Soul Dance Newsletter

Volume 5 September 2010

AHLAN WA SAHLAN

Hi and welcome to this edition of the Soul Dance newsletter!

Some of us are on the eve of embarking on this year's tour of Egypt! There is much excitement in the glittery ranks. We will enjoy 3 weeks of fabulous dancing, shopping, food, music and sight seeing!

What I love most though, is the people...not just the gorgeous Egyptians but those in the tour group;- it is a wonderful opportunity to get to know each other on a deeper level. Those in each group will share unique memories and a special bond into the future. I often describe the tour as a 3-week long "slumber-party". It really IS that much fun!

We are well and truly settled into the new studio now. Our Grand Opening Day was really fun with lots of warm fuzzies floating around! I think we were all as proud as punch of our new home! Special thanks to Mark Leam for making the sign for us - we are all in love with it and wasted a lot of time in the early days just standing out the front gazing up at it for silly amounts of time.

Also on the studio front...special thanks to Bill and Sharon Howton for giving up a weekend and a lot of hard work to strip and re-surface the studio floor. It's just beautiful and a pleasure to dance on! Please take care of it, especially in wet weather making sure you do not wear your gritty shoes onto the floor (change shoes at the door).

Our mid-year event with Michelle Joyce was hugely successful and a lot of fun! It was a pleasure for Soul Dance to host the workshops and showcase. Michelle is such a gentle and generous soul and full of information and dancing expertise! Hopefully she will be back in 2 years to do it all again!

Gypsy Soul was excited to debut our new Turkish 9/8 choreography at the Abbey Tournament in July! The girls have worked so hard on this one and during the first several classes in this style, they were convinced it was beyond their reach. But as so often happens, something just kicks in at a certain point and everything fell into place. Next year the troupe has been invited to perform at the Sydney Middle Eastern Dance Festival Concert. We will be doing the 9/8 style as it has never been danced "authentically" as a troupe in Australia as far as we know and we don't want to miss a chance to show off!!! Why not join us? Let's organise a big Soul Dance road trip down to the festival - we'll have a ball!

A Real Dancer

A Real Dancer is beautiful,
BECAUSE she is dancing.

She is in her body and is friends with it.

She is afraid and she does it anyway.

She feels joy in movement, in the motion, in the beauty she creates.

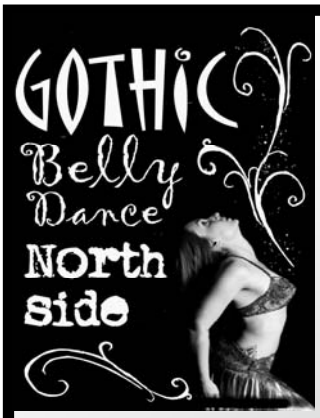
A Real Dancer is human and makes mistakes and is imperfect,
and knows that that's okay... that is what makes dance great:

not that it's done by precisioned automatons, but
by living, breathing, sweating, striving human beings.

A Real Dancer dances because she loves; she dances because she lives.
She dances her life, her dreams, her knowing,
her pain and her freedom,
her body's longings and memories and present moment.

She opens her heart
and so opens the hearts of those who see her dancing.

A Real Dancer is a woman, striving for Grace:
the liberation of her Shining Self.



The Michelle Joyce showcase saw La Boheme make its debut performance! We were tickled pink (or should that be black?) with how it went and, from your feedback, you seemed to enjoy it.

We are trying to present something different to what you would normally see on the stage;- more emotions of strength, pain, darkness, edginess, anger, decadence, deviance, and naughtiness. Our next choreography embodies these last two elements - very naughty indeed! Despite the unusual themes we aim to always bring you great choreography, dancing and music! We always welcome your feedback!

Margaret x

MONDAY NIGHT WHISPERINGS

by Helen

We are loving the new studio and since taking back over the teaching reins I now have a combined class on Monday nights. Whether it is the beautiful energy sent out by these lovely ladies or the special new dance space, I am not sure, but we certainly have a magical hour and a half each week.

Congratulations to the newer ladies who have embraced the new choreography with open arms and also to the ladies who have been dancing longer who have welcomed and supported the others.

