



# BELEDI BEAT



A publication of Jawaahir Dance Company and The Cassandra School

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## Note from Cassandra

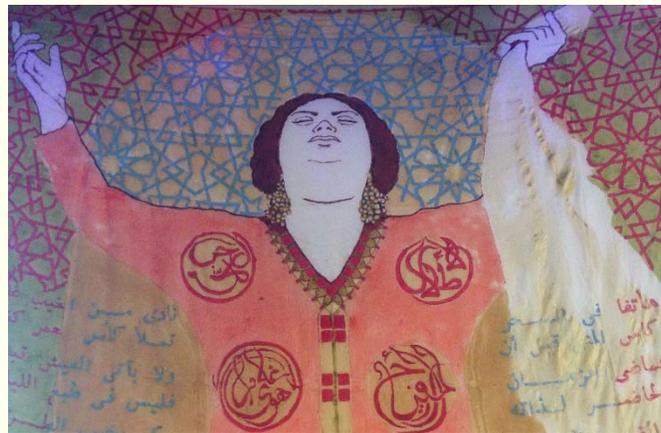
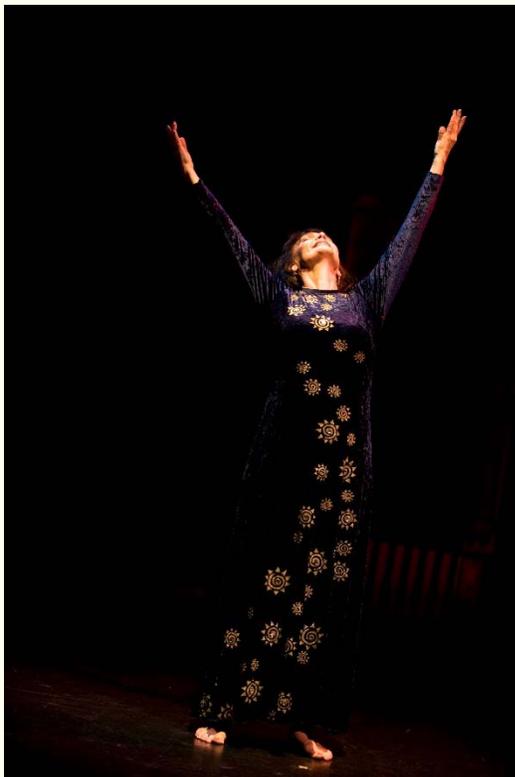
December 26, 2017

Thank you to all the great artists and audiences involved in the Mezza! You made it a fabulous experience!

We are looking forward to a productive and educational New Year, with a few free performances coming up, as well as our first trip to Egypt since 2011. Join us, if you like!

We are grateful to all of you who contributed to Jawaahir through the Give-To-The-Max-Day, Facebook Giving Day, and our annual fund drive. You help make it possible for us to continue to present the beauty of Arab music and dance. I am already working on the next year's concert; it's high time we did an all Oum Kalsoum concert.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy New Year from all of us to all of you!



## Oasis Dance Camp EGYPT with Cassandra!

People who want to explore the dance, music, antiquities, and food of Egypt now have a unique opportunity to travel to the country and be immersed in the culture. A once-in-a-lifetime trip from March 18-30, 2018 is being made possible through the efforts of Jean Courter, longtime organizer of the Oasis Dance Camps in the U.S., and Egyptian tour director Ehab Mahmoud. Cassandra will bring her experience as dancer, Egyptophile, and world traveler to share with participants.

"This tour is different and special, even from other dancer tours offered in Egypt," said Courter. This tour is a cultural immersion experience, not a dance workshop. The tour starts with a week in Cairo and Giza. "Each evening will feature live music and dance," giving participants an exclusive focus on the best of Egyptian Raqs Sharqi and folkloric dancers and music, as well as an opportunity to interact with the featured artists. Yasmina of Cairo will be one of the group's hosts, where she will host people for a meal, dancing, singing, and music (by her own orchestra) in her fabulous salon apartment with terraces overlooking the ancient pyramids. "It's an amazing experience!" said Jean, who has been invited by Yasmina personally. Cassandra and Yasmina are longtime dance friends, having met face-to-face at one of Ragia Hassan's *Ahlan Wa Sahlan* Festivals, when Cassandra was invited to teach. In addition to visiting museums and cultural sites, they will be hosted for dinner in local family homes, and Cassandra has a trip to several ateliers planned for dancers who would like to be fitted for a custom costume!

