

SAMEDA

San Diego Area Middle Eastern Dance Association

Monthly News

April 1998



ORIGINAL ART BY LILY SPLANE

SAMEDA Monthly News

the official publication of the
San Diego Area Middle Eastern Dance Association

Send membership renewals (\$20.00 per year), ads, and flyers (see back cover for advertising rates) to:

SAMEDA		
P.O. Box 40378		
San Diego, CA 92164-0378		
President:	Mary Ann Nowell	(619) 466-2272
Vice-President:	Meleah	(619) 280-8424
Treasurer:	Francena Sherburne	(760) 747-2071
Editor:	Lily Splane	(619) 688-1959
Member Secretary:	Susan Teal	(619) 444-4197
Secretary:	Theresa Freese	(619) 298-0849

We need your announcements, events notices, reviews, articles, photos, artwork, and any other information you wish to share. SAMEDA accepts *original material* submitted by the author/artist with a valid return address. *Mail* submissions to:

Lily Splane, Editor
2739 Wightman Street
San Diego, CA 92104-3526

(Please don't use the editor as your personal secretary, or use her answer machine for dictation. Written or typed copy helps eliminate errors, aids in info verification, and keeps the editor from going bald.)

Submission Guidelines

Submissions deadline is the 20TH of each month. Due to occasional space constraints, non-time-sensitive items may be held over till the next issue.

Submissions should be typed or *legibly* handwritten—preferably double-spaced with adequate margins. Submissions on disk are acceptable (even preferred) in PC and Mac platforms. Disks will be returned if you include a postpaid mailer. Due to the new streamlined format, we accept typeset material *only* for advertisements.

If you scan your own photos, please *do not* halftone them—scan them as “grayscale” (16 grays) or “black and white photo” in your scanning program.



Letter from the President

Thank you to all the participants at the Workshop Extravaganza. It is because of you that we are able to say our SAMEDA Faire fund-raiser was a success. What a sigh of relief! Because of your support, we were able to accomplish our goal to cover the basic expenses that our July event requires.

The workshop itself seemed well-received. Nineteen members showed up at Art/Dance Academy ready for a full day of work on technical, improvisation, and drama skills. Besides the excellent teaching skills of Azziza and Meleah, all students and teachers were warmly welcomed by Morwenna and Walid. If you haven't been able to attend any of the events at the studio yet, I hope you will in the future. Besides the friendly atmosphere, Mo has all types of dance goodies (music, veils, tote bags, and T-shirts) to browse through.

The SAMEDA Faire is blooming in its developmental phase. Kathy Thomson will shortly begin taking reservations for photo sessions utilizing the beautiful backdrop from the last *One Enchanted Evening*. Pick your favorite costume and become part of a scene in a Grecian temple.

We have also decided to hold a costume raffle. At the moment, we have several members creating costumes for our festive occasion. If you happen to have an itchy sewing finger, and have wanted to contribute in some way but didn't know how, just call me or Susan Teal. If you would rather just show up and buy the tickets for a chance to score on a beautiful costume, then “Come on down!”

At the present, we have had several of our members volunteer to help out with some of the different committees an affair like this requires. Kathy Hines, Nadeen, Cassie Mavis, Lily Splane, Luisa, and Cristóbal, are a few of the welcoming faces you will see working at the faire. We still have room on some of the committees for extra help. If this is something you would like to participate in, please call me.

Oh yes, the different committees and their heads are:
 Public relations/vendors: Susan Teal (619) 444-4197
 Performer/event coordinator: Marula (619) 466-2272
 Concession: Francena Sherburne
 Clean up crew: all of us
 Videos and front door: Theresa Freese
 Photography: Kathy Thomson
 Music, sound, and MC duties: Morwenna Assaf
 Stage decorations: Meleah
 Backstage and dressing rooms: Marula

July will be here in whirlwind time. So, don't wait to long to sign up as a performer, volunteer, or vendor. Or just come and have a good time. Our success depends on your participation. See you soon!

Marula



Sameda Teacher Directory

(all are in the 619 area, unless noted)

Aleia (760) 930-9893	Alia 273-2636
Aphrodite 283-0446	Morwenna Assaf.. (760) 433-2276
Badeah 569-7872	Cyrena 698-9421
Elle 919-6774	Theresa Freese 298-0849
Jamila 466-8233	Jinaan (760) 471-8747
Julia anyone know?	Kathy (909) 699-5606
Nora Luchs 457-7741	Luisa 299-1129
Mariah 727-4545	Marula 466-2272
Medea (909) 682-6977	Meleah 280-8424
Melissa 483-6973	Sahra (909) 359-6782
Scottie 581-0135	Sylvia 585-0244
Nicki Vaccar (760) 634-3680	

Get on this list—it's free for members!

