

Oriental magic

What comes to your head when mentioning the most ancient dancing – belly dancing? This form of dance counts back to the Egyptian traditions (although there is no certainty due to the lack of research) Do you think of magic music and moves overflowing each other and creating an amazing feeling both for the dancer and the observer?

By Evelina Kvartunaite

Either way it is definitely a pearl of the Oriental Culture. Its not only a dance. It is also a ritual and it is a form of art. So lets try to investigate a bit about it's origins, meaning and interpretations, shall we?

Certainly there is a lot of theories where it has originated from and it can also be called one of the ignored subjects by the

scientists and researchers as most of the researchers are actually dancers themselves wanting to find out more about their craft.

Current contemporary dance is modified and kept only few old dancing principles therefore it is very difficult to see the roots of the tradition. Some researchers think that its in ancient Greece and

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choose...

Have you ever read more than one book at once? Wanted to live in more than one place at the same time? I have. Once I have heard somewhere that when you are asked which of two you prefer – living in a house or an apartment if you answer that

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June

don't miss!!!

By Heidi Sanchez Llabre

June 6 at 18:00

Stammtisch

at Café Cuckoo's Nest

(Vestergade 73 5000 Odense C)

As usual, a great opportunity for you to meet up and have a great time together having a bite to eat and enjoy a very cosy ambience.

June 14 at 15:00

Spanish Circle event

at Hollufgård castle in Odense.

If you want to "experience" a Spanish poem, Professor Claudio Cifuentes will guide us into a "Poetic Act". Nature, poems, friends and culture in Spanish!

For those interested contact

sgg@sdu.dk

June 19 at 11:45 and 18:45

at Café Biografen

Bangladesh film

A tale of the Jamuna River

Film director Tanvir Mokammel will give a short introduction.

"OIE JAMUNA" (A TALE OF THE JAMUNA RIVER) 60minutes/ Betacam/ 2002/ a documentary, a journey- film on the Jamuna river . The film-maker on a boat follows the mighty Jamuna all the way from where the Jamuna enters into Bangladesh to downstream where it confluences with the Padma, another major river of the Indian subcontinent. The film shows the condition of the Jamuna river and the people living.

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from [Oriental Magic]

that it spread with Alexander the Great. Others think that it came from the Northern Egypt and that it is a ritual of the priests. In the Arabic language it is known as raqs sharqi (شرقي رقص; literally "oriental dance") or sometimes raqs baladi (بلدي رقص; literally "national" or "folk" dance). The term "raqs sharqi" may have originated in Egypt. In Greece and the Balkans, belly dance is called tsiftetelli (τσιφτετέλι).

We should be grateful for French as the common name "belly dancing" was translated by them (fr. – danse du ventre). And it is called belly dancing not for nothing. While dancing the most practiced parts are belly and hips. At first you can think its only a simple swinging of your hips but you shouldn't be mislead. Real professionals



train for years to get the right skills. It take a lot of patience and ability to feel the whole body as the basics is put up from seemingly simple moves while in the end it all put together into big and complex compositions. And only after that - hand plastics, eye contact and different steps are added.

Many of us know that in many cases belly dance is considerate to be erotic. Why? The answer is deeper. Belly since oldest times was considered to be a symbol of fertility therefore ritual dances were not only for foreigners wanting some entertainment but also was used for alluring future husbands. Interesting detail - in some cultures a picture of newly weds is taken while both groom and bride – are holding hands on the brides belly. It is a symbol for family fertility. Of course, sometimes belly dancers are considered to be not to be leading a very decent lifestyle. Here we might blame their participation in the religious rituals in ancient Egypt which would also include religious orgies where they would become mistresses of the priests.

Further on, another very important detail for belly dancing – wrap or scarf with little bells. Depending on the dancer, the costume can be very luxurious. The costume involves of course not only clothes but also the hair and its accessories, perfume and oils. Sometimes to bring more variety dancers use swords, snakes, silk scarves, etc. Commonly the costume is composed of bra or short sleeved t-shirt, silk skirt, wrap with bells or belt. Men mostly wear less luxurious costumes – pants, t-shirt and very rarely a skirt. Mostly men's belly dancing is being valued for nice moves and charisma although the real considered to be women belly dance since men do not move their hips.

Isn't it amazing how many secrets, charm and mystery can be hidden beneath?!

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from [I will choose...]



you like both (which I did!), that would mean that not only you have an erratic personality but also that your values are still not stable. What if you have this up until you have passed teenage years? How horrifying is that then?

I must be honest; I have never been able to have one favourite. Starting from colour or ice cream flavour and ending up with idea of how do I actually see myself in ten years. And yet one known song was saying: "Don't feel guilty if you don't know what you want to do with your life...the most interesting people I know didn't know at 22 what they wanted to do with their lives, some of the most interesting 40 year olds I know still don't." But are these lines only opium for your confused mind or is it actually that amazing to throw all the society norms through

the window and re-invent your own way and your own self.

And yet I wonder – are society norms made to put us all in the little boxes or are they reflection of what people actually want?!

Have any thoughts on this or other subjects?! Drop us a line!

