



Behind the Veil

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Volume 1, June, 1999

In This Issue

- ❁ *Introducing the Teachers and Performers of the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance*
- ❁ *How to find a class*
- ❁ *The health benefits of Middle Eastern Dance*
- ❁ *Upcoming events and Workshops*
- ❁ *Congratulations!*

Celebrating the 10th year of the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance.

The Academy of Middle Eastern Dance Brisbane began its activities in 1989, with two teachers - Susan Buntine and Maria Masselos who were the co-founders in the venture.

Since then the Academy has grown in strength each year and now presents a strong team of 8 teachers and a skilled formal dance troupe of 11 members - The Oasis Dancers.

The Academy is committed to maintaining a very high standard in teaching and performing.

The Oasis Dancers can be seen at a lot of special events and ethnic cultural days. Its dancers present a variety of dance styles to the general public and are beloved of Brisbane's ethnic community.

Events and education for our students

The Academy sees as part of its function the regular introduction of workshops with Interstate and Overseas Artists, and also smaller less informal get-togethers to learn about makeup, costuming, music and videos.

Dancers inevitably make their own levels in terms of performance. There are those who just enjoy the many dance classes for the pure joy of dancing, and the chance to mingle with other women of like mind.

Others are very comfortable dancing in troupe choreographies designed by their teachers, and enjoy the discipline of learning dance routines as a team and performing them to appreciative audiences.

For those who wish to go further in performance as soloists or teachers, making a well rounded dancer who enjoys the dance form, combined with presentation skills, and knowledge of Middle Eastern culture is the aim of the Academy.

The teachers are there to help you achieve. If you need help with any aspect of the classes the Teachers of the Academy will be only too pleased to give advice. Some teachers conduct private classes, schedules permitting. If you need advice on music, costuming, or choreography your teacher is a wealth of knowledge - she's been there - and she's there to help you.



Co Founders of the Academy - above left - YASMINI - Susan Buntine, and right - AZZIZA - Maria Masselos



Harem Gossip

Congratulations to 9-year old Sarah Bakker, who has won through to clinch the part in the Brisbane staging of Les Miserables. A star in the making!
This talented youngster - at one time our smallest and youngest bellydancer is a daughter of Maree Bakker (former Academy teacher) - now teaching classical ballet, jazz, and tap at The DanceWorks at the Gabba.

■
HOT!! HOT!! HOT!!

Eleni Vlismas-Smith's new 3-hour Bellydance Video - out soon - Watch this space!!

■
The 1999 Extravaganza Aug 29, will be held in the lovely surrounds of the art-deco theatre-restaurant The Tivoli. Proceeds this year will be going to the very worthy Prince Charles Hospital Foundation for research into heart and lung disease in children.

■
Tracey Hender (WA) (www.thecamelsarmpit.com.au) who danced here in Brisbane for 2 years, has been globetrotting to Peru, Wales, and Japan. She's hoping to re-acquaint with Brisbane friends around Xmas.



Leslie Jolly - an accomplished performer and teacher - specializes in Beledi style

Most frequently asked questions.....

Q: Where is my nearest class?

A: Classes are held all over Brisbane - consult back page of this brochure for the class to suit you !

Q: I am a little overweight, does it matter?

A: No. Bellydancing is suitable for all shapes & sizes.

Q: Does age matter?

A: No, all ages can participate from 3 to 83.

Q: How long does it take to pick up the basic steps?

A: Give yourself 6-12 weeks on average.

Q: What do I wear ?

A: Whatever feels right for you.....leotards and tights, skirts, harem pants, crop tops, bodysuits and if you like to add to the mood some scarves, and/or coin belts.

Q: What experience do I need?

A: No previous dance experience is necessary.

Q: How much does it cost?

A: Average cost is approximately \$10 per class, with discount for students, pensioners, or advanced payments.

Q: Do I need to book?

A: There is no need to book, but by all means ring and acquaint yourself with the teacher who will be pleased to offer advice and further information.

Winter Warm-up!

A very full program of technique and choreography is planned by Master Teacher and Choreographer Dr Mo Geddawi for Brisbane's Winter Warm-up Conference 1999 25 June-3 July. It is suggested you book early for the sessions and social events associated with the Conference.

Before you ask - yes - he is a "real" doctor - medicine his other love beside dance. A native of Cairo he has made his home in Berlin, Germany for the past 24 years.

As a soloist and choreographer he worked with Mr Mahmoud Reda on new concepts of the ancient art of Egyptian and Oriental Dance, and was co-founder of the famous Reda troupe of Egypt. Dr Geddawi also founded The Hathor Dance Troupe in Berlin, Germany in 1985. He has worked in many feature films and TV series both in Europe and the Middle East either as a dancer, a choreographer, or actor.

Throughout the conference Mo will be emphasising technique and the basics of Oriental Dance.

Shop till you drop Bazaar ! Concert at the Greek Club, Pseudo Nile Cruise, and don't miss Michael Dagleish's informative physio lectures -- Have we got a show for you!

Enquiries for bookings for the Winter Warm-up events should be made to Maria Masselos Ph/Fax 07-3359 4680 or Mobile 0417 500747.

