



Behind the Veil

Behind the Veil

Volume 7, February 2000

In This Issue

- ❁ *Looking forward to 2000 - April Workshop and Evening Performance*
- ❁ *Veena & Neena - and Stephanie Bond in 'Frisco*
- ❁ *Vanessa shares her "Oasis Dreams" experiences*
- ❁ *Diary of AMED activities for 2000*
- ❁ *How to find a class*



A happy group 'doing coffee' at the Three Monkeys, West End - a chance to catch up with Tracey Hender (www.thecamelsarmpit.com.au), on a flying visit from WA.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL - LOOKING FORWARD TO 2000

Happy New Year to all, and welcome to all the newcomers who have just joined the Academy in 2000.

We are starting off this year with a Weekend Workshop April 1 & 2 - consisting of 6 sessions with a variety of subjects - positively something to suit everyone.

Brochures with a booking form should be available from all Academy teachers, otherwise by phoning Susan Buntine at 33915873 (or one of the Academy teachers listed on the back page) one will be mailed to you.

Alternatively Jude Hall will put the brochure in cyberspace on Sharon Daley's internet Website where you can view it and download and print it at your convenience. (<http://msnhomepages.talkcity.com/StageSt/shahara/index.html>).

Susan Buntine has chosen to do a comprehensive zills workshop - just so we can all stop apologising for our zills playing, and Sharon Daley has chosen to feature swords in her session. (Zills avail. for purchase from Azziza's Bellydance Supplies (see ad. Page 2)

Swords make an interesting theatrical addition to Middle Eastern Dance and have become easier to acquire in recent times. Some swords will be available for loan, but numbers limited. A hunt of antique shops and markets might produce a gem at a reasonable price. If you are interested in purchasing a sword Amera (www.ameraspalace.com.au) has a new consignment due in, and beautiful handmade



Princess Shahara (Sharon Daley), Academy Teacher and one of the Academy Oasis Dancers, performing for an appreciative crowd at the Brisbane City Hall Square Middle Eastern concert.

Cont. Page 4



Harem Gossip

Are you interested in attending the 11th Sydney Festival this year - "2000 Rhythms" - contact Leonie Sukan on 02-9519-3764 or 0411 543 764 for a brochure on the workshops, Gypsy Bazaar and Dance Parties! Hint: get in early for cheaper airfares and deals, and room sharing with a friend/s cuts costs and can be fun!

■

Part of Xmas celebrations in Brisbane City Hall Square included a Middle Eastern concert. On stage was Adel Amin's new Middle Eastern Band, along with Sabina and Helen Bundock. Academy dancers Sharon Daley (Princess Shahara), Lorelle Hawes, and Eva Kovacs performed a dazzling 25 minute show to the great delight of the enthusiastic crowd.

■

Sharon Daley (Princess Shahara), Maria Masselos (Azziza), and Elenie Vlismis-Smith are running up the frequent flyer points again - to attend the upcoming Ragia Hassan Workshop in Sydney Feb 27-29.



Oasis Dancer, Eva Kovacs

Neena or Veena -- you chose!



Pictured above Stephanie Bond (Intermediate student with Susan Buntine) in San Francisco posing with identical twin bellydancers Veena and Neena - you chose!

Stephanie caught up with the famous twins in San Francisco whilst visiting a computer Expo.

Veena and Neena, bill themselves as "America's Sexiest Twins" and "Identical Twin Boa-Constrictor Belly Dancers" have been seen in Hollywood Films and at the Academy awards, and on several music videos including Michael Jackson, Tom Petty, Depeche Mode, and the Rolling Stones. The twins have performed on numerous occasions for famous artists and celebrities, royal families and dignitaries.

Veena is a recipient of many performing arts scholarships and awards, a graduate of Master of Fine Arts Degree acting program at UCLA, and holds a Bachelors Degree in theatre and classical singing, and is also a choreographer. Neena also is a recipient of many scholarships and awards and fellowship programs in Broadcasting/Journalism/Business, and studied Indian classical singing, and works as a psychic consultant for international companies. A most interesting combination.

Stephanie had a great time but somehow missed visiting the shop we dream about Cost Less Imports, San Francisco. Just so she knows what she missed visit <http://www.costlesscostumes.com>just to dream a little.

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



1999 Oasis Dreams winner Vanessa shares her "Oasis Dreams" experience

Having immediately taken to Middle Eastern dance and music, I had not yet developed an appreciation of different genres when I decided to go in the 1999 Oasis Dreams competition. So, after weeks of trying to put any old move with my selected music, Lesley kindly pointed out that I had chosen a Nubian piece and that required a whole different selection of moves.