SAMEDA

SAMEDA'S FIRST
SEMI-ANNUAL

**MIDDLE-EASTERN
STUDENT DANCE CONCERT**

Sunday, April 19, 1998, 6:00pm

Teachers and Students!

You are invited

to join us for an evening of fun and inspiration.
Come perform in a warm, friendly environment
Or just show up and support your favorite student.

At

The Thomas Paine Coffee House
(formerly the Wikiup)
4247 Park Blvd. San Diego
(619) 291-1955

Call Meleah for details and information
619-280-8424

\$5.00 Donation at the door

Performers free

 **Announcements** 

- **Important!** Due to increasing costs, SAMEDA must raise the advertising rates. Please check the back page for changes and take note when you send in your ads/fees.
- **Officer changes:** Francena and Theresa have switched positions as Secretary and Treasurer to better use their talents for SAMEDA. Memberships, paid ads, flyers, and checks still go to the P.O. box.
- **Elle** set a good example by donating 10% of the proceeds from her workshop to SAMEDA. Susan and Theresa will follow suit with their upcoming costuming workshop. SAMEDA thanks you all!
- **Very Affordable:** 2 sets of 4"/8" Egyptian beaded fringe, gold and red. Four costumes: silver and purple, silver and black, green and purple, gold and black. Call Mary Griffith at (760) 727-4545.
- **Therapeutic Massage/Bodywork:** Loosen up your neck, shoulders, spine, and hips. Release blocks to being fully in and enjoying your body. Licensed, professional therapist, 18 years experience. Call Thérèse at Massage for Health, (760) 942-3899. 10% discount for SAMEDA members; gift certificates available.
- **Henna Body Painting:** Treat yourself to beautiful, exotic, sensual temporary body art. Call Thérèse at Sacred Art, (760) 942-3899.

 **Shows & Special Events** 

Wednesdays—Aleia dances to the music of John Bilezikjian beginning at 6:30 PM at the Greek Village Restaurant, 6030 Paseo del Norte, in Carlsbad. Open dancing; John plays music suitable for students to practice to. Call (760) 930-9893 for more information; reservations required—call (760) 603-9672.

Thursdays—Enjoy Middle Eastern Night with Walid Assaf and Tatoon, at the Crete Island Restaurant, at the Oceanside Marina,

258 Harbor Drive South, starting at 7:00 PM. Call the restaurant at (760) 722-0461 for more information.

Sundays, April 5 and 26; May 3 and 24—Jamila presents a *Belly Dancing Showcase* at 6:00 PM at the newly opened Crete Island Restaurant, 258 Harbor Drive South, in Oceanside. Live music with Yanniss, Tatoon, and Dimitris. All performers receive a 20% discount on dinner. Call (760) 722-0461 for reservations; call Jamila at (619) 466-8233 to schedule dancing.

Saturday, March 28—Grand Opening of Rebecca's Sewer's Resale and Belly Dance Hafla from 11:00 AM till 5:00 PM. Store located at 1321 East Main, (in the Mel-Main Square, corner of Main and Melody, across from Coco's), in El Cajon. (Store is open for business now if you can't wait! Come on down and shop!) Call Rebecca at (619) 579-9526 or Scottie at (619) 581-0135 for details.

Sunday, April 19—Teacher/Student dance recital at the Thomas Paine Coffee House. See ad, this issue. Call Meleah at (619) 280-8424 for details.

Sunday, July 19—The first ever SAMEDA Fair will take place at the John D. Spreckles Masonic Lodge in downtown San Diego. Call Marula at (619) 466-2272 for details.

August—Arabian Nights Entertainment will hold their *Gypsy Getaway* at Kathy Thomson's house. Watch for the upcoming flyer. There will be workshops, massages, swimming, shopping, and fortune telling...and let's not forget eating and dancing!

 **Swap Meets/Yard Sales** 

none this month

 **Workshops** 

Saturday, March 28—Cassie presents an *Exploring the Belly* workshop from 10:00 AM till 2:30 PM at 4371 10TH Avenue, in San Diego. Call (619) 230-9442 for details.

Saturday, April 18—Morwenna and Walid Assaf present *Aradia* and *Donita* of Las Vegas in a dual workshop: "Veil for Oriental Dance," and "A Touch of Spain," to take place at Art/Dance

Academy in Oceanside. Call (760) 757-4470 for details.

