



**Center for South Asia Studies**  
University of California, Berkeley  
*presents*

# **Nautanki**

*a lecture-demonstration by*

**Devendra Sharma**

Assistant Professor, California State University-Fresno  
and practicing performer, writer, and director of Nautanki

*titled*

**“Bringing Back India’s Lost Opera”**

*featuring performances of scenes from*

**“Sultana Daku”**

Nautanki is an operatic performance tradition of northern India which before the advent of talkies in the 1930s was considered the single most popular form of entertainment for the village folk. Rooted in the rural society of early-modern India, this theater is marked by lively dancing, pulsating drumbeats, and full-throated singing, much of which would be taken over into the Bombay film. “Sultana Daku” is a classic of this genre and it tells in song and dance plus lots of comedy, the story of Sultana, the famous *dacoit* (bandit) of early 20<sup>th</sup> century India, who lived in the jungles of Uttar Pradesh with his gang of 300 robbers and his lover, Phoolkanwar and plagued the agents of a colonial government by robbing from them and giving to the poor.

**Friday, April 17 at 6 pm**  
**125 Morrison Hall**

Event cosponsored by:

the Departments of Music; Theater, Dance & Performance Studies; and South & Southeast Asian Studies;  
and the Magistretti Chair in South Asian Studies

Contact 510-642-3608 for further information