



Behind the Veil

Behind the Veil

Volume 6, November, 1999

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JEANELLE'S STORY - AN AMAZING JOURNEY

-Jeanelle Sutton-Yeomans

An amazing journey has taken place in our house over the past nine months. My husband, Tony and I have come to appreciate what it means to be a "Multiply challenged family". Not only did we have the adjustment to make to one newborn - we had two, twins, two beautiful healthy girls.

I started Bellydancing in 1996 with the "Araby Belly Dance Academy" on the Gold Coast. Initially I began dancing in an effort to combat endometriosis. While a laparoscopy and medical treatment had halted it for 12 months it was recurring with a vengeance. Acupuncture and bellydancing seemed like a safer and more pleasant alternative to another laparoscopy and steroid based medication.

I found bellydancing to be a wonderful way of expressing myself, while allowing me to release

stress and tension. I fell in love with the costuming, becoming a self-confessed addict!! But, most importantly my abdominal region was receiving the much needed added blood flow and oxygenation it needed to combat this disease.

I entered the 1996 Oasis Dreams bellydance competition and to my amazement, I won the beginner section. The next year I entered the intermediate and received 2nd place. The following year, 1998, I entered in the intermediate category and again took out equal 1st - little did I know I had two small passengers on board.

I continued to dance throughout my pregnancy, attending 2 classes a week and rehearsing with Elenie's "Jewels of Araby" for the Araby Bellydance Academy's annual spectacular.

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Yousry Sharif - New York (USA) based dancer and choreographer - making a return visit for Brisbane's Winter-Warm-up 2000



Harem Gossip

Elenie Vlismas-Smith jetted out of Brisbane to workshop November 6/7/8 with Glenda and Jude in Christchurch - more frequent flyer points! Hi Kiwis!

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Sydney's Amara is going to be very busy acting as relief class teacher in Germany for Beata and Horatio Cifuentes who are themselves jetting off to USA to conduct workshops, later hosting a tour of dancers to Egypt and no doubt will be fitting in some shopping in Cairo and all those exotic places most of us only dream about, for her bellydance shop - Amara's Palace Sydney.

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* * Our thanks to Jeanelle Sutton-Yeomans for sharing her lovely story and photos with us. Congratulations and best wishes to the Sutton-Yeamons multiply-challenged family! * *

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Jeanelle Sutton-Yeomans Araby concert (Sept 98) -25 weeks pregnant



Jeanelle and the Araby girls. Just who is feeling left out?

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Amazingly, I found that even when heavily pregnant I was quite light on my feet, well, I felt "light". I don't think I looked "light".

Bellydancing while pregnant is such a beautiful feeling I felt very comfortable with my body, earthed and centred. When I performed my winning Beladi solo on Stage for the "Flames of Araby" concert I was told that I looked very relaxed, some said it was a better performance than that done in the competition. I really enjoyed dancing that day, and it showed. The compliments I received afterwards were overwhelming.

I was given strict instructions to rest up after the concert (I was six months pregnant). Not happy to be sedentary for too long. I took up yoga and continued practising gentle stretching movements at home.

I grew to an enormous 115cm around the waist (I'm only 150 cm

tall!!). The day of the Burleigh Heads class Christmas party was the day one of my membranes ruptured (I had 2 placentas and 2 amnio sacs). I was so annoyed!! We went to the hospital, nothing happened for 4 days! I should have gone!

Keturah (4lb 13 oz), and Rhiannon (4lb 13.5oz) were born naturally 3rd December 1998, 33 minutes apart. They were very healthy with apgar ratings of nine and eight. After a short stay in hospital we all ventured home. I went back to classes when the girls were 3 months old, I just couldn't keep away.

My favourite memory when pregnant is whenever I played Middle Eastern music, especially drums or zills, the girls would really kick and wiggle. Now they wiggle and dance around the place whenever they hear music. They weren't born zarghareeting, but I don't think it will be long before they learn.

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



PROFILING “AZZIZA” ★

Discovering the many facets of Azziza (Maria Masselos) is akin to Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils - each whisp of fabric revealing just a little more.

Maria has been described in a variety of ways in many publications, and featured in “Women Working in the Arts” (Qld.Dept.of Education, and Employment, Education and Training, Canberra). Maria's portrait illustrates the front cover of a most interesting book project “Women of Substance” by Sue Jackson and Gael Wallace with photographs by Ponch Hawkes.

In the chapter devoted to Maria she had the opportunity to reveal her

“Bellydancing is a passion”....I'm very sensual when I'm on stage a different persona emerges”

thoughts on a whole gamut of subjects including women, their bodies, dieting, relationships, bellydancing and women's power, the Academy, food.....and being Greek.

Her dancing name “Azziza” she says, means ‘dear one, or beloved’ - and “I tell people it means dear one, I'm not cheap.”

A daughter of a Greek-born father, and 2nd generation Australian-born Greek mother, Maria grew up in Townsville listening to Greek music (“Bellydancing - tsiftetelli is part of my culture”). Though immersed in the Greek culture, Maria admits her Greek



“Azziza “- Maria Masselos

language is not 100percent, but feels it's important to try to maintain her cultural links.

Weekdays you'll find Maria in front of a classroom of High School students. (Does she get their attention with zarghareets we wonder?)