Sunday, April 26—*Costuming workshop* with *Susan Teal* (Beledi dresses and harem pants) and *Theresa Freese* (belts and bras), from 1:00–4:00 PM at Centre City Ballet, 928 Ft. Stockton, Suite 115, in Mission Hills. Preregistration fee is \$20.00 for SAMEDA members; \$22.00 for nonmembers. At-the-door fee is \$25.00/\$27.00. Call Theresa at (619) 298-0849 or Susan at (619) 444-4197 for details. See flyer this issue.

Saturday & Sunday, May 16–17—*Art/Dance Academy* in conjunction with SAMEDA and *Les Filles*, will sponsor *Dalia Carella* for a workshop and show. Call Morwenna at (760) 433-2276 or (760) 757-4470 for details.

Sunday, August 16—*Morwenna Assaf* will present *Fahtiem* in a guest class and performance through Art/Dance Academy in Oceanside. Call (760) 757-4470 for more information.

Saturday, September 12—*Morwenna Assaf* will present *Amaya* of New Mexico in a seminar at Art/Dance Academy, in Oceanside. Call (760) 757-4470 for more information.

 **Dance Classes** 

By Appointment—*Aleia* teaches private and semi-private classes at \$25.00/hr. for all dance levels. Call (760) 930-9893 for information.

Ongoing Classes—Master instructors *Morwenna and Walid Assaf*, recently of Boston, present dance and rhythm classes for all levels, plus coaching in their studio at Art/Dance Academy.

- Mondays Afro-Caribbean (Jinaan Sherbeny) 6:00–7:30 PM
basic/intermediate belly dance (Aleia) 7:00–8:30 PM
- Tuesdays ballroom dancing (Shawn) 6:30–7:30 PM
intermediate/advanced belly dance (Morwenna) .. 7:30–9:00 PM
- Wednesdays West African dance (Nikola Clay) 6:30–8:00 PM
Flamenco (Lilia Lorens) 8:00–9:30 PM
- Thursdays ballroom dancing (Shawn) 6:30–7:30 PM
belly dance (Morwenna/Walid drumming) 7:30–9:00 PM
- Fridays repertory rehearsal when scheduled 6:00–8:00 PM
- Saturdays dance technique (Morwenna) 1:00–2:30 PM
choreography 3:00–4:30 PM
drumming class 4:30–6:00 PM
- Sundays by appointment only

Call (760) 757-4470/433-2276 for more information. Special rates for SAMEDA members.

By Appointment—*Jamila* teaches private lessons at your convenience, specializing in floor work. Call 466-8233 for details.

Evenings and Saturday mornings—*Cynthia* teaches *beginning to intermediate belly dance* in her peaceful country-home studio in Olivenhain (between Encinitas and Rancho Santa Fe). Classes are \$20.00/hr. private; \$9.00/hr. group. Call (760) 753-6830 for details.

Mondays—*Cyrena* teaches *belly dance* at San Carlos Recreation Center, 6445 Lake Badin Ave., in San Carlos (off Jackson Blvd. between Cowels Mntn. and Lake Murray Blvd.). Beginning classes are from 6:00–7:15 PM; intermediate classes are from 7:15–8:45 PM. Call Cyrena at 698-9421 for details.

Mondays—*Aleia* teaches *Beginning to Intermediate Cabaret-style belly dance* (including zill and veil work) from 7:00–8:30 PM at Art/Dance Academy, 225 Brooks Steet, in Oceanside. \$12.00/lesson, or \$40.00/month. Call (760) 757-4470 for details.

Mondays—*Theresa* teaches a *belly dance class* from 7:00–8:30 PM at Centre City Ballet, 928 Ft. Stockton, Suite 115, in Mission Hills (take the Washington exit from Interstate 5, go east, turn left on Goldfinch, left on Ft. Stockton—the studio is on the right corner of Ft. Stockton and Hawk). Beginner/intermediate level, with finger cymbal practice each week. Each class is \$7.00; \$1.00 off for SAMEDA members. Call Theresa at 298-0849 for details.

Mondays—*Nicki Vaccar* teaches several forms of dance at Earl Warren Jr. High School, in Solana Beach. From 5:00–6:00 PM, *Greek folk dance*; 6:00–7:00 PM, *Hawaiian/Tahitian dance*; 7:00–8:00 PM, *belly dance*; 8:00–9:00 PM, *Flamenco technique*. Call Nicki at (760) 634-3680 for details.

Tuesdays—*Beginning Belly Dance* class with *Luisa* from 6:30–7:45 PM at the La Jolla Rec Center, 615 Prospect (Prospect and Draper). Fee is \$30.00 for an 8-week session. Call Luisa at (619) 299-1129 for enrollment and information.

Tuesdays—*Morwenna Assaf* begins *Advanced/Professional Classes* from 7:30–9:00 PM. Call Art/Dance Academy for details at (760) 433-2276.

