

Spring 5-2008

Belly Dance: A Cultural and Historical Introduction and Lecture & Live Dancing! Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre, "Belly Dance: A Cultural and Historical Introduction and Lecture & Live Dancing! Program" (2008). *Programs 2007-2008 Season*. 7.
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BELLY DANCE

A Cultural and Historical Introduction
Lecture & Live Dancing!

With special guests

NAYA'S TRANCE BELLY DANCE

Monday, May 5th at 7:30 PM

Russell Hall, Main Stage, USM Gorham



1. **Welcome & Introduction** by Jessica Jane Means, Artistic Director of Naya's Trance Belly Dance
2. **"Aziza"**
Dancers: Andrea, Cara & Kimberly
Artist: Hossam Ramzy Choreographer: Serena
Born in Cairo and known as *"The Sultan of Swing"* Hossam Ramzy's Aziza is a classic! This dance was choreographed by the legendary American dancer Serena nearly 30 years ago and has been passed on to Naya's Trance from local legend Josie Conte who danced with Serena in the 1980's.
3. **An Introduction to Arabic Folk Dance:** Jessica
Audience Participation: Learn a Debke!
4. **Beledi**
Dancers: Cara & Jessica
Artist & song title unknown. Choreographer: Mohamed Shahin
5. **Introduction to the Turkish Karşilama:** Kimberly
Audience Participation: Learn the Karşilama Step
6. **Karşilama**
Dancers: Cara, Jessica & Kimberly
Song: 9/8 Artist: Panja Choreographer: Mezdulene
7. **"Elimon Ektim Tasa"**
Dancer: Cara Improvisation Artist: Okbari
Finger cymbals are an integral part of belly dance. The Turkish word for these little cymbals is "zill", which translates at little "bells." Known as "sagat" in Egypt, a dancer uses fingers cymbals to compliment or contrast the rhythms of the doumbek and tabla drums. Tonight, Cara accompanies a recording from Okbari. Okbari is a local favorite for traditional Turkish, Anatolian, and Armenian folk music.
8. **Introduction to Egyptian Cabaret and the Progression of Belly dance in America:** Andrea
Audience Participation: Get Ready to Shimmy!
9. **Raqs Sharqi**
Dancer: Jessica Improvisation
Song: "El Kalam Ala Meen" Artist Saad ElSoghayar

INTERMISSION

10. **"Cha-Cha Pharonic"**
Dancer: Andrea Improvisation
Artist: Mohammed el-Bakkar
If you listen carefully you'll pick up hints of traditional Greek Folkloric music. Andrea dances the piece in traditional full color gypsy attire.
11. **"Ali's Nay"**
Dancer: Cara Improvisation
Artist: Feat. Ihsan Al-Mounzer
This piece features the sound of a Nay which is an Arabic Flute associated with snake charming. In this enchanting piece Cara will charm you with her fluid snake like movements.
12. **Raqs Assaya**
Dancer: Jessica Improvisation
Song Title: "Shashkin" Artist: Omar Faruk Tekbilek
Shashkin is a great example of a Saidi rhythm. This rhythm is often used with Raqs Assaya (Eghytpain Cane Dance). Tonight Jessica performs in a historic costume of ghawazee coat coat and harem pants.
13. **"Zeina"**
Dancer: Kimberly Improvisation
Artist: Mohamed Abdel Wahab
Zeina is an Egyptian classic! Kimberly dances to it using fans made of peacock feathers.
14. **"Sahra Saidi"**
Dancers: Andrea & Cara Improvisation
Artist: Gamal Gommaa
A classic cabaret routine will often feature a playful stand-off between a dancer and her drummer; each one trying to out-do the other in a friendly call and response. Here, dancers embody the improvisational nature of belly dance in a playful duet.
15. **"Habibi Ya Eini"**
Dancers, Andrea, Cara, Jessica & Kimberly
Artist: Norhan Choreography: Naya's Trance Belly Dance
This is an updated version of a traditional Egyptian song used by belly dancers around the world. Nourhan who is Lebanese Armenian adds a modern flair to this song performed by dancers in contemporary cabaret costumes.

Dancers: Jessica Jane Means, Artistic Director of Naya's Trance, Andrea Panasci (Ahnalya), Kimberly Sinclair (Kalyani) & Cara Wilson (Azalea).

Thank you to the USM Theatre Department and the USM Cultural Affairs Committee for making this event possible.

Also special thanks to Kris Hall for working so hard on the details of this event, to Emmanuelle Chaulet for all her help with publicity and to the following USM students for donating their time and technical expertise.

Nick Cyr ~ Sound & Lights

Heather Froshour ~ Costumes