I am off to Egypt soon and can t wait to go fossicking for bellydance treasure in the Khan El Khalili (Bazaar). The search for new music is always fun though sometimes it really can be trying to find a rose amongst the thorns!! Some of the music can be of dubious authenticity and have less OR more tracks than the ones listed. but worth the wait when you are back home in your lounge room trawling through the countless CD s and you hear something that is magic to your ears!!

I have no doubt that the ladies will use the 3 weeks I am away to practice, polish & PLAY and be ready for my Show & Tell night on Monday 11th October.

It is always so nice to hear your feedback after class and it would seem that Belly Dance Boot Camp will need to be a regular fixture in my lesson planning! I can feel my thighs aching already ..

One last thank you to all those Soul Dancers (and families) who helped with our Studio Opening Day aren t we lucky to be part of such a giving dance community.

On Monday nights Debbie Feeney and her beautiful daughters Candi, Kahlah and Shanni come together as a family and dance. I asked Debbie if they would all share how they feel about belly dancing.....

Debbie:
Well I could write quite a lot about how I have always been fascinated by belly dancing and how I thought it a great idea for us "Feeney" females to spend time together having fun, but I thought I would ask my girls for their input, so here it is.

Shanni:
I am doing belly dancing because of my mum and sisters. First only they were doing belly dancing, but when they came home every night after dancing and showed me all these awesome moves I knew I had to do it. At first I was scared of going to my first class with them mainly because I would be the youngest one there and I thought no one would want to talk to me, I mean who wants to talk to a crazy 12 year old! But then everyone did start talking to me and they were great. My family is a lot of fun to spend time with and they are having a lot of fun themselves too.

Kaylah:
Mmmm let's see what to say, when I first moved from South Africa to Australia I thought OMG what has happened, we are never going to make friends and have fun, we will stay at home and be bored but then my mum found belly dancing classes but I thought, ME, do belly dancing... no way! Hee Hee. When I went to the first class I thought, I don't like this, as I was shy but after the second lesson I just wanted to go to the next lesson and the next. We have met such nice girls. Me and my mom and sisters never have time together, we are always working or busy doing something else and belly dancing brings us together. I also thought to myself, I don't like showing my stomach, but now I don't feel bad and want to become a belly dancer, I absolutely love it, so thank you to Helen and Margaret for what you have done for us. So let's shake our bodies and shimmy away, I always look forward to going every night to learn new things.

Candi:
What can I say that hasn't already been said? Belly dancing is an escape from reality that we appreciate so much. Just when you think it is going to be another blue Monday, you remember that it's our belly dancing night! Makes the day way more easy to handle. Absolutely love it!!! I am woman. Hear me roar. Watch me shimmy!

Debbie:
After reading what my girls wrote all I can say is I love my girls and Belly dancing is so much more than dancing, So glad I found Soul Dance.

(THANK YOU FEENEY LADIES, I AM SURE YOU HAVE BRIGHTENED MORE THAN JUST MY DAY BY SHARING THOSE THOUGHTS)

SHUVANI ROMANI KUMPANIA

I thought I would share an image that was forwarded to me after the Abbey by a photographer named Nick Lagos. He is pioneering some fantastic "Renaissance" style texturing to his photographs and has achieved the most stunning result with a photo he took of my daughter Marnie. I have approached him with the idea of planning to take specific shots at our encampment next year and applying this new style if anyone is interested. His email address is pip1@powerup.com.au.

I paid $50 for the master file of this image. He has also recommended Digilab in Windsor as they are reasonably priced and the owner/manager is also a re-enactor.

CONGRATULATIONS

SOUL DANCE BLOSSOM

STEPHANIE CHARLES

(DAUGHTER OF KATIE CHARLES)

After auditions at school, and then making it through to be among the five finalists to strut their stuff at the Bray Park Fete on Saturday 11 September .

Stephanie won the crowd over with her bellydance performance and proudly took out first place.

Well done Stephanie!

SOUL TRAVEL

EGYPT

Dates for next year, 2011, are October and January (2012 Over school holidays). I already have bookings for both tours so if you are planning your big Egypt adventures for the coming year don't be late in securing your place with your deposit. Please email or phone Margaret for more information and check out the itinerary in full on the Soul Dance website, www.souldance.com.au.

INDIA

Next years planned trip has been postponed to February the following year. If you would like to come on this two week dance delight, please let Margaret know!