Tuesdays—*Belly Dance Basics*, “*Raks Al Sharki from Egypt*,” with *Elle*, dance ethnologist. Performance basics (experienced

dancers only) from 7:00–8:00 PM at Expressive Arts Therapy Center, 3817 Ray St., in North Park. Fee is \$30.00 for one 3-week session (\$24.00 for SAMEDA and Baraka members). Call (619) 919-6774 for details.

Tuesdays—*Morwenna Assaf* teaches *Advanced/Professional Belly Dance: coaching/drumming* from 5:30–6:30 PM, *technique* from 6:30–7:30 PM, and *choreography* from 7:30–8:30 PM at Art/Dance Academy, 225 Brooks Street, in Oceanside. Monthly class cards available. Call (760) 433-2276 for details.

Tuesdays—*Cynthia* teaches an 8-week *beginning belly dance* class in the auditorium at Earl Warren Jr. High School from 6:30–7:30 PM in Solana Beach. Only \$29.00! Register early—class fills up fast—through the San Dieguito Adult School at (760) 753-7073.

Tuesdays and Thursdays—*Meleah* teaches *aerobic cross-training for dancers* from 5:55–6:55 PM. Even the most accomplished dancer needs to cross-train for endurance, strength, and flexibility. Join us for a fun low/medium-impact workout at Murphy Canyon Youth Center, 10323 Orleck St. in Tierrasanta (I-15 exit at Tierrasanta Blvd., go east, turn right on Santo, right on Orleck, 1ST building on the left). Fee is \$4.00 per class. Call Meleah at 280-8424 for details.

Wednesdays—*Ana Goebel* teaches *Beginning and Intermediate Belly Dance* from 7:30–8:50 PM at the Spring Valley Recreation Center, 8735 Jamacha Blvd., in Spring Valley. Sign up for 8-week sessions—call the Rec Center at (619) 479-1832, or call Ana at (619) 660-6965 for more information.

Wednesdays—*Nicki Vaccar* teaches *belly dance* from 9:45–10:45 PM at San Marcos Parks and Recreation. Call Nicki at (760) 634-3680 for details.

Wednesdays—*Meleah* teaches *intermediate/advanced belly dance* at 6:30 PM at Centre City Ballet, 928 Ft. Stockton, Suite 115, in Mission Hills (take the Washington exit from Interstate 5, go east, turn left on Goldfinch, left on Ft. Stockton—the studio is on the right corner of Ft. Stockton and Hawk). This class is designed for dancers who have been dancing 2 or more years, and uses advanced steps and combinations, with an emphasis on form, strength, and muscle control. Opportunities to perform. \$7.00 per class. Call Meleah for details at 280-8424.

Wednesdays—*Meleah* teaches *beginning belly dance* at 7:30 PM at Centre City Ballet, 928 Ft. Stockton, Suite 115 in Mission Hills. This class includes beginning steps and isolations, with a focus on body alignment, posture, and enjoying movement. \$8.00 per class. Call Meleah at 280-8424 for details.

Thursdays—*Beginning Belly Dance* class with *Luisa* from 6:15–7:30 PM at Dancing Unlimited (Folk Dance Center), 4569 30TH Street. (This is a beautiful facility with lots of mirrors.) Fee is \$30.00 for a 4-week session, or \$8.00 per class. Call Luisa at (619) 299-1129 for enrollment and information.

Thursdays—*Jasmina* teaches *beginning to intermediate belly dance classes* from 4:30–6:30 PM at Cuyamaca College dance studio, room R205, 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway, in El Cajon. Seven-week session begins 2/5; session #2 begins 3/26—\$39.00 each. Call (619) 660-4350 for more information.

Thursdays—*Alia* teaches *Beginning Belly Dance* from 7:00–8:00 PM at San Diego Danceworks, 2653 Ariane Drive, Pacific Beach. Fee is \$40.00 per 6-week session. Call the studio at (619) 272-7456 for more information.

Thursdays—*Nicki Vaccar* teaches *Greek folk dance* from 6:00–7:00 PM, *belly dance* from 7:15–8:15 PM, and *intermediate belly dance* from 8:15–9:15 PM at San Marcos Parks and Recreation. Call Nicki at (760) 634-3680 for details.

Thursdays—*Belly dance at UCSD!* Two-hour *bellyjam* for all comers starting at 7:30 PM. Call Jackie at 581-2376 for details.

Fridays—*Meleah* teaches a *daytime fun-loving belly dance* class from 1:30–2:30 PM at the Taoist Sanctuary, 4229 Park Blvd. in North Park. This class is at a beginner/intermediate level for dancers who know the basic steps and are ready for some variations and combinations. Call Meleah at 280-8424.

