



ZAGOREET BY MEDAH

MARCH 2006



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medah **Z** AGOREET

MEDAH @ 2006

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MEDAH MISSION

MEDAH IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROMOTING THE DIVERSITY OF MIDDLE EASTERN AND RELATED FORMS OF DANCE, MUSIC AND CULTURE, THROUGH EDUCATION, INSTRUCTION AND COMMUNITY

MEDAH

the gift of dance, community & education

\$30 doesn't buy much these days, but that's low price of membership to Hawaii's ONLY group devoted to Middle Eastern Dance and culture. Included with your dues:

- * our improved monthly mini-mag, Z
- * information on our hotline
- * listings on our website
- * performance opportunities
- * Local and national teacher seminars
- * access to the video library
- * fundraising activity and annual voting privileges.

So what are you waiting for?
Sign up for you and a friend!

☆Z Publication Policies ☆

All submissions for Z publication are subject to editor's review, revisions and suitability for print. Members are encouraged to submit letters, articles, reviews, photos and advertisements pertaining to arts of the Middle East to the editor.

Advertising costs : Ads submitted for Z publication must be camera ready by the deadline below. Ad rates are : \$20 full page (8 1/2 x 11); \$10 half page (8 1/2 x 4 1/4"); \$5 quarter page (4" x 5 1/2"); and \$2.50 business card (3 1/2 x 2").

Z submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication.
Please send submissions to :

MEDAH
P.O.Box 22282

ON THE COVER : WISTFUL YVONNE DE CARLO, 1947
FROM THE IMAGE MAKERS: SIXTY YEARS OF HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR

President's Aloha

Aloha & Salaam Alekum! Well, Spring is in full swing and all the change and renewal that it brings is present in our dance community! I'm delighted to report that MEDAH had a very successful 1st hafla! We had over 60 + people in attendance, comprised of MEDAH members, dancers, students, teachers, family and friends. The food was quite delicious (and there weren't many leftovers!). A big mahalo to both Vice President **JanDee Abraham** and Secretary **Angela Matsumura**, for cooking a feast.

There were plenty of vendors selling all types of goodies, from photography services from **Bob McKeand**, **Sunny Swarup's** great finds at *Shimmy Chic*, **Ruth Cuti's** array of purple hued dance wear, treasures from all corners of the globe from world travelers **Dorothy Wheeler** (our treasurer) and **Froso**. MEDAH members are very artistic as well, proven by **Jessica Schmidt** (member at large) who makes chain mail by hand, and **Angela Matsumura** (secretary), who's *Lisee's Pieces* are hand made hair ornaments. **Willow**, (yours truly) sold sparkly earrings from Egypt and India, CDs and DVDs for those who need a 'video fix' of inspiration!

And dancing...was there dancing! We had a great array of talent, with new, regular and veteran dancers, troupes and duos sharing the stage. Big mahalos to **Yoko Honda**, **JaLe**, **Delilah Ra & Nefabit**, **Natalie Hirasuka**, **Suzanne Keyser**, **Renee Arnold**, **Kalae Kaina**, **Willow**, **Shadiya** and her **Habibi Dancers**. I hope all the dancing inspired everyone to dance at our future events -it's certainly more fun than sitting!!

Lastly, a very **BIG mahalo** to **Angela** for securing the venue, and everyone who generously helped with the clean up. You helped make this event run smoothly and it was an ease to pack it up- despite the rain!

The new format of the Z garnered a lot of attention and appreciation. Our members shared that they like the new design, layout and content- so clearly we have our work cut out! **THANKFULLY**, so many of you were inspired that in this issue we have an outstanding number of member contributions! Members **Mike Bambi**, **A. Bright**, **Malia Delaphina**, **Kalae Kaina**, **Jessica Schmidt** and **Renee Vea** picked up a pen (or a camera!) and have their images, insight, opinions and experiences to share with you. I certainly hope this trend continues, as the Z really is your publication!

This month, the major focus of the Z is the topic of workshops. Please take the time to read the artist profile on visiting artist **Said al Amir** from Munich, Germany, visiting Hawai'i on his first U.S. teaching and performance tour. There are also great reviews and first hand experiences accounted by attendees. Having attended workshops with over 50 instructors, I decided to write a brief workshop101 guide; to share what I have found is helpful to get the most out of your experience and your expense!

Workshops as a teaching method are fairly new for the international belly dance community, starting around the early 1980s. Workshops give us the opportunity to study with visiting teachers, learn new techniques and materials and study a pre-selected topic with intensity.

Not long ago, Hawai'i had few workshops to attend. I remember when I started dancing all the major dance artists had taught in Hawaii BEFORE I started (**Jamilla al Wahid**, **Amaya**, **Morocco**, **Horacio Ciufuentes** to name a few). My have the times (thankfully) changed! In a single calendar year from March 2005 to the present, in the Hawaiian Islands the following instructors have taught seminars: **Dalia Carella**, **Jehan Kamal**, **Rachel Brice**, **Kajira Djoumana**, **Aisha Ali**, **Meissoun** of Switzerland, **Shoshanna**, **Hyetti al Shams**, **Delilah**, **Saqra**, **Suhaila Saljimpour** and this month, **Said al Amir** of Munich, Germany. Locally,

MEDAH had it's teacher workshops with Mercedes Foster, Gale Fenna, Ruth Cuti and Kalae Kaina, and both Shamira & Willow gave master classes.

