

**MassRaqs!  
Boston, MA  
Sept 24-26, 2010**

**Friday September 24th - Day 1:**

**Panel Presentation & Performance: Belly Dance in New England & Beyond**

7:00-9:00pm

Location: TBD.

**7:00pm- 8:00pm - Panel**

**Amy Smith, DeAnna Putnam:** will share some of the work from their documentary "Azizza!" (in progress) – a project that has beautifully begun to capture the long and rich herstory of belly dance in our area.

**Shadia:** will speak from her vast experience as part of the belly dance scene in New England for over 40 years, and will provide insight into it's future.

**Cassandra & Bozenka:** will be present to share their global perspective, and to answer any of your questions about their experiences as international superstar performers and teachers of Oriental "belly" dance in the world.

**Meiver:** will share some of her research to help contextualize our local dance heritage – inside the larger US belly dance scene, and explore the roots and directions of present day transformations of belly dance performance.

**YOU:** Will participate in the discussion, share your own stories, and **dance!**

**8:00pm – 9:30pm - Open Showcase for Local Dancers!**

***We will close the first night of MassRaqs with performances by  
New England's own dancers –  
All of you, the participants in this evolving history today!***

Dancers and troupes interested in performing at this event, please contact:

Meiver: [arabiyya@gmail.com](mailto:arabiyya@gmail.com)

\*\*Please use: "Dancing at MassRaqs 9/24 Show" –in all correspondence, so that I can find it. \*\* Limited number of performing spots available. 4 min. time limit for solos / duets. 6 min. time limit for troupes.

**First come, first served. Don't wait! Sign up to dance now!**

**Saturday September 25th - Day 2:**

Doors Open at 12:30 pm.

**12:45pm – 2:00pm - “Exciting Combinations for Modern Oriental Style” with Meiver**

This is an open level workshop. Experienced dancers will be motivated to experiment with new movement and floor patterns that incorporate the lightness, openness, drama, and speed of the modern style of Oriental “belly” dance. Newer students will be challenged with high-energy and dramatic combinations to embody the complexity of Arabic music. Fascinate your audience with an exciting dance without tricks or props! Just you and your dazzling moves!

**2:00 – 3:45pm - “Arms and Hands: Technique for Fluid Arm Movement and Emotive Gesturing” With Bozenka**

Bozenka’s graceful dance style is recognized by the fluidity of her arms and hands. Often she seems not to dance, but to float. Her arm work compliments and frames her dancing, but it doesn’t look like a separate item - instead it blends softly into the melody, through her masterful use of the upper body. Exquisite arms and hands bring your dance from looking forced or amateur, to mesmerizing and enchanting. Let Bozenka take your arms and hands to new heights!

**3:45-4:15pm – Break.**

**4:15 – 6:00pm - “Beledi Stylings” With Cassandra**

As the well-known Egyptian dancer Lala Hakim once said: “Belly dance is folklore, too”, meaning that many of the dance steps we use come from the Egyptian people and rhythms, and these folk flavors should be reflected in one’s performance. Make your dance more exciting and engaging by tapping into the earthy power of the Egyptian traditional movement style. This class will focus on the Beledi (*country or traditional*) stylings of movements, steps and feelings. **Please bring finger cymbals!**

**Sunday September 26th - Day 3:**

Doors Open at 12:00pm.

**12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - “ Two Hands, Two Canes: Technique for Raqs Al Assaya (Cane Dance)” With Shadia**

Instruction in this workshop will focus on the women's cane dance emphasizing safe and correct ambidextrous twirling technique and progressing to two canes. Strong folkloric hip & torso movements will be broken down, drilled and then performed in a short piece. **Please bring two dowels** 5/8" x3 or 4 feet in length. These are inexpensive and can be purchased at the Home Depot or local hardware store. Some heavier decorated pairs for performance will be available for use and/or purchase. Shadia will perform an impromptu cane piece at the end of the class.

**1:30 pm - 2:30 pm -*"Baalbekeya! -Dances of the Levantine Bedouin" With Shadia***

Bedouins throughout the Near East have their own distinct dialect, rhythms and dances, and the women especially demonstrate amazing agility in the torso and shoulder movements that are characteristic of the Levantine style. Movements will be broken down, drilled, put into combinations and then performed to a song. A short Bedouin style debke (line dance) will also be taught followed by an impromptu dance by Shadia.

**2:30 pm - 4:00 pm -*"Technique Tune-Up" With Cassandra***

Hone your skills with a true master teacher! Cassandra has a proven record of producing top-quality dancers, using her renowned methods and deep understanding of Middle Eastern dance, music, and culture. This class will focus on technique for Oriental "belly" dance movements and their variations, including layering and combinations. Cassandra has a gift for taking the simple to the level of spectacular. Dancers at any level, and teachers will benefit from her unique approach to breaking down the physical as well as the "feeling" components of the movements. Her teaching style is supportive, clear, articulate, humorous, and challenging. You cannot miss her!!

**4:00 pm -4:015pm - Break**

**4:15- 5:45 pm - "Precise & Powerful Hips: Drum Solo Technique" With Bozenka  
(and Drummer! TBA)**

Bozenka is the ultimate shimmy master. Her precise and powerful hip work has made her a global star of Oriental dance. She is also a generous instructor who will share the secrets to her power moves with you! Fans the world-around admire her many drum solo performances on youtube, and in her instructional and performance DVDs. Now you can learn from the best. If you've ever wondered how to compose an exciting drum solo, and how to do those power moves that will bring the house down, this is your chance to find out!

XXX is one of our best New England drummers, and will be providing his unmatched skills on the dums, teks & kahs, at this fun workshop.

**Sunday night: Special Performance!!**

**!!MassRaqs!!  
An Evening of Stars**

Come see the masters do their thing, relax, and reward yourself for all the hard work of the weekend. Enjoy an unforgettable night of performances featuring instructors: Bozenka! Cassandra! Shadia's Mirza Dance Ensemble! Meiver!  
Local New England Favorites!  
Mitchel Kalsunas and Band will provide music for this stellar performance!

Sunday Night, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Show Time: 7:30 pm

@ Springstep

(The show start time is not flexible! Don't be late or you'll miss it!)