Sunday afternoons—*Nicki Vaccar* teaches and performs *Greek folk dance* at Greek Village Restaurant in Carlsbad. Call Nicki at (760) 634-3680 for details.



Out-of-Town Events



Tuesdays—The Laguna Beach Recreation Department presents a belly dance class from 7:45–9:30 pm. Call (714) 497-0716 for details.

Wednesdays—*Tonya and Atlantis* present their *Original Belly Dance Showcase* from 8:45–11:30 pm at the Los Angeles Harbor Radisson Hotel, 601 S. Palos Verdes St., San Pedro. Guest dancers perform to live music by *Viken & Carlos*, as well as tapes. For show information, call Tonya at (310) 434-3987; for reservations, call (310) 519-8200.

Fridays—*John Bilezikjian, Var Daghdevirian, and Cyrianna*, as well as guest dancers perform at the House of Kabab, 2110 West Whittier Blvd., in Montebello. Show starts at 8:00 pm. Call (213) 721-8956 for reservations; guest dancers talk to John or Var after the show.

March 28—Go Greek with *Tonya & Atlantis* and *Of Veils and Incense* in a “Special Night to Remember” at Maxi’s Restaurant, DoubleTree Hotel, 3050 Bristol Street, in Costa Mesa. Evening begins at 8:30 pm with Hors d’oeuvres, dinner, and a show—\$24.95 per person. Call (714) 540-7000 ext. 4353 for reservations; (310) 301-1568 for more information.

➔ **April 4**—The SCA (Society for Creative Anachronism) sponsors the *7th Annual Medieval Mid-East Feast* starting at 10:00 am, in the Sage Hall on the Desert Empire Fairgrounds, 520 S. Richmond Rd., in Ridgecrest. Fee is \$10.00, add \$5.00 for camping outdoors. Call Lady Afra at (760) 384-2711 for details.

➔ **April 19 and 26; May 3**—Special classes with *Angelika Nemeth* at the Tony Scaccia Dance Studio, 2221 Harbor Blvd., in Costa Mesa. Beginning class from 2:00–3:00 am is \$10 per class/\$25.00 for all 3; Intermediate/Advanced class from 3:00–4:30 pm is \$15.00 per class/\$40.00 for all 3. Registration: *Angelika Nemeth*, P.O. Box 4546, Irvine, CA 92616; call (714) 786-3111.

➔ **August 16–23**—*Middle Eastern Music and Dance Camp* takes place in the Mendocino Woodlands, featuring dance classes, instruction in classical and folk instruments, parties with live music, ensemble coaching, performances, ethnic cuisine, and folkloric discussions. Call (310) 838-5471 for more info, or visit the website at <http://www.middleeastcamp.com>.

August 22 and 23—IAMED presents the Second Annual Awards of Bellydance in Los Angeles. Workshops with *Delilah, Baraka, Margo Abdo O’Dell, and Eva Cernik*. Show on Sunday night with performances by the workshop instructors and *Atlantis, Mesmera, Angelika and her Dance Ensemble, Zahirah*, and others! Live music with recording artists *John Bilezikjian, Var, and Ishmael*. Nomination forms are now available until May 15. For more information, a nomination form, and a brochure describing this exciting event, call Suzy Evans at (818) 754-0656, or write P.O. Box 42, N. Hollywood, CA 91603.

Email: bellydance@webaccess.com, or visit the website at <http://www.webaccess.com/bellydance>.



Out-of-State Events



May 15–17—*Angelika Nemeth* appears in the Festival of the Nile in Orlando, FL. Call Shari at (407) 656-7524 for details.

July 16–19—*Cental Asian Dance Camp* in Santa Fe, New Mexico will feature workshops and performances by *Kizlarkhon Dustmukhamedova, Laurel Victoria Gray, and Travis Fontaine Jarrell*. Total cost is \$395.00 for all days. Contact Travis Jarrell at (505) 438-2785, or write to: 22 Synergia Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505.

July 30–August 4—Study with *Amaya, Bert Balladine, Feyrouz, and Aziz* at the International Shake and Bake Festival at the Wyndham Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Call (505) 260-1186 for more information.

September 19–20, 1998—*Fahtiem* appears in York, Pennsylvania, presented by *Litani, Chandra Sereen, and Kalim*. Contact Chandra Sereen at (717) 764-8915 for details.



