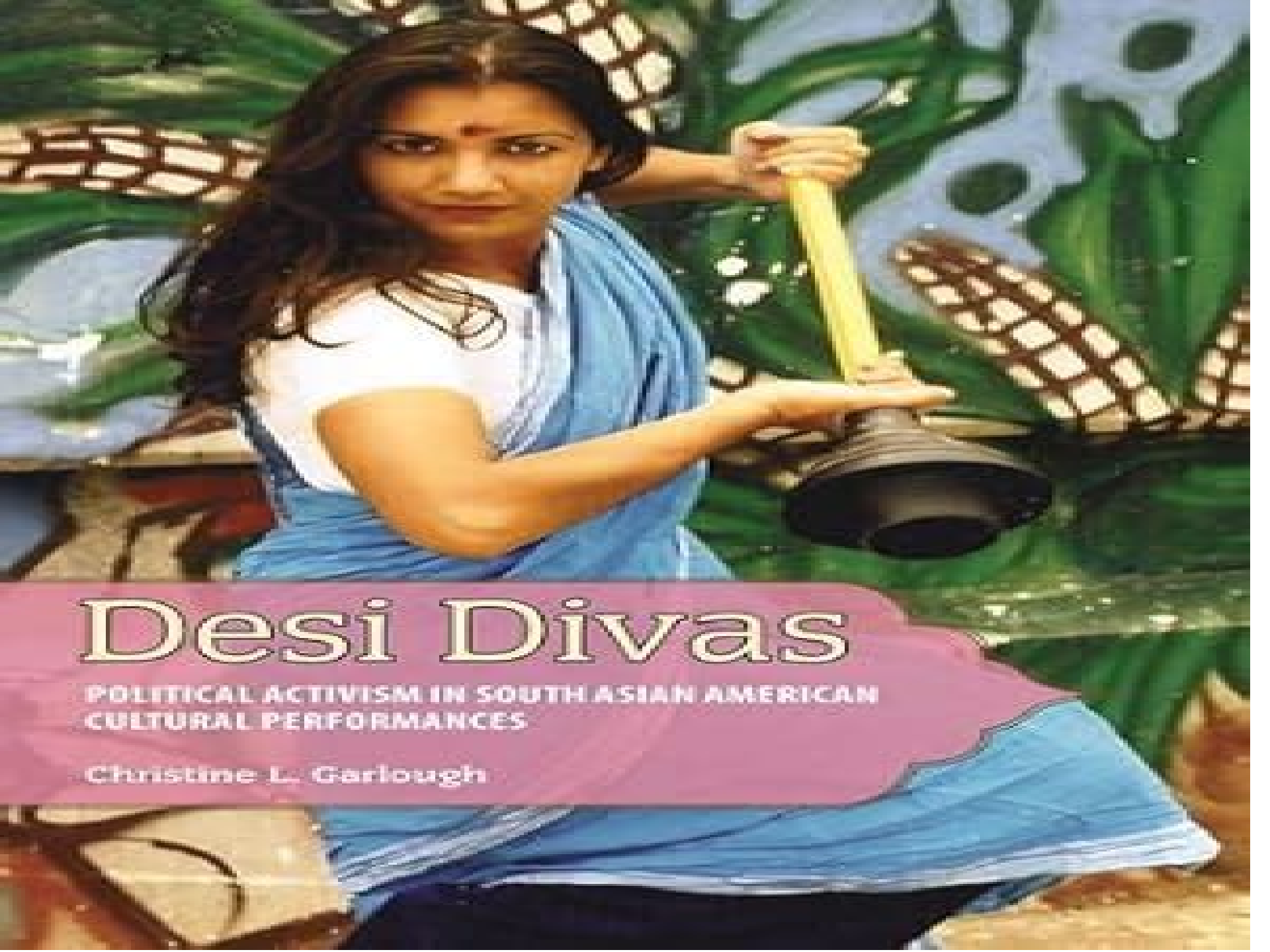


A woman with long dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt and a blue sari, is playing a mridangam (a traditional South Indian drum). She is holding the drum with her left hand and the mallet with her right hand. The background is a colorful mural featuring green foliage and a brown lattice pattern. The title 'Desi Divas' is written in a large, stylized font across the middle of the image.

