



Housekeeping

Paying via the Net

Some people have asked about paying class fees via internet banking. My account is **38 9003 0698548 00**. If you use the internet option – please include your name as a reference and drop me an email to say its there.

Performances

If you have a school or similar that needs some Belly Dancers, please contact me and I'll try and arrange a short program from this year's show.

Hens' Nights - FYI

I do Hens' Nights with a short performance, dressing up the Bride to Be and a short lesson. Details online – www.bellyraqs.co.nz.

CDs for Sale

Just a reminder I have Shik Shak Shok and Amani Red for sale at \$25. There is also a few other CDs.

Blog and Facebook

My occasional ravings can be found on: kashmir-bellyraqs.blogspot.com
Facebook the classes are under www.facebook.com/bellyraqs and me, personally, am www.facebook.com/kashmir.tancos

Gate

A reminder to please leave the gate as you found it. If you need to open it just slide the middle bolt across. (Don't lift the bolts that go into the ground). Oh, and pull the gate towards the street – it won't open up hill!

Loo

Good news – back on line after 154 days but my toilet was old and sometimes didn't stop running. Please make sure the water stops running when you flush.

Kashmir's February Newsletter

Welcome Back!

It was good to see a few of you take advantage of SummerSteps to keep your hip in.

This year I am hoping we can go ahead with our show that we had to cancel last year because of the quakes. I am aiming for May again.

This month I will be checking out the few venues that are still available out there. I have had a number of suggestions that I will follow up. Basically I want something with a stage, wings and dressing space (and an emergency exit backstage if possible) that is not too big (seating 150-250 people) that we can use our own lighting guys.

Many items are pretty much ready to go (I hope) with a little revision. Of course, having had a whole extra 12 months your costumes are all ready to go. Yes? Check them for the effects of girthquake.

The folkloric items were most badly hit with only one person in FolkSteps able to continue classes after the February quake. Hopefully we can rescue Ya Bouy with Deborah's return this year. In addition, I'd like to work on:

Khaleegi – women's social dance from the Gulf with big colourful overdresses (thobes). I can hire you the thobes. The dance is very simple with a chorus and 30second duets. In the past beginners who had not even finished the 8-week course have managed to take part in the show with this one. I will be offering a workshop in March to introduce this. Even if you do not intend to take part in the show it is a chance to extend your knowledge.

Turkish Rom – a simplified dance in the style of the Turkish "Gypsies" to a 9/8 rhythm. (Costume: tops, harem pants and overskirts) This is technically harder than the Khaleegi, but could be fun to try. First class is Saturday, 11 February 1-2:30pm. No commitment needed.

Fellahi – Reda Troupe style folkloric tableau (see last November's newsletter) based around young women staking out their territory. This will be taught in NextSteps2 and possibly NextSteps1.

Kashmir's February 2012 Newsletter continued

Current Classes:

- NextSteps1** Wednesday 7:30pm
Revision of Bos Amani; Introduction to veil (Ayoub)
- NextSteps2** Thursday 6 -7:15pm
Revision of drum solo dance and Ya Samra (veil)
Re-Starting Fellahi
- NextSteps3** Wednesday 6-7:15pm (by invitation only)

Pricing for 2012

NextSteps (from February 2012):

4 classes	over 4-8 weeks	\$50
5 classes	over 5-8 weeks	\$60
11 week term	1 per week	\$100
11 week term	unlimited	\$150
Casual	per class	\$15

Folkloric Classes:

These add flavour to your belly dance. The technique tends to be a little simpler and the music more traditional. I plan to offer a different style every **second Saturday of the month at 1-2:30pm**. Starting with Turkish Rom on 11 February.

Introductory Class:

The next beginner class starts **Thursday, 9 February** 7:30pm.

I am also teaching a mixed Exercise Dancing/Belly Dance class at Riccarton High School under the CCC/Risingholme brand on **Tuesdays**, 6:30-8pm starting 7 February.

Please spread the word.

Newsletter on Line:

I keep a copy of the most recent newsletter online – link on www.bellyraqs.co.nz and the full class timetable on the main site.

I am also keeping copies of the page 3 articles. These can be reached via the Opinions section – www.raqs.co.nz/articles.

www.bellyraqs.co.nz

What to Expect Dancing in the Show

There are a number of differences between dancing in a formal show and dancing at a party, in class or even an informal hafla

First, there is the stage. I usually have at least one rehearsal on stage because its shape, its orientation, its height, and its floor can throw some people. But other people love it. Some people like the formality of a stage that gives them permission to be someone else. Some love being the centre of attention; in the spotlight.

The lights are your friends – especially if you are nervous because under stage lights you really cannot see the audience. They are in the dark. But this also means your own features are washed out. **Being on stage means wearing makeup.** Without strong eyes, eyebrows and red lipstick you will have a white blob of a face that cannot express your joy in the dance. For those so inclined, full makeup with shading is a good idea. These days you don't use stage makeup but just normal stuff – except the lipstick which must be fire engine red to show (pink washes out, brown or blue! turns black).

Also be aware that the strong lights can make thin fabrics transparent. Diaphanous skirts will need underskirts or harem pants.

On stage, in a show, you only have one chance. When it is time for your item, you go out and do it once and do it right. So you have to be prepared. This means you need to really know your choreography. Know it without looking at anyone else. This means lots of practice. It can be a good idea to practice with other people out of class.

Practicing in your costume is also a must. So your costume(s) needs to be ready well ahead of the performance. For most items there is a specified costume style and/or fabric and/or colour. Please check with me before buying anything.

You will be expected to attend a certain number of classes prior to the show plus dress rehearsal and technical rehearsal unless you clear it with me well in advance. (Think weeks not days)

Fully prepared, on the day you just need to turn up ahead of time (sober) and do your best – and enjoy yourself.

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