

Habibi Dancers Present

RAKS REMIX

Featuring Kamrah



April 24, 2022

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Habibi Dancers performing a
Saudi Khaliji Dance, 1987



Habibi Dancers, Lansing's premiere Middle Eastern Dance Troupe, are a frequently requested performance troupe at many ethnic and outdoor festivals throughout Michigan and the Midwest. In addition to an annual workshop and concert, Habibi Dancers produce various smaller productions throughout the year. This troupe is a nonprofit organization formed in 1983 by former members of the Lansing Community College Middle Eastern Dance Troupe. The dancers and board members proudly carry on the tradition of presenting authentic repertoire of styles and music, ranging from ethnic to cabaret.

For more information visit: www.habibidancers.org

At the request of this evening's performers,

No flash photography or videorecording.

Thank you for your consideration.



RAKS REMIX

April 24, 2022

Hannah Community Center, East Lansing, MI

Habibi Dancers

Starring

Kamrah

With Special Guests:

Karma Bellydance

Liz Wray

Na'imah

7 Moons Belly Dance

Ursula

Zumurrud Middle Eastern Dance Company

Rak Stars

The Secret Tassels





Thank you,
Habibi Dancers
and community supporters,
from your
Board of Directors
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~Members~

- Jay Crossley
- George Kepler
- Shane Lantrip
- Michael McDowell
- Sue Silvernail
- Kay Surato



Act I

F'il Waha

"At the Oasis."

Choreographer Yasmina Amal

Music: F'il Waha Artist: Helm

Habibi Dancers: Rahil, Amber, Amirah, Azmara Amunet, Janan, Nyla, Samira, Zarina

Beledy Mahboob

Please enjoy this bouncy, joyous performance of Balady Mahboob.

Choreography by Lauren Koch

Music: Balady Mahboob by Aswan Music and Dance Ensemble

Zumurrud Middle Eastern Dance Company

A Little Wicked

Join us for something A Little Wicked.

Adapted from choreography by Belladonna Boheme

Music: A Little Wicked by Music by Valerie Brussard

Nan Beyers of Karma Bellydance

The Sensual Chifti

A veil and the soulful Chiftetelli rhythm.

Music: The Sensual Chifti by Eddie "The Sheik" Kochak

7 Moons Belly Dance

Ainek

Ainek means "the eyes".

Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Ainek by Mohammad Fouad

Habibi Dancers: Sara, Jessica, Amber, Yasmina Amal

Habibi Min Zaman

A fun upbeat dance performed by Yasmina's Students.

Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Habibi Min Zaman by Balken Beat Box

The Secret Tassels: Makena, Leighanna, Adriana, Zagora, Jane, Isobel & Nyla

Call Me Classic

Composed for the legend, Om Kalthoum.

Music: Ya Msafer Wahdak by Mohamed Abdel Wahab

Kristen from Karma Bellydance

All of you

Ursula is the troupe of Liz Wray and Lisa Warner of Indianapolis, Indiana.

Music: All of you by Greg J Walker

Ursula

Crazy In Love (With Arab Music)

Na'imah is recovering from a series of health problems and has recently begun teaching again from her Kalamazoo home base; she's happy to be here, grateful to the Habibis, and enjoying this second dance life.

Music: Crazy In Love by Beyonce & El Ayn Moulateyn / traditional song
Na'imah

Down

The Habibi's are thrilled to finally be getting back to the dance floor and the stage and our question for everyone... Are you Down?

Choreography: Jessica Trotter

Music: Juice by Lizzo and Down by Marian Hill

Habibi Dancers: Sahbeeha, Amirah, Sara, Rahil, Cara & Friends

Act 2

Hagallah Drums

Habibi dancers accentuate the diverse rhythms of the drum solo.

Choreography by Cassandra

Music: Hagallah Drums by Khamis Henkish

Habibi Dancers: Amirah, Sahbeeha, Rahil, Nyla, Najida, Janan, Jessica, Azmara
Amunet, Vera

Raks Shaqi

Interpretive solo.

Music: Ice Queen by Dinletir

Yasmina Amal

Fun Baby!

Sword Dance by the apprentice Habibi troupe.

Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Fun Baby, Does Not Exist by Natacha Atlas

Rak Stars

Hebbina, Hebbina

Hebbina, Hebbina, Love from afar.

Music Hebbina, Hebbina by Vagabond Opera

Zumurrud Middle Eastern Dance Company

Ring of Fire

"I fell into a Burning ring of fire" - Johnny Cash

Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Ring of fire by Adam Lambert

Habibi Dancers: Sahbeeha, Najma, Najida, Amber

Revival

Liz Wray, from Indianapolis, Indiana has been dancing since 2003. She loves to perform but her heart is in teaching this fine art from to anyone who wants to learn. She loves to have fun, travel, and spend time with her family.

www.limelightliz.com

Music: Revival by Beats Antique

Liz Wray

Zesty Zeina

A zesty take on our classic dance Zeina.

Music Zeina by Tres Mundos

Karma Bellydance

Through the Veil

A modern interpretation of a Moroccan rhythms and Persian Melodic Harmonies.

Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Through the veil by Jamshid Sharifi & Hassan Hakmoun

Habibi Dancers: Khalilah, Nyla, Zarina & Sara

Sympathique

Sympathique is the French word for "nice". In this "pandemic" dance, the ennui of I don't want to work, I don't want to do lunch: I only want to forget and "on I smoke" is perfectly captured by the music of Pink Martini and the parasol-popping Habibis.

Choreography by Khalilah

Music Sympathique by Pink Martini

Habibi Dancers: Najida, Najma, Rahil, Yasmina Amal

Massive

Kamrah - teacher and performer from Chicago, Illinois, online classes at

KamrahOnline.com.

Music: Massive by Audiomachine

Kamrah

On-Stage Visuals

Master of Ceremonies..... George Kepler
Director..... Garnett Kepler
Lighting Design..... Lucas LaLonde
Stage Hands.....S. King, D. Dewey, S. Lantrip
Curtain..... C. Heintzelmann
Concert Managers..... G. Kepler
Costumer..... M. Peterson, A. King, M. Rogers,
M. Kozlowski
Workshop Director.....M. Rogers, A. King
Program..... J. Trotter
Tickets, Poster/Postcard Design..... M. Peterson, G. Kepler
Business Manager..... S. Silvernail
Public Relations/Marketing..... R. Lantrip
Ushers..... L. Dewey, N. Nelson, B. Nelson, J. Austgen,
T. Nelson, B. Sullivan, R. Hurbets, A. Hurbets
Photography..... J. Trotter

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Habibi Dancers



Group Photo by Maggie Pennell, Pennell Photography, (2018).

Garnett (Yasmina Amal) is a classically trained dancer whose repertoire ranges from ballet and modern to jazz and beyond. She is the artistic director of Michigan's "premier oriental dance troupe," The Habibi Dancers. Garnett teaches a variety of dance classes through the City of Lansing Parks and Recreation program at Foster Community Center and at In Step Dance Studio, in Pottersville.

Anne (Nyla) began dancing as one of Garnett's students in 1996. She keeps busy as a mom, medical data reviewer, and dances as a way to get out of the house and enjoy life.

Sally (Sara) took a bellydance class because "all her friends were doing it" and couldn't stop. She works full time as a professional mommy and occasionally amuses herself by collecting an employee discount at Joann Fabric. She lives with her husband and daughters.

Melissa (Amirah) has a dance background in ballet, modern and jazz but was very intrigued about bellydance when approached by artistic director Garnett

(Yasmina Amal) during another show we were performing in, The Mudgett Follies. As much as she kept saying she wasn't ready to audition for the troupe, Garnett wouldn't take no for an answer. That was in 2001 and the time has flown by ever since. It has been and continues to be an amazing journey with some incredible people. She has met her best friends in the troupe and can't imagine life now without any of them or the dance.

Marie (Najma) has been a troupe member since 2004. She holds a B.S. of Psychology from MSU and works for the State of Michigan. She cherishes the sisterhood she has with her fellow Habibi's as evidenced in her stage name. The name Najma means star, in a group of stars. Which is how she feels when performing with the troupe, surrounded by the other stars.

Lauren (Zarina) began studying dance at the age of 3, starting with ballet, tap, and jazz. She took her first belly dance class with Yasmina Amal in 2000 and has been completely hooked ever since. From 2006-2012 Zarina was living in Alpena, teaching belly dance classes and performing, and she is so happy to be back with her Habibis! Zarina writes, sews, knits, draws, and paints at the small farm she shares with her husband Troy and their many pets in Haslett.

Molly (Najida) In all the changes of life the last 16 years, dancing with her sisters has always been a constant. She looks forward to many more years of shimmying across Michigan.

Janelle (Sabeedah) began dancing with Garnett in 2001 joining the Habibi Dancers in 2006. Whatever makes you happy...do that 💕

Jessica is a trained dancer and bookworm. She tries to live up to Voltaire's quote, "Let us read and let us dance—these two amusements will never do any harm to the world."

Kelley (Khalilah) Lives in a deep dark forest in a big, tall tree where she chases away monsters with the sound of her zills and her zills are alive with the sound of mizmars.

Rachael (Rahil) has been with the Habibi dancers since 2011 and prior to that has studied an array of dance styles. She loves time in nature, good books and strong coffee.

Melissa (Azmara Amunet) began bellydancing in 2009 and joined the troupe in 2012. Melissa works as a case manager with adults with mental illness and has taught beginner level bellydance classes in the Owosso area off and on throughout the years. She is a mother of three and a grandmother. Melissa is passionate about traveling, kayaking, exploring the outdoors, art & oddities, costuming, upcycling, music and living life eccentrically!

Carrie (Cara) joined the Habibi dancers in 2015, and loves the sisterhood of this wonderful group of women. Outside of dance, Carrie enjoys gardening, reading, quilting, staying active and constantly learning new things and living life as a crazy cat lady.

Melanie (Amber) took her first belly dance class in 2011 and became hooked. She is looking forward to many more years of dancing, laughing and learning.