TURKEY

This one is not for a while....April/May 2015! We are planning early as it is the 100th Anniversary of ANZAC and our visit to Anzac Cove will be momentus! We also take in the annual Gypsy festival in Istanbul, cruise the Aegean Sea and visit all the major sites in amazing Turkey!

TIOR ALBAH

At last spring has sprung, and hopefully now the weather is warming up it's much easier for you to make it to your evening classes!

Well not a lot has changed for Tior Albah since the last newsletter, but we are now preparing for the end of year hafla – the main event where we get to show off all we have learned throughout the year! I am re-teaching the dance we started earlier in the year – and I say re teaching because most of the choreography has changed from its original structure, much to everyone's delight I'm sure...

I would like to share with you my first experience with belly dancing, and why I love it so much:

I first saw 'real' belly dancers when I was about 16 at a multicultural festival in Victoria. Until then I had a view of belly dancing as something that only skinny women with large 'assets' took part in.

When these three ladies came out and started free dancing to the local band I was mesmerised. I couldn't believe how beautiful they were, how confident they seemed. All three of them were plus sized women and in my eyes they were smashing society's rules about what was considered sexy.

The day ended with my mum, my sister and myself dancing away on stage with these vibrant women as if no-one was watching, feeling more alive than I could have ever imagined possible.

Sandie. Javde. Deb. Bronwen. Kiannah. Jenelle. Marilvn. Sharon

I still didn't take up dancing until after I moved to Brisbane several years ago, where I came across some classes running at a small alternative shop in Brighton.

I gave up dancing when I became pregnant, but when my family ended up taking over that same little shop, I took the opportunity to join in the classes with the new teacher, Debbie.

Since dancing with Tior Albah and the rest of SoulDance I have found something I had struggled to find all my life.

I found me.

So happy shimmies to you all, and I hope you find as much magic in belly dancing as I have!

Jayde

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Updated every newsletter as events arise

September (tba)	First Settlement Festival (Redcliffe)
October 3 – 24	Tour of Egypt with Margaret.
October 9 & 10	Kizmet Concerts (Redcliffe)
October 21-25	Bahar Bayram BAMEDAM music and dance camp (Springbrook)
October 31	Pyramid Pulse concert and markets (Holland Park)
November 27	SoulDance end of year HAFLA
December (tba)	Christmas Parades/ Concerts (Scarborough and Pine Rivers)

TAMPANYA MAREN

Tampánya Máren means “they are beating drums” in Rom.

This name came about because of our involvement with providing drumming for Shuvani Romani Kumpania at the Abbey Medieval Fayre.

After the Fayre, the group decided to continue to meet fortnightly and to concentrate on Middle Eastern rhythms played on darbuka (tabla), incorporating riq, frame drums and zills. We meet at 4pm on alternate Sunday afternoons on the grass outside the Studio.

The people who attend have a range of skills from beginners to experienced, and beginners are always welcome.

The last couple of sessions we have been concentrating on Saaidi Rhythm. This rhythm comes from Upper Egypt and is used to perform a stick fighting dance called Tahteeb. Some of our members will be attending Bahar Bayram in October and will be learning this dance.

Our aim for Tampánya Máren is to learn a wide range of rhythms incorporating advanced variations, while we work to improve our technique.

Pauline

END OF YEAR HAFLA

The hafla this year is again at Bracken Ridge High School on November 27th. As usual it will be a night of Soul Dance acts plus the great guests that we know and love!

Bellydance has changed and become so diverse over the last 3 years in Brisbane, so haflas are now so much more interesting for the whole family than they used to be (only the most edicated and obsessed dancers can usually sit through 3 hours of lycra and sequins).

But now we have things on the stage like leather, feathers, lace, glow-in-the-dark, dreadlocks, fur, goggles, platform boots and battle axes!!! Fun for the whole family! There will be stalls and a snack bar to help round the night off into a shopping and nibbling frenzy!

Please tell your friends, fellow dancers and families about the show and you can promise them an "eyebrow-raising" night!

Marg x

Greetings from Jewels of Arabia

Welcome

It's hard to believe it's September already. Since last newsletter Community Troupe had a break around Abbey time and at our last couple of practices we have been focusing on all of our old and new dances to refresh our memories.

In June we donated our time for a high tea fund raiser for Motor Neurone Disease. It was a pleasure for me to dance for this occasion to give something back, as this disease changed the course of my life.

