



Behind the Veil

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Volume 8, March 2000

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Oasis Dancers (L to R) Dale, Sharon, Maria, Kathy, and Lorelle performers at the 1999 Woodford Festival event

PREPARING FOR THE "OASIS DANCERS" TROUPE AUDITIONS

Each year the Teachers of the Academy of Middle Eastern Dancet invite students of the Academy to audition for possible inclusion in the Academy's main performance troupe "The Oasis Dancers". Auditions are now March 5 and are to be held from 11am at Dance Works Woolloongabba.

Participants need to know there are three sections to the audition.

Firstly, a Solo dance (3-4 minutes duration, either choreographed by yourself or improvised), secondly all participants learn a short sequence of movements, and thirdly the individual participants each improvise to a short piece of music.

There are several aspects to the individual assessments which may help in your preparation, and we have broken these down to six components for explanation.

. *Technique* -

Teachers hope to see a good variety of clearly defined movements, with a high level of skill. Also evidence of ability to perform more advanced movements. Good posture and carriage are also important, and arms are just as important as hips. The variety of tempos displayed is also taken into consideration.

. *Choreography* -

Judges are looking for original choreography, with sensitivity to the style and structure of the music, showing a variety of skills, and consistent with your personality/style.

. *Stage Personality* -

Should be consistent with the mood of the music, e.g. joyful, contemplative,

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English dancer YASMIN ASSAR - combining a holiday in Australia with performances and workshops . After visiting the Sydney Festival, Yasmin will be in Brisbane in May . (see Events)



Harem Gossip

Some exciting news - a new website - Welcome to the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance, Brisbane - at <http://www.angelfire.com/biz5/BrisbaneAMED/index.html>

This is very new and will be undergoing some fine tuning - but it's up for you to see at last. Technology is never easy and this is a steep learning curve for web mistress Jude.



EVA KOVACS (top right) a pupil of Sharon Daley - who won a place in the Oasis Dancers in the 1997 audition - pictured here on stage City Hall Xmas Middle Eastern concert - a daring sword dance in windy conditions! Eva has also competed at the Oasis Dreams competition both as a soloist and as a duo with Karen Huber, troupe member and relieving teacher.



A baby shower was held Sunday Feb 20 in Sue Buntine's home studio for expectant mum Anna Albert (Sue Buntine's Intermed.class) The girls decided to get in a little early just in case things move along a little quicker than expected! Our very best wishes to Anna and husband Andrew-



One of the newest members of the Oasis Dancers - Dale Thompson, (teacher Maria Masselos) . Dale wowed the audience gorgeous in gold . Photo taken after performing at a special Xmas party at the Jacana Centre which is associated with the Prince Charles Hospital. Thanks to the contributor who sent this snap to the P.Charles "The Leader" magazine.



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flirtatious, serious. Also judged is how well the dancer relates to the audience and whether she is comfortable and confident in front of an audience.

. Costume -

Should be appropriate to the style of the dance, as well as be flattering to you personally, and pleasing to the eye. Attention to grooming generally (hair and makeup) is considered important in this component.

. Learning sequence -

This section judges ability to follow instructions, copy sequences, and learn new moves, free of personal embellishment. (It is OK to ask questions or for moves to be repeated and broken down further in this section - an awareness of when "you haven't got it right" is an important quality in a dancer.)

. Improvisation -

Here you will be judged on how well you respond to changes in the music, displaying a good repertoire without just throwing in as many moves as possible regardless as to whether they suit the music or not. Performing confidently under pressure. (You will hear the music once before you dance to it!)

Whether or not you succeed this year we wish all participants Good Luck! If you do succeed you need to be aware of the need for strong commitment to the troupe and its activities (polished performances do not just happen - they take work), and the expenditure required for rehearsals, and costuming for troupe performances.

If you do not succeed this year, you will most likely find the experience enlightening and the written assessment most useful to you in your progression as a dancer. You will also be welcome to re-apply in the future. (* THANK YOU to teachers Lesley Jolly and Lorelle Hawes who compiled these notes.)

Azziza's Bellydance Supplies

Maria Masselos, one of the Academy directors, markets a good range of all types of Bellydance goods including:



- ❁ Beaded fringing
- ❁ Costumes & Patterns
- ❁ Videos& Music (Tape and CD)
- ❁ Zills, Drums,Swords
- ❁ Pure Silk Veils
- ❁ Jewellery

Ring Maria for details - Ph/Fax 07-3359 4680 Mobile 0417-500747



DEATH OF FAMOUS ISRAELI SINGER OFRA HAZA

Israeli pop star Ofra Haza, famous for her trademark Middle Eastern-style singing, has died in Tel Aviv at the young age of 42. (Reuters Feb 23, 2000)

Many of us have one or more of her albums in our collection, and you may have warmed up or cooled down at class accompanied by Haza's beautiful voice, or heard her voice on TV or radio without being aware of the name of the artist,

Haza, who recorded the theme song for the soundtrack of Steven Spielberg's animated hit "Prince of Egypt," died from massive organ failure after being hospitalized in an intensive care unit for 13 days. (Ofra sang the part of Yocheved - including the stirring opening 7 minute number "Deliver Us".)