Desi Divas

POLITICAL ACTIVISM IN SOUTH ASIAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL PERFORMANCES

Christine L. Garlough

Desi Divas Political Activism In South Asian American Cultural Performances

**David A.
McDonald,AndrewSnyder,Jeremy Reed**

Desi Divas Political Activism In South Asian American Cultural Performances:

Desi Divas Christine Garlough, 2013-02-21 The author explores how traditional cultural forms may be critically appropriated by marginalised groups and used as rhetorical tools to promote deliberation and debate spur understanding and connection broaden political engagement and advance particular social identities Within this framework she examines how these performance activists advocate a political commitment to both justice and care and to both deliberative discussion and deeper understanding

Desi Divas Christine L. Garlough, 2013-02-19 *Desi Divas Political Activism in South Asian American Cultural Performances* is the product of five years of field research with progressive activists associated with the School for Indian Languages and Cultures SILC South Asian Americans Leading Together SAALT the feminist dance collective Post Natyam and the grassroots feminist political organization South Asian Sisters Christine L Garlough explores how traditional cultural forms may be critically appropriated by marginalized groups and used as rhetorical tools to promote deliberation and debate spur understanding and connection broaden political engagement and advance particular social identities Within this framework she examines how these performance activists advocate a political commitment to both justice and care to both deliberative discussion and deeper understanding To consider how this might happen in diasporic performance contexts Garlough weaves together two lines of thinking One grows from feminist theory and draws upon a core literature concerning the ethics of care The other comes from rhetoric philosophy and political science literature on recognition and acknowledgment This dual approach is used to reflect upon South Asian American women s performances that address pressing social problems related to gender inequality immigration rights ethnic stereotyping hate crimes and religious violence Case study chapters address the relatively unknown history of South Asian American rhetorical performances from the early 1800s to the present Avant garde feminist performances by the Post Natyam dance collective appropriate women s folk practices and Hindu goddess figures make rhetorical claims about hate crimes against South Asian Americans after 9 11 In Yoni ki Bat a South Asian American version of The Vagina Monologues a progressive performer transforms aspects of the Mahabharata narrative to address issues of sexual violence such as incest and rape Throughout the volume Garlough argues that these performers rely on calls for acknowledgment that intertwine calls for justice and care That is they embed their testimony in traditional cultural forms to invite interest reflection and connection

South Asian Folklore in Transition Frank J. Korom, Leah K. Lowthorp, 2020-05-21 The Indian Subcontinent has been at the centre of folklore inquiry since the 19th century yet while much attention was paid to India by early scholars folkloristic interest in the region waned over time until it virtually disappeared from the research agendas of scholars working in the discipline of folklore and folklife This fortunately changed in the 1980s when a newly energized group of younger scholars who were interested in a variety of new approaches that went beyond the textual interface returned to folklore as an untapped resource in South Asian Studies This comprehensive volume further reinvigorates the field by providing fresh studies and new models both for studying the lore

and the life of everyday people in the region as well as their engagement with the world at large By bringing Muslims material culture diasporic horizons global interventions and politics to bear on South Asian folklore studies the authors hope to stimulate more dialogue across theoretical and geographical borders to infuse the study of the Indian Subcontinent s cultural traditions with a new sense of relevance that will be of interest not only to areal specialists but also to folklorists and anthropologists in general This book was originally published as a special issue of South Asian History and Culture

Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora Radha Hegde,Ajaya Sahoo,2017-09-22 The geographical diversity of the Indian diaspora has been shaped against the backdrop of the historical forces of colonialism nationalism and neoliberal globalization In each of these global moments the demand for Indian workers has created the multiple global pathways of the Indian diasporas The Routledge Handbook of the Indian Diaspora introduces readers to the contexts and histories that constitute the Indian diaspora It brings together scholars from different parts of the globe representing various disciplines and covers extensive spatial and temporal terrain Contributors draw from a variety of archives and intellectual perspectives in order to map the narratives of the Indian diaspora The topics covered range from the history of diasporic communities activism identity gender politics labour policy violence performance literature and branding The handbook analyses a wide array of issues and debates and is organised in six parts Histories and trajectories Diaspora and infrastructures Cultural dynamics Representation and identity Politics of belonging Networked subjectivities and transnationalism Providing a comprehensive analysis of the diverse social cultural and economic contexts that frame diasporic practices this key reference work will reinvigorate discussions about the Indian diaspora its global presence and trajectories It will be an invaluable resource for academics researchers and students interested in studying South Asia in general and the Indian diaspora in particular

