

Review of Bal-Anat Performance – by Phillip



All, and I mean ALL, (37) dancers entered from the back of the room, dancing down the aisles with zills and voices. They filed onto the stage, did a huge group routine and then formed into a backdrop. Troupes and soloists came forward in an endless succession and performed. No pauses, no intermission, no chance to switch tapes, pretty much seamless. No one was announced. No individual names in the program that simply said (paraphrased) “A Performance by Bal-Anat”. As I recall, this was a show that had top rank, internationally known dancers with skills most only dream of having. At the end of the show everyone filed off and out of the room. It had a massive impact and was awesome in the old, now archaic sense of the word.

Sherrie Shaw's Addition.....

I have to agree w/Phillip on this show. It was really amazing. Simplicity at its best with all dancers on an equal playing field. No names were mentioned, none were singled out (except for a masked woman and she was unknown due to the mask). Even Suhaila herself was out there in the "backdrop" of women as an equal. The show was just super charged, I have never seen or felt energy like that at any show I have ever attended !

Valerie's Addition.....

The Saturday night show started with a film of vintage footage of the birth of bellydancing in California in the 70's. If you are going to be a belly dancer you should know your roots so this was fascinating to watch and listen to in Jamila's own words. Then the door opened and in came 37 dancers with zills and zagareets marching down the aisles and up to the stage, announcing their arrival and the energy just went up from there. There were 8 different groups from around the country and they only had one rehearsal together at 5 p.m. on Saturday! It was old school belly dancing and you were totally swept away for the entire show. No breaks, no announcements, nothing but dancing and zilling the whole time. Women power from beginning to end. I had taken several workshops and even tested out for level 1 with Suhaila but I had never seen her perform. You could just feel the love of all the dancers on stage for their mentor as she danced a solo to close out the show. She acknowledged the dancers and the audience as she danced and the energy just soared. I was so excited to see Melissa, Beatrice, 'Lyzabyth and Stacey on stage with Bal-Anat. I wonder if they have come down from their dancers high yet! And when the show was over, you were left in awe wondering what it was you had just witnessed.

Gitane's Addition.....

If you missed ABDC and Suhaila, what can I say...you snooze you lose! If you missed the Saturday night Bal-Anat Show, you missed an experience of a life time.



Lots of Pictures of Bal-Anat Show ---
[Bal Anat June 2011, photographed by Pixie Vision Productions](#)

If this does not work – visit Stacey’s Facebook Page ! You have to go see these !

(Suhaila in picture on the left)



Stacey, Suhaila & Jane



Suhaila

[Valerie on Suhaila’s Workshop](#)

Checking into the hotel with my roommate Sherrie for a weekend of dancing, shopping, shows and socializing was just the best way to start a weekend! As expected Suhaila literally worked my butt off 3 hours Saturday and 3 hours Sunday since she is the queen of glute squeezes. She has a no nonsense approach to her training program but a great sense of humor to keep you working hard and coming back for more.



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Editor's Comments: The vendor collection was arrayed around the main room.....lots of neat treasures !



Editor's Comments ! I especially enjoyed the “free events” on Saturday afternoon Starting with Performance Evaluations (only took a few pictures) – The panel of evaluators were notable – Karen Barbee, Bahaia and Z-Helene. They very quickly wrote out their comments, and the sheets were handed to the performers at the end (refer to Lori's Article elsewhere in this newsletter).

Again – some photos are missing ! Shown are Lori, Leeza and Beatrice.....



And of course, there were also the Open Stage Performances.....
An opportunity for dancers of all skill levels to showcase their work for an appreciative audience. Shown below: Lori, Laura, Casey and Desert Passion Dance Company....Roberta also performed, but I neglected to get a photograph.



View Desert Passion's DVD of their performance at www.desertpassion.com on the Cool Stuff Page !

AFTER THE SHOW PARTY @ HOT MAMA'S CAFÉ – Hosted by Najla



Of course there was bellydancing !



And eating and socializing and talking about the awesome weekend's activities...probably even some planning for future years !