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
- ❁ Videos
- ❁ Music (Tape and CD)
- ❁ Jewellery
- ❁ Patterns

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



Get On the Beat - with Abdul El-Imam

Looking for a tabla drum class? Jordanian master percussionist Abdul El-Imam is conducting classes at the Jagera centre every second Monday night prior to Susan Buntine's (mixed level) dance class.

The drum class runs from 5pm sharp to 6pm - very convenient if you wish to get in some drum practice and continue on with a dance class. Class fee \$20. Please arrive 4.45pm.

Next drum classes are : Mondays June 14, & 21st, July 12th & 26th.

Enquiries regarding drum class should be directed to Susan (3391 5873) or Abdul (3256 6574 Mob. 0417 500640).

"No previous dance experience is necessary - just the desire to enjoy yourself!"

The Benefits of Bellydancing to your Health

Bellydancing is a very ancient and interesting dance form and no previous dance experience is necessary - just the desire to enjoy yourself!

You can achieve a variety of benefits from participation - including spiritual, emotional and social, and physical gains.

Dancers find this gentle dance useful for relaxation, back problems, constipation, period pain, arthritis, many other physical complaints, and post-childbirth recovery.



Teacher and member of Oasis Dancers - Princess Shahara (Sharon Daley) in gold - all that glitters!



NADJA - Nadja Alexander - an Academy teacher and Oasis Dancer

Upcoming events - put this in your Diary!

July 24 - Hafla - evening of performance Windsor School of Arts. Contact Oriel Macpherson 3889 7303 or 0419-713255

June/July 26-3 4th Annual Winter Warm-Up, O Block, QUT, Brisbane. Presenter - Dr Mo Geddawi - Contact Maria 07-3359 4680 (0419 500747)

August 15 - 6th Annual Araby Academy ME Spectacular - contact Eleni Vlismas Smith 07-55395229

August 29 - 11th Annual Academy of Middle Eastern Dance Extravaganza, Tivoli Theatre, Costin Street, Valley.

Sept 24 -25 Terezka Workshop, G Block, QUT, Brisbane. Contact Susan Buntine 07-339 15873

ARABY BELLYDANCE ACADEMY - our sister Academy

At various times the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance hosts events in association with our sister academy - Araby Belly Dance Academy based on the Gold Coast. Principal Elenie Vlismas-Smith holds the distinction of being the very first bellydancer in Queensland.

Araby is a highly visible group on the Gold Coast and has educated some of the Gold Coast's best dancers. For information regarding Gold Coast classes call Eleni (07-55395229) to ascertain availability and dates of classes in that area.



Elenie Vlismas-Smith

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 (Lesley Jolly)

Tuesday

6.00 - 7.15pm (Intermediate)

7.30 - 8.45pm (Beginners)

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

CARSELDINE (Maria)

6.15 - 7.30pm (Beginners)

7.45 - 9.00pm (Intermediate)

Church of the Resurrection (Anglican Church Hall)

Ridley Rd, Carseldine/Bridgeman Downs

NEW FARM (Sharon Daley) New**

Tuesday

7.30 - 8.45pm (Beginners)

Uniting Church Hall, 52 Merthyr Rd, New Farm.

SOUTH BRISBANE (Susan Buntine)

Monday

6.15 - 7.30pm (Mixed levels)

(Drumming - Abdul- starts 5pm every 2nd week. Ph Susan)

Jagera Arts Centre, Cordelia Street, South Brisbane.

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)

Saturday

12.15 - 1.30pm (Beginners)

Windsor School of Arts, Lutwyche Rd, Windsor



LORELLE - a lively polished performer and a fun teacher



Welcome back to relief teacher Karen Herber - now a mother of two

CONGRATULATIONS!

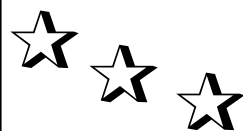
Auditions were held recently for applicants wishing to join the Oasis Dancers. Several dancers performed this year for the judges.

Congratulations go to the newest Oasis troupe members Dale Thompson (teacher Maria Masselos), and Cathy Stephens (teacher Lorelle Hawes).

The recent Oasis Dreams competition showed some great talent. This annual competition is aimed at providing a showcase for all levels to perform for the judges, and an appreciative audience of dancers, relatives, and friends in the friendly atmosphere of the Greek Club.

Congratulations go to Vanessa Giles, winner of the beginner section of the Oasis Dreams, and also to 15 year old Janna Cox who won the Intermediate section of the Oasis Dreams competition. Ursula Anderson and Lisa Gallagher won the Intermediate Duo. A treble triumph for teacher Sharon Daley.

Seven year old Thomas Ives (teacher Rosannah Fairweather, Araby Academy) - mature talent beyond his years - created a sensation winning the Junior section.



Professional performances for parties, Weddings, Conventions, and Promotions

Phone Bellydance Artists 33915873

Private tuition is available

There are classes all over Brisbane - for the group class nearest to you consult the list of locations and teachers - see above

STOP PRESS

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Prominent Gold Coast performer and teacher Elenie Vlismas-Smith has announced the release of her new video "Learn Belly Dancing with Elenie" - an Araby Dance Production.

The 3-hour instructional video tape is suitable for Beginners through to Intermediate students. At the modest price of \$45 this has to be a must have for your collection.

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, Lesley Jolly 3899 2794.