Baraka International Arts presents

الرقص الشرقي

BELLY DANCE BASICS

“RAKS AL SHARKI” from EGYPT

MONDAYS 6:00-7:00 PM — BELLY DANCE BASICS FOR BEGINNERS
at Centre City Ballet, 928 Ft. Stockton Drive, Suite 115, Mission Hills

TUESDAYS 7:00-8:00 PM — PERFORMANCE BASICS MASTER CLASS
at Expressive Arts Therapy Center, 3817 Ray Street, North Park

with **ELLE**, Dance Ethnologist

WOMEN'S DANCE ARTS OF NORTH AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST

\$30 (general)/\$24 (Baraka & San Diego Middle Eastern Dance Assoc. members) per 3-week Session

FOR INFORMATION CALL (619) 919-6774



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Samedia Performer Directory

(all are in the 619 area, unless noted)

- Dancer Aleia (760) 930-9893
- Dancer Ana 660-6965
- Dancer Morwenna Assaf (760) 433-2276
- Dancer Jamila 466-8233
- Dancer Jinaan (760) 471-8747
- Dancer Luisa 299-1129
- Dancer Mariah (760) 727-4545
- Dancer Nora 457-7741
- Dancer Pamela 299-7337
- Dancer Sahra Saeeda (909) 359-6782
- Dancer Salimah 466-7849
- Dancer Scherezade/Little Egypt 581-0135
- Dancer Theresa 298-0849
- Dancer Zahra 281-5440

- Drummer Walid Assaf (760) 433-2276
- Drummer Dave Dhillon 284-5367
- Drummer Randwolf 788-1447

Get on this list—it's free for members!



Art/Dance Academy

Morwenna & Walid Assaf

3377 Tournament Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

Tel: (760) 757-4470
Fax: (760) 757-2274



Those Very Special People

Who Produce

Videos and Compact Discs

By Morwenna Assaf

When it comes to ethnic dance, we have a deluge of music and videos to attract our attention. I have been asked to write on two of these—one a video and the other a CD.

The first I will discuss will be the CD called *Wash Ya Wash*. This was produced in Egypt last year. It was a cooperative work between Yousry Sharif and Raqia Hassan. The music is beautiful and very diversified. Yousry Sharif was born and trained in Cairo, Egypt and is the Director of the Egyptian Academy of Oriental in NYC. He is an internationally renowned choreographer and also director of the Yousry Sharif Dance Ensemble. Yousry will be running his first week-long seminar in July of this year. In 1992, he was inducted into the American Academy of Middle Eastern Hall of Fame. He is responsible for championing the fine art of Oriental dance in the United States and Europe. He is known for his acute musical sensitivity, originality, and sophistication in the dance. If you have not studied with him yet make sure to when he comes to your area. He uses this compact disc for his teaching.

Raqia Hassan has devoted her life to teaching this dance form. She coaches professionals. She was a long-term, very valued member of the Mahmoud Reda Troupe in Cairo, Egypt. She is an impeccable artist imparting technique and aesthetic values with enthusiasm and vision.

The orchestra is perfection! There are 14 in the orchestra including the vocalists. The conductor and arranger for all musical selections was Moktar al-Said, who passed away a few months after this was completed. This was one of his last works. Yousry and Raqia shared the production and artistic direction.

There are two complete dances on this compact disc. Even though you can do a whole routine, each cut is a complete dance within itself. The first is called *El Malika Dance*. Some of you might know the first cut which is also called *El Malika*, or "The Queen." Yousry taught to this music when he toured last year. It

is almost 7 minutes long and has so many rhythm changes it is incredible. All the music on this 60-minute CD was very well thought out and the music arrangements are magnificent. Such variety! This is still my favorite. The second piece, *Hairat Elbi* meaning "My Heart is Confused," has lovely singing accompaniment and great kanoon work and is over 6 minutes long, followed by a gorgeous Taksim Beledi that is 4 minutes long. *Ana Ho*, "Me and Who?" is next and is 4 minutes long. Can really get into that. Then there is an exquisite Finale for 1½ minutes

The second piece is *Princesah Dance*. The first piece called *Princesah* is a full routine in and of itself; it is over 9 minutes long. It is beautiful and really speaks to you. Again all the diversification you could ever need is there. It is followed by *El Atlal*, "Watching Me" at 4 minutes, then a rousing Mizmar Saidi that could be longer, but is 2:35 minutes. I could have that for 4 minutes easily. The next selection is *Mabiesalish Alayia*, "Don't Get Angry with Me" at just over 4 minutes. The Finale is only half a minute. So well put together.