The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies Simon J. Bronner,2019 The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies surveys the materials approaches concepts and applications of the field to provide a sweeping guide to American folklore and folklife culture history and society Forty three comprehensive and diverse chapters explore the extraordinary richness of the American social and cultural fabric offering a valuable resource not only for scholars and students of American studies but also for the global study of tradition folk arts and cultural practice

Festival Activism David A. McDonald,Andrew Snyder,Jeremy Reed,2025-10-07 For decades festivals have been important sites of inquiry for folklorists and ethnomusicologists alike as celebrations of culture Moving beyond traditional discussions of staged culture and multiculturalism however this edited volume explores how festivals may be mobilized as strategic forms of direct action Festival Activism is a diverse collection of case studies from scholars performers and arts administrators all of whom deftly argue that festivals do more than simply celebrate culture they also shape culture creating new forms of aspirational community with direct political effects Specifically this volume addresses the many ways festivals provide resources for imagining and enacting social change alternative citizenship and long term political transformation revealing

how performers participants and organizers encounter and challenge the myriad forms of violence that frame their worlds With its emphasis on activism direct action and social justice Festival Activism points toward a new paradigm in festival research one that focuses on decolonial and justice oriented methods to illuminate festivals latent political potential *Asian American Culture* Lan Dong,2016-03-14 Providing comprehensive coverage of a variety of Asian American cultural forms including folk tradition literature religion education politics sports and popular culture this two volume work is an ideal resource for students and general readers that reveals the historical regional and ethnic diversity within specific traditions An invaluable reference for school and public libraries as well as academic libraries at colleges and universities this two volume encyclopedia provides comprehensive coverage of a variety of Asian American cultural forms that enables readers to understand the history complexity and contemporary practices in Asian American culture The contributed entries address the diversity of a group comprising people with geographically discrete origins in the Far East Southeast Asia and the Indian subcontinent identifying the rich variations across the category of Asian American culture that are key to understanding specific cultural expressions while also pointing out some commonalities Entries are organized alphabetically and cover topics in the arts education and politics family and community gender and sexuality history and immigration holidays festivals and folk tradition literature and culture media sports and popular culture and religion belief and spirituality Entries also broadly cover Asian American origins and history regional practices and traditions contemporary culture and art and other forms of shared expression Accompanying sidebars throughout serve to highlight key individuals major events and significant artifacts and allow readers to better appreciate the Asian American experience **Historical Dictionary of Asian American Literature and Theater** Wenying Xu,2022-08-15 A Library Journal Best Reference Book of 2022 This book represents the culmination of over 150 years of literary achievement by the most diverse ethnic group in the United States Diverse because this group of ethnic Americans includes those whose ancestral roots branch out to East Asia Southeast Asia South Asia and Western Asia Even within each of these regions there exist vast differences in languages cultures religions political systems and colonial histories From the earliest publication in 1887 to the latest in 2021 this dictionary celebrates the incredibly rich body of fiction poetry memoirs plays and children s literature Historical Dictionary of Asian American Literature and Theater Second Edition contains a chronology an introduction and an extensive bibliography The dictionary section has more than 700 cross referenced entries on genres major terms and authors This book is an excellent resource for students researchers and anyone wanting to know more about this topic **A Guru's Journey** Sarah Morelli,2019-12-20 An important modern exponent of Asian dance Pandit Chitresh Das brought kathak to the United States in 1970 The North Indian classical dance has since become an important art form within the greater Indian diaspora Yet its adoption outside of India raises questions about what happens to artistic practices when we separate them from their broader cultural contexts A Guru s Journey provides an ethnographic study of the dance form in the San Francisco Bay Area community formed by Das

Sarah Morelli a kathak dancer and one of Das s former students investigates issues in teaching learning and performance that developed around Das during his time in the United States In modifying kathak s form and teaching for Western students Das negotiates questions of Indianness and non Indianness gender identity and race Morelli lays out these issues for readers with the goal of deepening their knowledge of kathak aesthetics technique and theory She also shares the intricacies of footwork facial expression in storytelling and other aspects of kathak while tying them to the cultural issues that inform the dance

The Goddess in the Mirror Tulasi Srinivas, 2025-09-26 Tulasi Srinivas explores the dynamic and gendered world of beauty through the experiences of women in the intimate space of the contemporary Indian beauty salon

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