Contents

1. List of illustrations vi

2. Acknowledgements viii

3. Introduction 1

4. Chapter I: ‘Regional’ Cinema or Products of Bricolage?
   An Introduction to Malayalam Studio Films of the Early 1950s 28

5. Chapter II: Imagining a Nation of Rational Subjects:
   Neelakkuyil and the Left’s Interventions in Cinema 67


7. Chapter IV: Martyr Narratives and the ‘Middle’ Aesthetics of Integration 153

8. Chapter V: The Phantoms of Faith and Sentiment:
   Bhargaveenilayam as a Political Film 186

9. Conclusion 209

Bibliography 213