Haza racked up 16 gold and platinum albums and one Grammy nomination for her 1992 album "Kirya."

Haza's hits topped German and British pop charts and she was voted Israel's singer of the year from 1980 to 1984, Haza sang in Hebrew and English and cultivated a sultry Levantine image by wearing exotic beaded Yemeni costumes and producing covers of Yemeni folk songs.



Born in south Tel Aviv, the youngest of nine children, her musical career was inspired by the traditional Jewish-Yemeni culture of her immigrant parents.

An early stage talent led to her discovery at age 12 by her former long time manager Bezalel Aloni, who launched her solo singing career seven years later. He is quoted in a Reuters news item as saying: "A little girl came to my house and told me she could sing. I told her to show me what she could do, and when I heard her, I got goosebumps. Her voice crossed borders."

After her marriage in 1997 to Israeli contractor Doron Ashkenazi, Haza slowed the pace of her career. She had no children.



Marie Bakker former Academy teacher, now a relieving teacher, was drafted to take Suesan Buntine's Monday class whilst Susan was performing two special shows at the Marina Mirage luxury hotel.

SYDNEY FESTIVAL - NEW WEBSITE

Congratulations to Sydney Festival organizer Leonie Sukan and web mistress Ruth Jost who have been slaving over a hot computer to make this most informative new website devoted to the upcoming Sydney Festival.

<http://geocities.com/sydneyfest/Concert.htm>

The Festival site is filled with details about workshops and concerts, dinners and bazaars and all the things that make up this wonderful bellydance event.

You can book workshops on line - or download the booking form and post.

Alternatively link from :

<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/StageSt/shahara/index.html>

or - <http://www.angelfire.com/biz5/BrisbaneAMED/index.html>

It's Coming...

the 11th SYDNEY MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE FESTIVAL



"2000 RHYTHMS"

April 28 - May 1, 2000

Workshops - teachers from all over Australia come together to present a wide array of new & challenging workshops
Gypsy Bazaar - a day to shop, enjoy the bargain markets and non-stop entertainment
Dance Parties - Get ready for another shining, shimmying showcase of stunning synergy highlighting the rhythms of life

For all enquiries, phone Leonie Sukan on 02-9519 3764 or 0411 543 764

Behind the Veil

Behind the Veil is a newsletter produced by the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance on behalf of the teachers and students.

Editorial content The Teachers of the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance
Page Layout and Design Judith Hall

If you have any enquiries about this newsletter, please contact the teachers. Contact details for teachers are listed on the back page.

If you wish to contribute an interesting photo or small item it will be considered.



ACADEMY OF MIDDLE EASTERN DANCE - CLASSES :

BARDON (Sharon Daley)

Wednesday

10.00 - 11.15am (Beginners)
6.00 - 7.15pm (Beginners)
7.30 - 8.45 (Intermediate)

Paddington/Red Hill Community Centre 180 Jubilee Terrace, Bardon.

CAMP HILL (*now Sharon Daley)

Tuesday

7.30 - 8.45pm (Beginners)
6.00 - 7.15pm (Intermediate)

Uniting Church Hall, 626 Old Cleveland Rd, Camp Hill.

CARSELDINE (Maria Masselos)

Monday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Beginners)
7.45 - 9.00pm (Intermediate)

Church of the Resurrection (Anglican Church Hall)

Ridley Rd, Carseldine/Bridgeman Downs

SOUTH BRISBANE (Susan Buntine)

Monday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Mixed levels)

Jagera Arts Centre, Cordelia Street, South Brisbane.