When asking Yousry what went into making this CD, he response was, "I wanted the best." When asked why with Raqia Hassan his response was, "She is my friend, she knows good music, and together we could make the right decisions." The musicians are the best in Egypt and they are playing the best music. So together, you have the requirements for the best music from one location and all on this one disc—it is the best I have heard in many a year. Do not wait—rush to your closest vendor and put your \$20.00 on the line. It will be well worth your while. You cannot go wrong. You will learn so much about the nuances of Egyptian music. If you are into Egyptian, it will add depth to your musical experience and your dance. If Egyptian is new to you, you will quickly acquire an ear for the different sounds. A fabulous learning experience. The translations are done by trying to turn the phonetic Arabic translation on the jacket back into Arabic and then over to English. Not an easy chore. But at least it gives you an idea of the meaning of the song. Hope it has been helpful. Now, enjoy your compact disc *Wash Ya Wash*. Thank you, Yousry Sharif, for sharing this marvel with us.

Now for one of the most interesting and educational videos to hit the market in many a year: *Dunyavi Gypsy Dance—Volume I*. This new video is brought to you by another dear friend, Dalia Carella. This is a very different video than most. There are many that present artists in concert; this is not one of those. Dalia has

put her heart and soul into preparing this video to be different, educational, and inspiring. For those who do not know who Dalia is, I will give you some background.

Dalia is an awe-inspiring person who is a supreme artist. Dalia had a desire, saw a need, investigated, researched and studied forever and has brought to you a whole new way of seeing this dance. She shows a whole new perspective. She is one of my role models. Not that I can do her style; I cannot. But I admire her completely. I call her my NY angel. Whenever I am in doubt she sees me through.

Dalia Carella is a highly-regarded Middle Eastern dancer and Ethnic dancer. She has performed and taught all over the world. Dalia has been involved in research and study for the past 20 years. She has conducted research regarding the music and the Moorish dances brought into Spain and Morocco. Over the past 12 years she has extensively researched the culture and dance of the gypsies throughout the world, resulting in her own inimitable Dunyavi Gypsy style, which incorporates Turkish, Moroccan, Arabic, Indian, and Spanish gypsy dance techniques and culture. The passion and allure of this phenomenal dance form has added another dimension to the interpretation of ethnic dance forms.

She has developed Dunyavi to a point where, though one is aware of the different cultures represented, the commonality between all types of gypsy dancing comes through in her fine blending. You know this is special and highly personal for Dalia. While her style has always been full of energy, she has brought this dance to an all-time high. Her dance is still highly charged, she seems to savor every nuance and takes her time in the development of each movement. She is more sophisticated than ever. She maintains the folkloric element in her work. Dalia is a versatile artist with mesmerizing control and awareness. She is completely sensual and feminine.

Her video represents all of the above and more. It is totally educational. The video will take you through the basics of Dunyavi Gypsy style dancing from the beginning. She will break down all the steps that make up the choreography for two dances. She is a very precise teacher in her video, just as she is in person. When I asked Dalia about the format she used and why she did a video at all, her response was, "To expose people who have an interest but not the exposure, so that when they do come to a workshop or seminar they are aware of what they are going to get." For those who have been to a workshop or class before, they have

something to take home to work on and perfect their style. This is a fabulous teaching tool. The performance sections are excellent, so you can visualize the dance as it should be from this master of the style. The dancer/student will gain a thorough understanding of dancing 9/8 Karsilama rhythms and the feeling behind each movement. Both the teaching and performance of this video feature the live music of Souren Baronian, Haig Manoukian, and Lee Baronian, which is an added plus. The parts where Dalia talks about the dance form are very informative and the scenery is fantastic.

The one thing that hit me right between the eyes was the love and attention that Dalia must have put into this work. A very well put together video. Every little nuance is there, including some humor. Anyone who knows this fine lady knows how sensitive she is and how much she loves the dance. This video was made to further dancers' knowledge, not just for personal gain. It is truly a work of art. To order this video you need to contact the artist. Check for an advertisement in any Middle Eastern dance magazine and contact her right away or call, "The Oasis" and I will make sure you get a copy. If you would like to preview the video call Art/Dance Academy at 760-757-4470. We have a video research library and you are welcome to come in and see a little before purchasing. We look forward to the next volume in Dalia's series of instructional videos.

