

A woman with long brown hair is smiling and dancing. She is wearing a yellow and blue beaded costume with intricate patterns. She is holding a yellow fabric in her right hand. The background is a blurred indoor setting with blue and white tones.

**HABIBI DANCERS
40TH ANNUAL CONCERT**

PRESENT

MOSAIC

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

**CASSANDRA
FOX**

APRIL 13, 2024



The Habibi Dancers

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. This troupe is a nonprofit organization formed in 1983 by former members of the Lansing Community College Middle Eastern Dance Troupe. For more information visit: habibidancers.org



Mosaic

April 13, 2024

Hannah Community Center
East Lansing, MI

Habibi Dancers

Featuring

Cassandra Fox

With Special Guests:

Dancing On Tarab

Desert Spice

ForJoy

Karma Bellydance

Krystal & Asyia

Magick in Motion

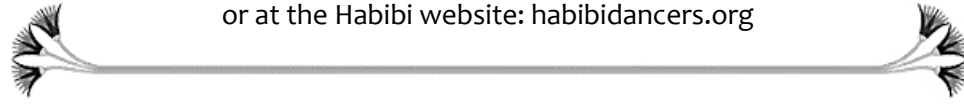
Sabrina Bint al Waha

7 Moons Bellydance

Rak Stars

Banat Habibi

Extended information available through the QR code on the cover
or at the Habibi website: habibidancers.org





Cassandra Fox

A first generation Canadian, her family immigrated to Canada from Jamaica. Her Caribbean heritage has been a large influence and inspiration to her dancing and development, including her Caribbean Fusion which blends elements of belly dance with Caribbean music and dance. Cassandra has become known for both her Caribbean Fusion and her belly dancing thanks to her strong technique, fluid movements, and smooth musicality while maintaining a fun and powerful energy. This has allowed her to build a large online following and granted her many opportunities to teach and perform internationally including France, Italy, Brazil, the Caribbean and the United States.

ForJoy is a Grand Rapids-based dance troupe studying, teaching and performing Middle Eastern dance styles.

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.

7 Moons Belly Dance is a captivating dance troupe known for their mesmerizing performances rooted in the art of belly dance. Led by their artistic director Samira, they bring together traditional and contemporary belly dance styles. They incorporate a wide range of styles and techniques, from traditional folkloric dances to modern interpretations.

Sabrina Bint al Waha has been studying dance and performing since 1983. She has BA in Dance from Western Michigan University where she studied Modern, Jazz, Ballet and Tap as well as Choreography, Pedagogy, Improvisation, Musical Theater, and Kinesiology. Sabrina started teaching movement-based classes in 1996. In 1999 she began seriously studying Middle Eastern and North African dance as well as the music and cultures of the region and it became her absolute passion. Sabrina has had an eclectic dance career teaching at many studios and universities and performing nationally and internationally as a dance soloist and as part of the KB circus company.

Magick in Motion Belly Dancers is an eclectic group of lovely ladies from varying backgrounds, ages, and levels of experience. They come together for fitness, fellowship and fun....finding and sharing self empowerment, passion, and the beauty of dance! Based out of Flint Michigan, this group has been making their magic since 2012 and look forward to a beautiful future of dance, connection, celebration of art.

Desert Spice of Sanura Nar's Navel Academy has been performing since 2008. Our founder, Sanura Nar, transitioned in 2019. Desert Spice continues to choreograph and dance. We do so to honor her memory and teaching, as well as for

enjoyment. Like our late, extraordinary founder, we enjoy all dance forms and often incorporate aspects of them into our choreography. Please enjoy our offering.

Dancing on Tarab – Student Troop directed by Lana Mini. An Arab dance troop students perform for the first time ever.

Rak Stars – Apprentice Troupe of Habibi Dancers.

Banat Habibi: The student troupe of Yasmina Amal from students of the Lansing Parks & Recreation classes at Foster Community Center.

Habibi Dancers



Habibi Dancers, 2022 by Maggie Pennell

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 Potterville.

Arlyn (Mahtaab) has been dancing with the troupe since last century and hopes to continue choreographing, dancing, and enjoying the sisterhood of enthusiasts for years to come.



Mosaic

At the request of this evening's performers,

No flash photography or videorecording.

Thank you for your consideration.