Luckily, I still had a couple of weeks to spare and learnt everything I know about Nubian dancing in two lessons (thanks Sharon!!). I was unsure about the addition of a pot to my routine, but it added another dimension to the dance and turned out not so difficult.

From participating in the competition, I found that I learnt a lot more than I bargained for, mostly from mistakes!

I have compiled a list of my advice to beginners who are considering entering the competition. If some of it seems a bit obvious - I had only been dancing for 8 months when the competition was held and have never danced or performed before in my life.

Before

Selecting Music - do this months before the competition. Choose something you really, really love and won't get sick of after playing it a million times (Sharon's tip). Check that the music is suitable with your teacher.

Choreographing- start ASAP- use all of the floor space - remember to KISS (keep it simple stupid). Smaller is better and makes bigger moves look really big. Big moves tire you out and make you look like your trying too hard..

You can be stationary or travelling, or change timing or height to get more variety out of fewer moves (Rosannah's advice)

Practice

- as much as possible, so that it becomes 2nd nature - it looks soooo

much better if you feel it, not just remember it! In front of other people, especially groups, its a whole new ball game.

Practise several times before the day, not on the day.

In your head

It helps in remembering if you mentally step through the dance. Be careful though, you can still get injuries depending on what else you're doing at the time.

Costume

Don't use organza for harem pants: check any costume ideas with your teacher BEFORE starting on them as they can tell you what styles and fabrics are appropriate - try to have the same colours throughout entire costume

Always have a full dress rehearsal before the day so that you are safe in the knowledge that its not going to fall apart or trip you up. Don't forget about jewellery!

Make-Up

Wear red lipstick under lights NOT pink. "If you're not sure if you've got enough make-up on, you haven't" - Sharon

On the Day

Don't eat rich food (e.g. lasagne) before performing, as it makes you very sick if you're nervous.

Make a list of things to take and include: all costume items, jewellery, make-up, props, safety pins, bobby pins, hairclips, elastic bands...

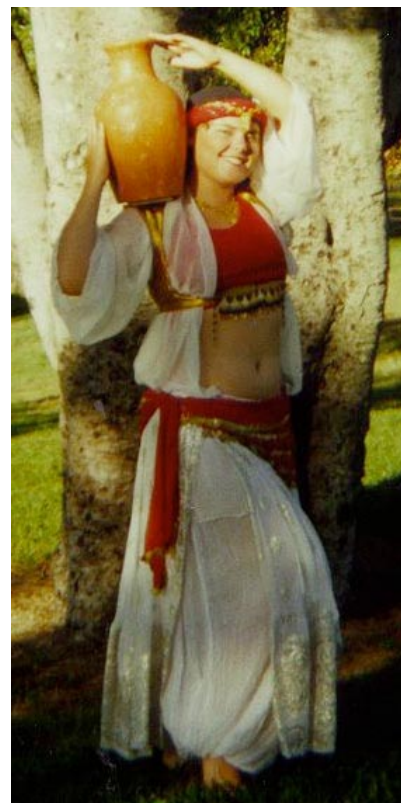
Arrive at the venue early to avoid panic - take a cheer squad.

After

Congratulations! Now you can relax and enjoy other performances.

Finally, practise once a week or you will forget it!

-- Vanessa Giles



A winner's smile from Vanessa Giles, Winner Beginners Solo 1999 Oasis Dreams

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

Cont. from Page 1

swords suitable for the professional performer are available through Zenobia Ptah Aust. based at Caloundra. Call 07-54946702 for price list.

Lorelle Hawes is challenging us to "Dance like a Lady" - bring high heels if you dare! Also the intricacies of dancing on one spot or limited spaces.

Lesley Jolly's session is about the complexities of dancing as a duo - or with a partner. Duo dances can look quite stunning and visually engrossing - perhaps you've never thought about pairing up to dance a special choreography - this is a chance to try it out.

Rosannah Fairweather wants us to experience just how exciting your drum solos can be, followed by a soulful journey into floorwork with a twist - balancing tealight candles...bring a floor mat, knee pads and 2 tealights!

Maria Masselos is calling her session "Layer upon Layer" - want to dazzle friends and audiences with some neat new layering moves, here is your chance.

Be sure to book early for your favourite sessions - this was a most popular event in '99.



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 Luff

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 February "Glendi" - A celebration and party for everyone Windsor School of Arts, Brisbane 7.30pm. (also "Glendi" May 13) Contact Maria Masselos 33594680

5 March Auditions for Oasis Dancers 10am Dance Works. Enquiries to your teacher

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

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

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)

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 Vismas-Smith 07 55395229 or Rosannah Fairweather 07 55744198.

