman's historical and

ethnographic account, playback is not just a cinematic technique, but a

powerful and ubiquitous element of aural public culture that has

shaped the complex dynamics of postcolonial gendered subjectivity, politicized ethnolinguistic identity, and neoliberal transformation in South India.