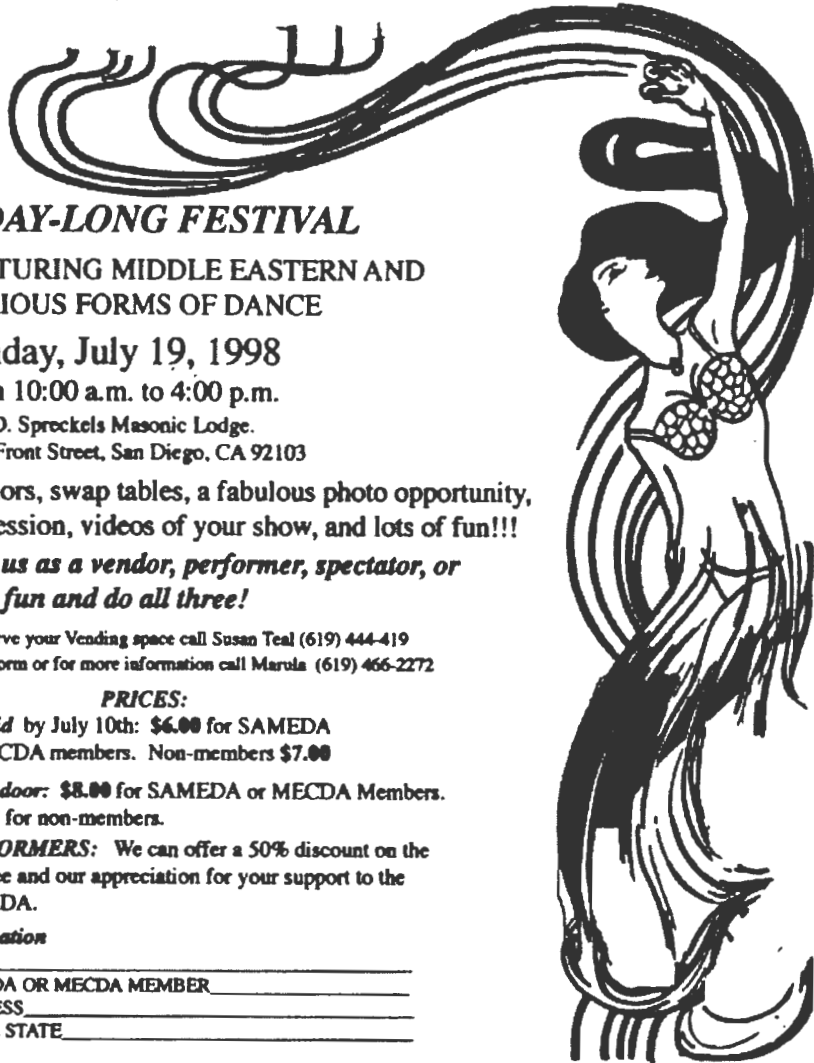


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April 26TH Costume Workshop Participants

by Susan Teal

We will be discussing how to make a Beledi dress with sleeve and neckline variations. Please bring with you:

Fabric—2.5 to 3 yards. If you have more or less or just have a practice piece, that's all right. This is just a demo. If you are unsure about what you've chosen, call me. If you don't have any fabric available, don't worry, there will be enough around so you can see what to do.

Scissors—We will be cutting paper, so don't bring your best sewing shears.

Pins—Long ones with heads are easier to handle, but any kind are fine.

This should be a good workshop for beginning students or anyone who wants to learn time saving, easy sewing techniques. You will go home with a pattern that has complete, easy to follow instructions for constructing a variety of Beledi style dresses. Remember, SAMEDA gets 10% of the profits from this workshop, so come one, come all, learn some stuff and help support your organization.

On to another topic. The 1ST SAMEDA mini-workshop was a complete success. We did it, we made money, and the participants, questioned closely by this reporter, liked the format. For those of you who missed it, it went something like this: There were 3 teachers who held classes of about one and a quarter hours each. They were: Azziza—drama and performance techniques, Marula—hip combinations, and Meleah—body strengthening and arm techniques.

Azziza opened with an excellent, interesting, high-energy and down right useful segment. I learned an awful lot in that hour or so.

Marula did the middle section and we did fast hips and slow turns. This was all good stuff.

Meleah had the last hour. We learned some very good body conditioning techniques, dramatic and beautiful arm movements, and ended with a wonderful, relaxing hand ceremony.

This format of using 3 different teachers with short workshops on the same day , gives participants a wide variety of techniques without overwhelming them . It was one of the best workshops I've attended for quite a while and a surprisingly large amount of material stayed with me. We will be doing this again so stay tuned.

And before I forget, if any of you haven't been to Morwenna's shop and studio in Oceanside, go have a look. It's really nice and she has all sorts of wonderful things.



SAMEDRA

San Diego Area Middle Eastern Dance Association
P.O. Box 40378
San Diego, CA 92164-0378

Samedra is an organization of people interested in Middle Eastern dance and culture who wish to gather and exchange information. The annual membership fee is \$20.00. Please mail your completed form and a check or money order to the address above, along with any information or comments. Thank you for your support!

Name: Stage Name: _____ Date: _____ Check Number: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____
Comments/Additional Info: _____

We occasionally sell the Samedra mailing list to vendors or dancers, and also get calls from people needing performers. Please check a box below regarding releasing personal information. If you do not check your choice, your name will automatically be included on any mailing list we release, at our discretion. Yes, Samedra may release:

- Name, address, phone#
- Name, phone # only
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