Act I

Sai'di Tableau ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Tamra Henna, Staged by Leilah & Maryam

Music: Sai'di Party by Upper Egypt Ensemble

Dancers: Janan, Cara, McKenzie, Najma

Sassy Sai'di Choreography: Yasmina Amal

Music: Bos ala Halawa by Hegazy Met'al

Dancers: Amirah, Nyla, Sabeegah, Zarina, Rahil, Amber, Soroya

Nar ~ Banat Habibi

Choreography: Cassandra Shore, Staging Yasmina Amal

Music: Nar by GaWahirr

Dancers: Safira Sarab, Ari Lonchar, Nadira Anadil, Shula Rose

Nawal ~ Dancing On Tarab

Choreography: Lana Mini, Music: Nawal by Setrak Sarkissian

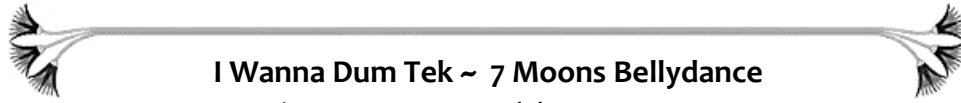
Rona ~ Krystal & Asyia

Choreography: Cassandra Shore, Music: Rona by The Gypsy Kings

Three Sisters ~ Magick in Motion

Music: Three Sisters by Beats Antique





I Wanna Dum Tek ~ 7 Moons Bellydance

Music: I Wanna Dum Tek by Artrm Uzunov

Harramt Ahebbak ~ Desert Spice

Music: Harramt Ahebbak by Miryah

Raks Sharqi ~ Yasmina Amal

Music: Traditional

Nuevo Flamenco ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Yasmina Amal, Music from Hadia

Dancers: McKenzie, Maryam, Zurha, Amber,
Janan, Radhia, Soroya, Hana

Rainbow Fanfare ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Najida & Zarina, Music: Peithos Veil by Dinletir

Dancers: Najida, Zarina, Mahtaab, Sabeedah, Sara, Azmara Amunet

Act II

The Lotus ~ Habibi Dancers

Original Choreography: Taahira, Restaged/Updated: Najma

Music: Der Bauch by MC Sultan

Dancers: Amirah, Rahil, Najma, Hana, Sabeedah, Nyla

Mesaytara ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Mahtaab, Music: Mesaytara by Lamis Kan

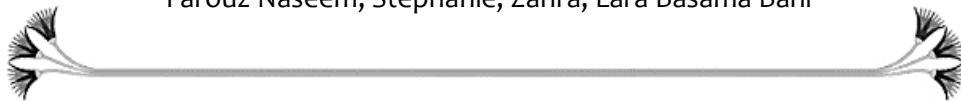
Dancers: Amber, Radhia, Zurha, Najida, Azmara Amunet, Sara

Raks Al Assaya ~ Rak Stars

Choreography by Raheja of Ohio, Music: Rakset Mona by Ali Sorour

Dancers: Baraka, Isra, LeighAnna, Mirrim,

Farouz Naseem, Stephanie, Zahra, Lara Basama Bahi





Raqset Sadie Fahalamingo ~ ForJoy

Music: Raqset Sadie by Al-Ahram Orchestra &
Fahalamingo by Brian Brandan

Nuclear Warhead ~ Magick in Motion

Music: Nuclear Warhead by Nextro

Classic Drum Solo ~ Karma Bellydance

Music: Classic Bellydance Drum Solo 101 by Roger Kashou

Day After Day ~ Sabrina Bint al Waha

Music: Youm Wara Youm by Eleanna

Bad ~ Desert Spice

Music: BAD by Micheal Jackson

Chayyia Chayyia ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Nyla & Alike, Music: Chaiyya Chaiyya by A. R. Rahman
Dancers: Soroya, Yasmina Amal, Najma, Radhia,
Janan, Sara, Zarina, Sabeehah

The Challenge ~ Habibi Dancers

Choreography: Zubayda, Music: Basboussa by Bassem Yazbek
Dancers: Rahil, Cara, Zurha, Nyla, Amirah,
Maryam, Najida, Azmara Amunet

Caribbean to Cairo ~ Cassandra Fox

Music: Jump In the Line by Harry Belafonte, Davai by Artem Uzunov,
Beraha Ya Sheekha by Bahaa Sultan



On-Stage Visuals

Master of Ceremonies..... George Kepler
Director..... Garnett Kepler
Lighting Design..... Aaron Delnay
Stage Hands.....S. King, L. Schmunslar, L. Dockter
Curtain.....C. Heintzelmann
Costumer.....Arlyn King, Melanie Rogers
Workshop Director..... M. Rogers, A. King
Program..... Jessica Trotter
Graphic Design.....August Ayala, Jr.
Public Relations/Marketing.....Rachael Brunger
Ushers..... T. Rowell, E. Poole, M. Hernly,
J. Austgen, A. Ayala, Jr., C. Trotter
Photography..... Jason Trotter
Videography..... Kat from Kalamazoo

There's still time to take a class with Cassandra Fox!