*New! Children's (Phone Susan first please)

Tuesday

6.00-7.00 (Beginners (Phone Susan first))

STAFFORD (Maria Masselos)

Tuesday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Beginners One)
7.45 - 9.00pm (Beginners Two)

St Clement's Church Hall, Eudunda & Reuben St, Stafford

ST LUCIA (Lorelle Hawes)

Tuesday

6.30 - 7.45pm (Intermediate)
8.00 - 9.15pm (Beginners)

Christ Church Hall, Cnr 9th & Central Ave, St Lucia

SUNNYBANK (Sharon Daley)

Monday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Beginners)

Paloma Reception Centre, 121 Mains Road, Sunnybank

WEST END/SOUTH BRISBANE (Susan Buntine)

Wednesday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Beginners)
* New Beginners please phone first
7.45 - 9.00pm (Intermediate)

St Andrews Anglican Church Hall 160 Vulture St

WINDSOR (Maria Masselos)

Saturday

12.45- 2.00pm (Beginners)

Windsor School of Arts, Lutwyche Rd, Windsor

SWORDS AND THE LAW

As a number us are carrying swords to classes and performances, it is important that you are aware of the provisions of the law - Section 51 of the Weapons Act 1990. Technically speaking our swords are regarded as a "knife". A "knife" is defined as a thing with a sharpened point or blade that is reasonably capable of (a) being held in 1 or both hands, and (b) being used to wound or threaten to wound anyone when held in 1 or both hands. Possession of a knife in a public place - 51. (1) A person must not physically possess a knife in a public place, unless the person has reasonable excuse (Maximum penalty: 20 penalty points or 6 months imprisonment).

The part which applies to our dancers in particular in Subsection 2 (which states It is reasonable excuse for subsection (1) to physically possess a knife) - is subsection 2(b) to participate in a lawful entertainment, recreation or sport.

Subsection (3) 4 states - In deciding what is a reasonable excuse for subsection (1), regard may be had, among other things, to whether the way the knife is held in possession or when and where it is held in possession, would cause a reasonable person concern that he or she, or someone else in the vicinity may be threatened or harmed.

Sergeant Gerry O'Connor of Weapons Licensing Branch, at Police Headquarters Brisbane provided the above information. His suggestion is that we all make decorated pouches in which to carry the swords - in other words so we don't look like we're carrying swords!



Araby Belly Dance Academy

presents

Requested return visit

"Kahramana"

Paivi Ahonen

Middle Eastern Dance Instructor & Performer from Finland

11th & 12th MARCH 2000 WORKSHOPS

Sat - Beladi. Sun - Milaya Lef

Venue: Nerang Bicentennial Community Theatre, Nerang/Southport Rd, Nerang, Qld.

PERFORMANCE BANQUET

at PASHA'S RESTAURANT

12TH MARCH - Arrival 6.30pm

Contact Elenie 0755-395229

YEAR 2000 CALENDAR EVENTS

- 5 March Auditions for Oasis Dancers 10am Dance Works. Enquiries to your teacher
- 11 March - HAFLA - Windsor School of Arts. Contact - Oriel Macpherson 3889 7303 Or 0412 695483
- 11-12 March Workshop with Paivi - Performance evening Mar 12, Pasha's Restaurant Mermaid Beach (Contact Elenie 0755-395229) - see ad.
- 1-2 April AMED Middle Eastern Dance Workshop - featuring QLD teachers. QUT Dance Studio, Kelvin Grove Campus
- 2 April AMED Middle Eastern Dance Concert Evening Greek Club, Brisbane, 7-10pm cost :\$10
- 16 April AMED "Oasis Dreams" Belly-Dancing Competition. Greek Club, Brisbane, 2-5pm
- 22 April Kaliqa Dancers Annual Concert North Coast (Contact Jenny 0754-498615)
- 13 May "Glendi" - A celebration and party for everyone Windsor School of Arts, Brisbane 7.30pm. Contact Maria Masselos 33594680
- 7 May Half day workshop with Yasmin Asar (England) QUT. (Contact Susan Buntine 33915873)
- 28 June -14 July Trip to Egypt and Lebanon - with Amara Contact Amara, Amara's Palace
- 24 June-1 July Winter Warm-Up featuring Yousry Sharif from New York. QUT Dance Studios, Kelvin Grove
- 27 August 12th Annual Middle Eastern Dance EXTRAVAGANZA
- 10 Sept Araby Belly Dance Spectacular Gold Coast (Elenie 0755395229)

For Professional performances for parties, Weddings, Conventions, and Promotions



Phone Bellydance Artists 33915873
or Bellydance by Shahara 33690832 (incl Children's Parties)



Private tuition is available. There are classes all over Brisbane - for the group class nearest to you consult the lists of locations and teachers contact numbers

Contact numbers for teachers : Susan Buntine 3391 5873, Maria Masselos Ph/Fax 3359 4680 (Mobile 0417 500747) , Sharon Daley 3369 0832, Lorelle Hawes 3878 6878.
Gold Coast enquiries Araby Belly Dance Academy : Elenie Vlismas-Smith 07 55395229 or Rosannah Fairweather 07 55744198.