One of the many things I love about this dance is that you'll never reach a point of knowing everything! Our dance is so diverse, and it's always evolving. You can remain continually inspired- and I hope each of you find that joy DAILY! Please enjoy the Z, send us your thoughts and articles and we hope to see you dancing or at a workshop!

With warm aloha, *Willow*



AROUND TOWN...CALENDAR 2006

MARCH 8-11TH - JUDY CUNNINGHAM ,FROM SEDALIA, MO. RETURNS TO VEND...CALL FOR DETAILS.

MARCH 10TH SAID AL AMIR DESSERT & DANCE SHOWCASE CHE PASTA RESTAURANT 9-11 PM CALL WILLOW

MARCH 11-14TH MASTER CLASSES WITH SAID AL AMIR , FROM MUNICH GERMANY. CALL WILLOW FOR DETAILS 292-0820.

✦ MARCH 19TH-26TH ANNUAL RAKKASAH WEEKLONG AND FESTIVAL, RICHMOND, CA.

*MARCH 28TH TUESDAY MEDAH MEETING 7 PM COFFEE BEAN & TEA LEAF MANOA MARKETPLACE

*APRIL 2ND SUNDAY MEDAH VIDEO HAFLA 12-4 LOCATION TBA

APRIL 14TH WILLOW RAKKASAH REVIEW WORKSHOP TBA

● MAY 21ST MEDAH RECITAL, DETAILS TBA.

✦ MAY 18-21ST TRIBAL FEST 6, CA. WWW.BLACKSHEEPBELLYDANCE.COM / KAJIRA DJOUMAHNA @ 808-891-8891.

JUNE 3 BELLY DANCE AND BEYOND II, JASMINA AND THE DRAGON, PALIKU THEATER. PRESENTED BY AMARA KISMET NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST DANCE ENSEMBLE. CONTACT SHAMIRA @ 808-752-2440.

✦ JUNE 10-11TH CAIRO CARNIVAL, PASADENA, CA.

● JULY MEDAH LOCAL TEACHER WORKSHOPS, TBA.

JULY 11-17TH MAUI INTENSIVE 2! FEATURING ANSUYA OF THE BELLY DANCE SUPERSTARS AND KAJIRA DJOUMAHNA. CALL 808-891-8891 FOR INFO.

AUGUST KAMI LIDDLE WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY SHAKTI DANCE MOVEMENT CONTACT KALAE @ 358 2571

AUGUST GREEK FESTIVAL, ST. HELENE AND CONSTANTINE'S CHURCH, MCCOY PAVILLION. CALL SUZANNE @ 955-7702.

● SEPTEMBER MEDAH FUNDRAISER EVENT, TBA.

OCTOBER HABIBI HAWAII FEST CONTACT SHADIYA AT 739-6297.

● = MEDAH SPONSORED EVENT

✦ = OFF ISLAND



March featured dancer... *Said al Amir*



From the heartland of Germany to the heart of Hawai'i arrives Said al Amir. On his first U.S teaching and performance tour, Said is set to share his unique and diverse styles. Said began his journey in the arts with a solid foundation and training in classical music & opera. He performed extensively in his youth in both opera and musical theater. In 1987, Said was introduced to the world of Middle Eastern Dance through teacher Yasmin al Ghazali. It was a life changing event that has led him to his current passion. From 1987 to 1995, Said and Ms. Ghazali (now residing in Spain) co-founded a dance academy, creating a German and Spanish partnership. ESTODA was born, which represents the Essential Technique of Oriental Dance. In addition to Middle Eastern Dance, Said has also studied extensively with master teachers in the fields of Ballet, Modern and Jazz dance.

Said is the sole creator and founder of JOMDANCE, jazz oriental modern dance, a new dance fusion that seamlessly combines the best of the aforementioned styles. His knowledge about music and theory, the cultural origins and interpretations of the art continue to keep him in demand as both an instructor (as a pedagogue, choreographer and coach for numerous established dance artists and groups) and as a performer.

And can he dance! Said literally rocked the house at last year's Rakassah Festival and pre-show dinner show, wowing the audiences with his style, charisma, flawless technique and boundless energy. Said's JOMDANCE style reminds me of the best of Bob Fosse, the best of Ballet and the best of Modern Egyptian- stirred, shaken and smoothed out with perfection. It's an infectious and compelling style! During workshops, he was approachable and offered guidance and help to confused students that were at a loss. I often saw Said explaining concepts to attendees, and looks of frustration melted into smiles of understanding. Said certainly lives up to his motto- and then some "Said al Amir- once you have seen him, you will never forget him".