Shannon (Janan) IN THE BEGINNING... Janan first discovered happiness in dance by following her mom into the world of classical ballet. Years later she found herself following her mom yet again, this time into the extraordinary world of belly dance. In addition to having the most fabulous of times dancing with fellow cohorts in the Habibi, she is also enjoying dancing with a 'troupe' of family members (three generations!).

Vera (Samira) Samira has been enchanted by the beautiful art form of Middle Eastern belly dance since 2015, when she first started dancing in Grand Rapids. Samira joined the Habibi Dancers of Lansing in January 2022 and is excited to dance with this outrageously gorgeous, creative, and supportive group of fairies, enchantresses, sirens, and mermaids. Belly dance is the ultimate poetry for Samira and she can't wait to share all the beauty of Middle Eastern music and movement with you!

Arlyn (Mahtaab), we love you and we're hoping for a speedy recovery!

Our Guest Star:



Kamrah

Kamrah is Chicago's first trans masculine belly dancer. He has been dancing since 2001 and has traveled all over the country to teach and perform in multiple styles of belly dance. Kamrah is known for his killer isolations, creativity, and theatrical pieces, and for being a soloist in Chicago's premiere geeky belly dance and fire troupe, Raks Geek. He has produced his own DVD, Killer Isolations, and is dedicated to the safe and effective practice of belly dance. He passes on his knowledge as a scientist, a martial artist, and massage therapist on to his students.

There's still time to take a class with Kamrah!

Our annual spring show is always accompanied by a full weekend of fabulous workshops from accomplished professional performers and instructors.

Our weekend concludes with one more workshop. Kamrah will present: Beyond Basic Sword: Take your sword work to the next level by learning how to dance with your sword... and with an attitude! Balancing is NOT the focus of this workshop. We will be working on other techniques to make your sword performances interesting, dynamic, and bold! Two short combos are offered to integrate concepts and for further practice of these amazing techniques.

The class runs from 1-4 pm here at the Hannah Center on Sunday. Space is still available. Registration will open at 12:30 for \$89.

Our Special Guests:

Karma Bellydance

Karma Bellydance is an Ann Arbor based belly dance troupe that was founded in 2012. With an emphasis on fusion-style dance, Karma creates unique performances with traditional Middle Eastern music and modern favorites from around the world. Karma Bellydance puts dance into the world and it comes back with the beauty of shared experience.

Nan Beyers of Karma Bellydance

Nan's first experience of bellydance was watching a Karma performance on her birthday! She started taking classes that week and was on stage by her next birthday. Nan loves that bellydance is for 'every-body' and that it is the most expressive, inclusive forms of movement she has ever experienced. Also, sparkles - of course!

Kristen of Karma Bellydance

Kristen has been dancing with Karma Bellydance for 6 years. She is currently the creative director for Karma, and has enjoyed growing as a soloist alongside her troupe mates.

Na'imah

Na'imah has been bellydancing since the late 1990s, but had to take a hiatus starting in 2017 for health reasons after a major injury. She's slowly working her way back to dance, and she's not sure how far her body will take her, but she's having fun and getting to spend time doing something she loves: looking at shiny dresses. Oh! Dancing. Dancing is the thing. But she also does love costuming.

7 Moons Belly Dance

Coming from Macomb Michigan, 7 Moons Belly Dance brings you a colorful display of their dance to The Sensual Chifti by Eddie "The Shiek" Kochak.

Ursula

Liz Wray and Lisa Warner of Indianapolis, Indiana have been dancing together for five years. Sometimes they have more people with them, but Liz and Lisa are a tried and true pair. They are heavily influenced by the movies from the 1930s and you can often overhear them trying out 1920s slang while working on the many creative projects they do together. They love making video skits together and are working on some new ideas that will make you go "ha cha cha!"

Zumurrud Middle Eastern Dance Company

"Zumurrud" or "Emerald" in Arabic. The Emerald embodies many things in many cultures, but none so much in the Middle East. Dating back to Babylonian time, the emerald was considered THE gem of healing. To wear an emerald meant you were centered in mind, body, and spirit. Today emeralds are considered "The true Love's Gem". The Emerald's color bringing to mind the fresh spring grass and new growth, to symbolize their love being re-born anew with each year. To us the Emerald embodies inner strength and beauty. The same inner strength and beauty that can be found in us all. The strength and desire to become the best version of yourself that you can be. To learn, to strive, to be. Come, say hello to your dancing self. Zumurrud dance. Dance for health, dance for wellness, dance for life.

Rak Stars:

The Habibi Dancers novice troupe, formed by the classes at Instep Dance Studio in Potterville, MI. Tonight's performers Baraka, Stephanie Edwards, Michelle Hernly, Isobel, Brooke Hall & Naseem.

The Secret Tassels

Yasmina's Intermediate level students formed from classes at Lansing Parks and Rec. at Foster Community Center: Makena, Leighanna, Adriana, Zagora, Jane, Isobel & Nyla

Congratulations
Habibi Dancers!

Patty Farhat
and Family



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