In August we had a little road trip (or at least it felt like it) to the surf side of Bribie where we performed for a local Montoressi School fete.

It was a great day especially looking out onto the ocean as we danced. We had 3 beautiful young divas join us as and of course they were a hit with the crowd. Thank you Marnie, Lauren and Stephanie. We are hoping they will be able to join us when we spread our joy at Bray Park State School fete on 11 September.

We have a busy September with performances at our regular respite centres, a family fun day supported by Red Cross at Redcliffe, and we have been asked back to the Caboolture Multi Cultural Festival on 26 September at Centenary Lakes. We have also been asked to attend a Health and Wellness Expo at Caboolture and a Breast Cancer fund raiser in October.

Once again I would like to remind anyone if they would like to join us. especially if you don't work through the week, and if you can commit to at least 2 out of 3 practices, please contact me or your teacher, as we would love to have you join us. There is a costume waiting.

Until next time, Marilyn

What's in Store

Hi & welcome to this edition of What's in Store.

Well, lots of new products have arrived & it's very exciting - new bright & funky hip scarves, pants, skirts & tops.

We unveiled these new items at this years' Extravaganza & they were a huge hit. From Hong Kong, they are well priced & the quality is of high standard.

Funky pants are back in stock. This time I have tried a new supplier so I will need some time to get the sizes right – a large in our sizing is a small in theirs, etc. Current colours are Black, Turquoise & Purple.

Silk veils are here, in solid colours only – combination colours to come. Made from pure Indian silk, they are just beautiful to dance with & at $40.00 great value too. Colour combinations are available by order at a slightly higher price. Just email me & I can send you the colour charts.
No pictures available yet, but I hope to get some of these products into the studio soon.

Well, that's all I have for this edition. If you have any queries about products please contact me on 0439439852 or email me at tobellydance@gmail.com

See you in the next edition,

Sonya

Kidz News

Hello & welcome to

How cute were these littlies at our Soul Dance open day? I must say, Miss Sonya was a very proud teacher. Thank you to all the Mums, Dads, Grandparents etc for making the effort to bring your little dancing stars to Petrie for their debut performance.

We have had a wonderful time in class over the last couple of months. Our choreographies are almost finished with plenty of time to fine tune & polish, ready for our end of year Hafla. We have been discussing costumes over the last few weeks & I am pleased to say that some are already in production.

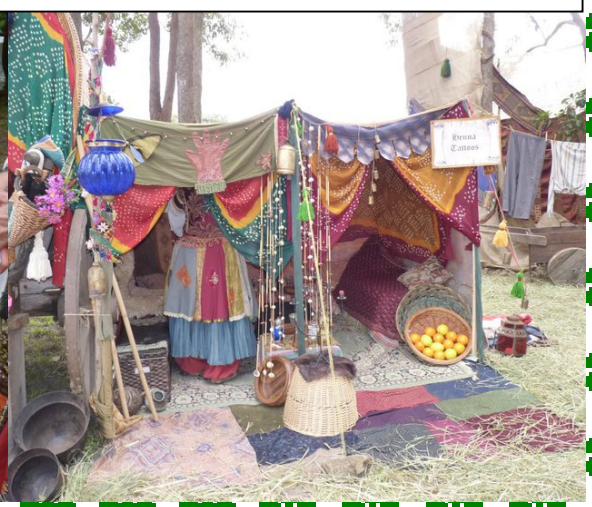
New choreographies will be starting soon. If anyone has a cd or particular song that your child (or you) likes, bring it along to class or let me know.

Please keep the suggestions coming - regarding classes or costumes. I appreciate all feedback. My mobile is 0439 439 852 or email tobellydance@gmail.com

Until next time, Sonya

Abbey Medieval Festival

Well it seems that each year gets better and better! This year we were in the new grounds which, apart from some uneven ground, were very successful! We welcomed many new troupe members who immediately became part of the family as though they had been around forever!

This year was the year of dancing, ie, there has never been so much dancing and joy around the campsite. It was non-stop! We also welcomed "Tampanya Maren", Souldance's own drumming ensemble (see article in this newsletter) who not only provided drumming but also clapping arrangements and body percussion!

If you would like to join us next year, simply borrow a costume and join us for a day to see what it is all about, or go the whole hog and make a costume, attend dance or drumming rehearsals and hit the festival ground running!!!