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. Cassandra will present an "Introduction to Caribbean Fusion & Choreography". This workshop An introduction to the music, and movements of Caribbean dance (Dancehall, soca, reggae, reggaeton, etc.) and the technique behind the movements. A look at music choices and movements that work for a fusion with belly dance. A choreography will be taught after the technique portion.

The class runs from 1-4 pm here at the Hannah Center on Sunday. Space is still available. Registration will open at 12:30 pm for \$95.

Check out our site for more information on area classes and local and regional performances: habibidancers.org and follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thehabidancers.

Anne (Nyla) began dancing as one of Garnett's students in 1996 for an excuse to wear a sparkly bra in public. She keeps busy as a mom, nursing home consultant, and dances as a way to relax and enjoy life.

Sally (Sara) took a bellydance class because "all her friends were doing it" and couldn't stop.

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 Mudges 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 hooked ever since. From 2006-2012 Zarina taught belly dancing in Alpena before relocating back to the Lansing area. Zarina writes, sews, knits, draws, and paints at the small farm she shares with her husband Troy and their pets in Haslett.

Molly (Najida) has been dancing with the Habibis for over 19 years now. In all of life's changes, dancing with her sisters is a constant. When not shimmying, Molly is a massage therapist by day and a devoted mother, partner, and nature lover. Thank you to her friends and family for all the support given to allow Molly her dance dreams.

Janelle (Sabeegah) began dancing with Garnett in 2001 joining the Habibi Dancers in 2005. Whatever makes you happy...do that. ♥

Winona (Zurha) has been a Habibi troupe member since 2006. She enjoys the camaraderie and sisterly bond of the troupe. When not dancing, she loves spending quality time with her family, traveling, sewing, crafting, riding her motorcycle and roller skating.

Jessica (Marayam) is a 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."

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 taking bellydance classes in 2009 and joined the troupe in 2012. She works with adults with mental illness as a case coordinator and has taught beginner level bellydance classes in the Owosso area off and on throughout the years. Melissa is passionate about trauma education and awareness, traveling, kayaking, exploring the outdoors, art & oddities, costuming, upcycling, music, and her love for her family.

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) 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!).

Throughout her life, Jenn (Hana) has turned to dance as a source of self-expression, healing and solace. She began taking belly dance classes in 2011 and became a member of The Habibi Dancers in 2018.

McKenzie has just rejoined the troupe after a brief hiatus.

Isabel (Radhia) has had the pleasure of dancing with the Habibis since 2022. In addition to dance, she enjoys time with family, antiques, history, and playing around with machinery.

Ashley (Soraya) has had a passion for dance since she was a young girl. She started her dance journey with Irish, hip hop and ballroom dance styles before beginning belly dance in 2018 with Yasmina Amal. She has since studied multiple forms of middle eastern dance under other instructors before joining the Habibis in 2023.



Habibi Dancers performing a Saudi Khaliji Dance, 1987



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- Hip Hop** (5 & up)
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- Baby Stars** (3-5 years)
- Mini Stars** (18 mo-3 yrs, parent/child)
- Musical Theater** (8-10 & 11 & up and studying jazz, ballet or tap)
- Lyrical** (instructor approval)
- Lyrical** (8-10 years studying ballet, 11+ studying ballet with 2 years min prior ballet experience)
- Chance to Dance** (5 & up for dancers with special needs)
- Adult Tap**
- Adult Jazz**
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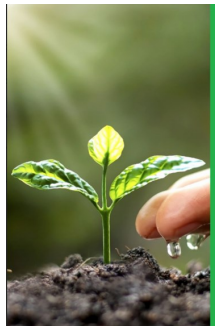


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**Thanks to the Habibi Dancers
for everything you do for the
dance community!**

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