



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 ‘Bollywood’, was considered the single most popular form of entertainment for the common village folk. Rooted in the rural society of pre-modern India, this theater vibrates with lively dancing, pulsating drumbeats, and full-throated singing. “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* (thief) of early 20th century India, who lived in the jungles of Uttar Pradesh with his gang of 300 robbers and his lover, Pholkanwar 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

Contact 510-642-3608 for further information