Maria obtained a Diploma of Teaching (Secondary Commerce) and a Bachelor of Education from Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education, Brisbane, and a Graduate Diploma in Second Language Teaching from Mt Gravatt College of Advanced Education.

After hours Maria can be found teaching bellydance students, often toting large amounts of must-have bellydance gear (Azziza's Bellydance Supplies), or being MC for a function, or wearing another of her “veils” - in her affiliations with Business Educators in Queensland, AUSDANCE, or Queensland Folkloric Dance Association of which she was foundation President.

Ten years ago, Maria was co-founder with Susan Buntine of the Academy of

Middle Eastern Dance. Since then she has organized a myriad events including competitions, student nights, concerts, video afternoons, lectures, workshops and Annual Extravaganzas, in addition to her own dance classes. Maria is also a member of the Academy's main performance troupe the Oasis Dancers. She has travelled interstate and overseas both to attend workshops and to conduct workshops and boasts that she has attended every annual Sydney Festival.

Maria dances every day, though rarely performs in the restaurant trade.

“Bellydancing is a passion. When I'm dancing I'm very sensual - people have said that when I'm on stage a different persona emerges”.

Maria's philosophy is that “You come to bellydancing to have fun and enjoy yourself - it's about empowerment, being happy with yourself, and building self esteem”.

Each year Maria risks a great deal financially to stage the now famous Brisbane Winter Warm-up, importing master teachers from overseas. Several bank managers have collapsed under the strain!

Maria is fortunate her parents Harry and Helen Masselos are supportive of her ventures as their house gets buried in the treasures of Azziza's Bellydance Supplies and mounds of costumes.

In the new Millenium Maria has again invited Yousry Sharif from New York for Winter Warm-up 2000.

Behind the Veil

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

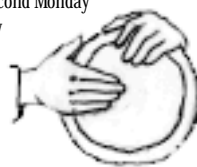
Editorial content The Teachers of the Academy of Middle Eastern Dance
Page Layout and Design Judith Hall

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.

Drum Class with Abdel El-Imam

Class held Jagera Centre, Musgrave Park, off Cordelia Street Sth. Brisbane every second Monday 5pm to 6pm. Please arrive by 4.45pm to enable a prompt start. Enquiries Susan Buntine 3391-5873 or Abdul 3256-6574 or Mobile 0413 500 640



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 Masselos)

Monday

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)

Jagera Arts Centre, Cordelia Street, South Brisbane.

*New! Children's class commencing October 4 (Phone Susan first please)

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

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

12.15 - 1.30pm (Beginners)

Windsor School of Arts, Lutwyche Rd, Windsor

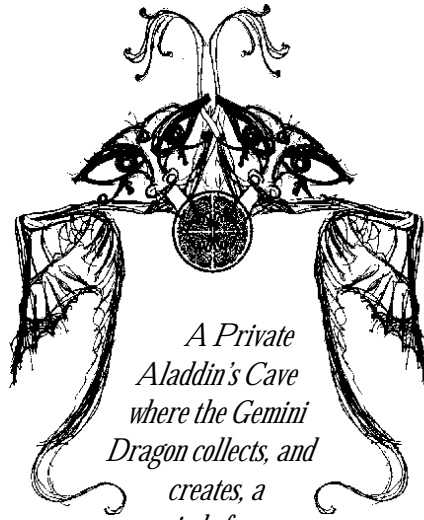
Upcoming events - put this in your Diary - last events of 1999!

Nov 28 - (Sunday) AMED Xmas Party Banquet at "Caravanserai" 12noon-4pm. Bookings via your teacher

Dec 5 - Buy/Swap/Sell -Windsor School of Arts. Ph Maria Masselos 33594680

.....AND INTO THE NEW MILLENIUM

Welcome to the Delights of Rosalind's Retreat



A Private Aladdin's Cave where the Gemini Dragon collects, and creates, a myriad of treasures from world beyond, inviting adventurous spirits to ride moonbeams, become a waft of fragrance, a sigh - a sparkle or a dash of colour far from the realities of daily life, yet equally important to the balance of our being. Be my guest and enjoy the magic in your soul.

A bellydancer's dream - Egyptian costumes, jewellery, swordsBedouin tent!.....and more. By appointment only please - Phone 0732068846



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

PROPOSED YEAR 2000 CALENDAR EVENTS

29-31 January Raqs Sharqi Workshop (Sarah Hamilton & Helen Way) Ballina, NSW (Ph. Jenny Bates at Toowoomba. 46327189)

5 February "Glendi" - A celebration and party for everyone Windsor School of Arts, Brisbane 7.30pm

13 February Auditions for Oasis Dancers 10am Dance Works. Enquiries to your teacher

27-29 February Ragia Hassan Workshop "The Edge", Sydney (contact Amera's Palace, Sydney)

Early March Workshop with Pavi, Gold Coast (Contact Elenie 0755-395229)

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

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)

28 June -14 July Trip to Egypt and Lebanon - with Amera Contact Amera, Amera'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 September Araby Belly Dance Spectacular Gold Coast (Contact Elenie 0755395229)

8 October (tentative) AMED Workshop with Terezka. QUT, Kelvin Grove

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.
Gold Coast enquiries Araby Belly Dance Academy : Elenie Vismas-Smith 07 55395229 or Rosannah Fairweather 07 55744198.

