



# Behind the Veil

Behind the Veil

Volume 9, April/May 2000

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*Hard at work the judges of the Oasis Dreams competition - (L to R) Araby Bellydance Academy teacher Rosannah Fairweather, and AMED teachers Lorelle Hawes and Dr Lesley Jolly.*



*Princess Ayesha (Jana) fell in love with this Madam Abla's Design whilst modelling from the collection brought to Brisbane by Ali of Adelaide. Jana was joint winner with Jeanelle Sutton -Yeomans of the intermediate section of Oasis Dreams competition. (Photo Lorelle Hawes)*

## TALES FROM THE OASIS

There were some wonderful performances this year in the Annual Oasis Dreams competition held at the Greek Club, West End, Sunday 14th April - Congratulations to all who took part in the event!

Unfortunately, not everyone can win, and it was so very difficult for the three judges Rosannah Fairweather, Lorelle Hawes and Dr Lesley Jolly in the Intermediate level that they declared joint winners.

Jessie Turner (teacher Sharon Daley) won the Beginners section, and the Intermediate Level joint winners were Jana Cox (teacher Sharon Daley), and Gold Coast Araby Belly Dance Academy dancer Jeanelle Sutton-Yeomans.

(You may remember Jeanelle appeared in an earlier edition of "Behind the Veil" with her story celebrating the birth of her twin daughters).

Third place in the Intermediate section went to Vanessa Giles (Sharon Daley teacher) who has gained an appointment as a probationary dancer with the AMED's main dance troupe the Oasis Dancers. (see story Page 3).

Stallholders were kept busy throughout the event. Stall holders included Ali from Adelaide s, Maria Masselos (Azziza's Bellydance Supplies), Jeff Fields and his display of handmade swords and scabbards (Zenobia Ptah), Elizabeth di Tomassa, and Ros Fischer (Rosalind's Retreat).

Ali was tempting many with his wonderful collection of new Madam Abla creations recently brought from Egypt, and he generously allowed some bejewelled new fashions to be paraded during the afternoon.

Now we can all start on next year's choreographies! Best of luck.



## Harem Gossip

Congratulations to Anna Albert and husband Andrew on the birth of their long awaited baby son. All doing well.

Dance mates from Sue Buntine's Intermediate class threw a shower just in time.

■

Academy teachers visited Sydney for Egyptian dancer Raggia Hassan's workshop. (Lorelle Hawes, Sharon Daley Maria Masselos and Araby Bellydance Academy principal Elenie Vlismis Smith) - and we're eagerly awaiting some reportage on that event. By all accounts a wonderful experience. Totally 28 girls travelled from New Zealand and other parts of Australia, along with 68 Sydney resident dancers to take part in the event

■

Congratulations to organizer Leonie Sukan on yet another fantastic Sydney Festival. Leonie was looking a little the worse for wear by the Sunday afternoon when she was reminded she still had the "Recovery Party" to go that night!

Queensland was well represented throughout the workshops. Tables at the dinner/dance were named for the various Arabic rhythmns, and Maria Masselos' table at the dinner/dance wowed the crowd when Leonie called for Zar.

■

Suraya Hilal will be back in Australia for workshops in October 2000. Her schedule will include Melbourne workshops 30th Sept-1st Oct, also 3rd to 7th October, when she flies on to Sydney for a 5-day workshop 10th -14th October. Contact is Juliet Le Page Ph 03-9596-4271 or email [djlp@bigpond.com](mailto:djlp@bigpond.com)

A new website is underway at <http://ourworld.CompuServe.Com/homepages/HilalArt>

## Catch up with news on new AMED web page!

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

Well, we finally made it up into cyberspace, and created a presence on the Web for the Brisbane Academy of Middle Eastern Dance.

The world of Middle Eastern dance is an ever growing community on the internet to the point that there are now several "web rings" devoted to our dance form.

After having made several versions of a web site on my hard drive - mainly because I kept changing my mind - I remembered another dancer saying to me whilst we were waiting to attend a Bobby Farrah workshop that "You can go on and on making websites on your hard drive - but the best thing to do is to put it out there and work on it". Pondering on it - I think that was very sound advice.

Where else can you let your head go in full colour in the publishing area for minimal cost, and keep making changes without running up a monster production bill.

A website in truth is a constantly evolving project with things being added and subtracted as needed, and is a very useful tool for communication for both local, interstate, and overseas dancers to ascertain what the ME dance community is doing in this part of the world.

Anyone who has "surfed the net" will have discovered Australian sites linked to other sites from Finland, to Alaska and many places inbetween where you might never have thought there would be an interest in ME dance.

Azziza's Bellydance Supplies has it's own area on the site at present as does Araby Belly Dance Academy, Gold Coast, and can be contacted by email link - Elenie was delighted she had enquiries for her new Video in the week the site went up. The video is a quality production and is extremely good value - email Elenie or Maria for price and postage costs.

Both Elenie and Maria have indicated interest in putting up their own home pages in the future - and we'll then be able to link to them.

The AMED site is also linked to Princess Shahara's site where we park the Academy newsletter "Behind the Veil" - this enables you to download for free or just visit to view it in colour, and look at back editions. We will also put up workshop information and leaflets on either area.

On our AMED "links" page we are building up a list of Australian sites (let's surf home first why not!) and then some interesting overseas addresses. Amera's Palace site has a gigantic links area divided up into countries - wouldn't like to compete with that! Aziza's Sydney site has had a totally gorgeous revamp with spectacular graphics.