After Cairo, the group will travel up the Nile in a Dahabeya, a traditional Egyptian sailing yacht, (the sort that appears in one of Agatha Christie's novels!) which is a very smooth and luxurious way to travel. The cruise includes stops in Dashour, Memphis, Sukkara, Alexandria, Luxor, Karnak, and Aswan. "We'll be seeing some of the most beautiful temples in the North and South, including the shrine Abu Simbel, moved to accommodate the Aswan Dam, which we are very excited about." Recently, the Road of the Sphinxes from Karnak to Luxor Temples has undergone a restoration process, and new tombs were discovered and opened at Dra Abul Naga near Luxor, thanks to current imaging technology.



For those reasons and more, Courter thinks there's no time like the present to visit Egypt. The tourism industry is starting to slowly rebound after the events of 2011's Arab Spring. "So much in the world is changing. There is so much to see and connect with," she said. "The Egyptian people rely on tourism for their livelihood and they want to welcome people, and that's what we experience." Some of the folklore styles will soon be lost due to modernization and urban migration. This is a great chance to experience some of that traditional culture. Jean said the opportunity to engage with dancers and musicians in their home country and culture, especially for students of Egyptian (or Arab) dance, is not something that comes around every day. "This is such an eye-opener, especially for a dancer. I'd hate for people to miss out on that. I've been to Egypt four times and consider myself an enthusiast." Cassandra has stopped counting her trips to Egypt.

Courter and the Oasis Dance Camp have planned many annual events in the U.S. since 1985, and have also taken trips abroad to Morocco and New Zealand with Cassandra, usually once every two years. "I feel extraordinarily lucky to be able to work with her all these years. You don't want to miss out on traveling with Cassandra. It's the frosting on the cake!"

To find out more about the trip to Egypt and other Oasis Dance Camp events, visit <http://oasisdancecamp.com/>.

## Upcoming Events

**[Jawaahir's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Henna Party Open Stage](#)** is the perfect way to get warm in January! Join us on Sunday, January 21, for a delightful afternoon of henna, dance, food, and fun as we bring the Middle East to the Midwest. This year, enjoy an open stage performance with Jawaahir and other local dancers. Then, enter our two raffles: One, for a chance to have Angela of Ancient Traditions Mehndi work her magic on you and the second, for a chance to win a 10-week session of Level 1 or Level 2 classes at The Cassandra School. [Online reservations now](#), or you may pay your admission at the door. Adults are \$10 each and children 10 and younger are \$5 each.



**[CSBD Class Showings](#)** are held at our Minneapolis studio location on Saturday, March 17 at 1:30pm. These class "showings" are not formal performances but a chance to show what you've been learning and polishing. It's for all levels, so you can see what's in store for you. Free and open to the public, it's a chance for you to invite friends and family to see your progress and to have fun!

**[Oasis Dance Camps South & EGYPT](#)** Oasis is coming to Florida, January 26–28, 2018 and bringing a full weekend of intensive Oriental Dance training with Cassandra Shore, class accompaniment by Nicole LeCorgne, an evening of performances featuring Cassandra, a henna party, and over ten hours of instruction. Then, March 17–30, 2018 you'll go to EGYPT!!! Read all about your exciting trip in this edition of Beledi Beat!

**[Jawaahir's Annual Caravan Under the Stars](#)** is the gala event to be at on Thursday, May 10 at 6:00pm! Cassandra and Jawaahir invite you to join Cathy Wurzer, TPT2's Almanac co-host, and our mistress of ceremonies, and Gary Kruger, our live auctioneer, for an evening of celebration and gratitude for all of our beloved supporters....YOU! We'll have a short performance from Cassandra and Jawaahir for you to enjoy, sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction bursting with amazing things for you to bid on, and a super fun live auction. Plus, Angela, from [Ancient Traditions Mehndi](#) will be here to give you some beautiful henna. Online reservations of \$30 will be available soon or \$35 at the door. Our gala will be held at our Minneapolis studio.



***For further information on any of our upcoming events, check out the [Jawaahir website](#). You may also call 612-872-6050, or email us at [admin@jawaahir.org](mailto:admin@jawaahir.org).***

*Photos, in order, by Ann Marsden, Hend Al-Mansour, internet, internet, Jan Geisen, and Jan Geisen.*



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