*Cont. Page 3*

### 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



## WINTER WARM-UP ACTIVITIES & A FREE DAY

Teachers now have available brochures on this year's Winter Warm-up schedule, and it's also on line on the AMED website or available direct from organizer Maria Masselos (07-33594680).

\* If you haven't experienced Winter Warm-up before here's your chance - a totally FREE DAY (open to the general public) - Saturday 1st July - not even the dreaded GST!

There are several non-workshop activities you might find interesting.

Saturday 24 June 2000 5.00 - 7.00

pm Bazaar at 'O' Block Dance Studio, QUT - Kelvin Grove Campus - Shopping opportunities - Cost Free

Sunday 25 June 2000 7.00 - 10.30

From Page 3

Zaida's lovely site up at Mackay is interested in looking at the more senior ME dancers - well worth your internet time.

Visit the Virtual Temple site crafted by a wonderful artist - and look for the "history" ring and there goes hours of internet time if you get absorbed.

Shira's site is mega - umpteen visits won't get you round this mine of information - a lot of continuous work goes into this site.

I hope you enjoy the AMED site which has been a steep learning curve for the webmistress but a very interesting project to work on. Long live the internet! .....such a wonderful source of Middle Eastern dance information.

- Web Mistress Judith Hall.



All that glitters - a chance to flash the plastic at Oasis Dreams stalls.

pm Greek Club Concert Performances by workshop participants and Yousry Sharif. Cost \$15 (Food and Drink may be purchased at the club)

Monday 26 June 2000 5.00 - 6.00 pm Lecture on Om Kalthoum given by Yousry Sharif. Videos shown from Yousry's private collection Cost \$10

Tuesday 27 June 6.30 - 9.30 pm Pseudo Nile River Cruise with performances by workshop participants Cost \$40 (Dinner included, drinks alcoholic and non alcoholic extra).

For those attending the Warm-up event from country and interstate contact Maria regarding modest priced accommodation on the QUT Campus.



Is this cute or what! Congratulations to Hafla organizer Oriel McPherson on the birth of her beautiful baby girl Aisha - who made her debut at her first bellydance class at 4 days old. Aisha's dress by Mum.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO VANESSA!

Our congratulations go to Princess Shahara's student Vanessa Giles a member of the "Shahara Shimmers" group who has been appointed as a "probationary" Oasis Dancers troupe member. Vanessa was also a winner at last year's Oasis Dreams competition in the intermediate section.

Auditions were conducted recently for applicants aspiring to join the Academy's main performance troupe the Oasis Dancers, auditions generally being held once a year.

In the last edition of the Veil the general outlines of the qualities the teachers would be looking for in applicants were outlined.

In the 12-month probationary period a dancer has a breathing space to become accustomed to the troupe's methods and ethics, to learn the routines being currently performed, to build up confidence at suitable performance occasions, and to assemble the troupe costumes required.

The teachers thank all applicants for their performances, and hope to see more dancers try out next year.

## Apologies from the Editor/Layout person

Technology is wonderful but it has its moments. After a DOUBLE hard drive crash, and totally rebuilding twice, Jude's Little Mac is up and running again. In my experience this is a rare occurrence for a Macintosh. For a while I thought I was in competition with Maria Masselos' PC disaster tale. You'll notice we have made this the April /May edition. Apologies to all - sorry but afraid no options - Jude Hall

## 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

6.00 - 7.15pm (Beginners)

7.30 - 8.45pm (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

## AUSTRALIAN ARABIC COUNCIL 2000 MEDIA AWARDS

The following information appeared in the current edition of "the Alliance" - a journal for freelance journalists, artists and photographers.

The Australian Arabic Council's 2000 Media Award recognises excellence in the Australian print media that promotes greater understanding of the diverse Australian Arabic community and culture, and challenges stereotypes. The winner will receive a return trip to the Middle East. Entries must have been published in Australia between 30/6/99 and 30/6/2000. Closing date 31/9/2000. For further information the contact person is Taimor Hazou on (03) 9480 2411.

## APRIL AMED WEEKEND WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

The weekend workshops conducted by AMED April 1 & 2 were very well attended by dancers both from metropolitan and country areas.

The variety of subjects offered this year were obviously of great appeal, and the attendance figures were a great compliment to the local teachers who all had full bookings.

Amongst the more unusual subjects, Princess Shahara's sword class was attended by 34 dancers - showing the increasing popularity and availability of swords in this State.

And Rosannah Fairweather of sister Academy - Araby Belly Dance Academy - demonstrated a reverence for fire in dancing with candles along with some new drum solo choreography ideas.

The teachers would like to thank everyone for their support and hope you all enjoyed it as much as they did.

## YEAR 2000 CALENDAR EVENTS

13 May "Glendi" - A celebration and party for everyone. No stalls just a night of get up and bellydance! Windsor School of Arts, Brisbane 7.30pm. Contact Maria Masselos 33594680

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 Sept Araby Belly Dance Spectacular Gold Coast (Elenie 0755395229)

8 October - Terezka Workshop - details to be finalized - contact Susan Buntine 33915873

December 3, Buy, Swap, Sell and Video Afternoon, at Windsor School of Arts - Contact person Maria Masselos.

## New Beginners Class

AMED teacher Lorelle Hawes is launching an 8-week beginners belly dance course in Middle Park (Centenary suburbs) on Monday nights starting 8th May.

Class time is 6.30 - 7.45 pm

Venue: St Catherine's Anglican Church Hall, 43 McFarlane St, Middle Park.

\* Please note Lorelle has a new phone number for enquiries regarding this class -

\* (07) 3369 7477 \*

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 3369 7477.

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

