

JAWAAHIR ARTISTIC DIRECTOR – Job Description

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Jawaahir Dance Company brings the rich folkloric heritage of the Arabic-speaking Middle East to the theatrical stage. We present artistically exceptional performances of Arab dance and music, and showcase this work as a vibrant living art form.

Based in the Twin Cities in Minnesota, Jawaahir is the only professional 501(c)(3) dance company in the Midwest that focuses solely on Arab dance and music. The Company was founded in 1989 by Cassandra Shore, former Artistic Director, as a way to move Middle Eastern dance “beyond the museum” and create original, theatrically inspired choreography that blends traditional and contemporary Middle Eastern forms. Cassandra is recognized as one of the world’s foremost performers and choreographers of Middle Eastern dance.

Today Jawaahir includes 15 professional dancers, along with paid administrators, and volunteers who help manage archives and data collection. We have fostered passionate, educated audiences for Arab dance and music, and have nurtured a new generation of artists in the field.

Jawaahir offers an extensive arts education program in this culturally authentic art form, welcoming serious professional students and amateur arts learners alike into understanding of and appreciation for Arab arts and culture through The Cassandra School.

Jawaahir website: <https://www.jawaahir.org/>

RESPONSIBILITIES

The Artistic Director is responsible for conceiving, developing, and implementing the artistic direction of Jawaahir Dance Company — putting the artistic vision and focus forward in conjunction with the Mission Statement:

Jawaahir Dance Company is dedicated to presenting Middle Eastern dance as a living art form at its highest artistic level, to bringing the rich folkloric heritage of the Middle East to the theater stage, and to providing education about the dance in its authentic form for dance students and the general public.

The Artistic Director ensures the highest level of excellence in all programs and performances within the parameters of established budgets. A successful candidate will have a deep commitment to presenting Middle Eastern dance and music at the highest standard.

The Artistic Director will have strong interpersonal skills — awareness of self and others; collaborative and team building; conflict management and resolution.

Executive Responsibilities

- Develop, articulate, and execute clear artistic vision aligned with JDC Mission Statement
- Recruit, develop, and motivate Company dancers
- Seek performance opportunities for JDC
- Seek educational/Community Outreach opportunities
- Teach, develop, and educate students in the art of Middle Eastern dance
- Collaborate with Board and local community to accomplish audience development and fund-raising objectives
- Seek grant support and oversee process, providing input for writing and submission of grants
- Oversee annual fundraisers
- Educate and excite the community about Middle Eastern dance and music
- Organize work, staff, calendars, and schedules

Production Responsibilities

- Supervise the choreography, rehearsals, and the presentation of full-length productions annually
- Assume full responsibility for, and make all artistic decisions concerning choreography, casting, music, sets, and costumes for all performance productions
- Direct and lead interface of dance and music for artistic performances
- Lead choreography development and teach pieces to Company dancers
- Create timeline and schedule of rehearsals for all productions
- Arrange and coordinate guest artists, choreographers and/or musicians for performances
- Select and coordinate with production staff: stage manager, light and sound technicians, videographer, ticketing coordinator, and any additional staff needed
- Manage and adhere to production budgets
- Prepare and present lecture demonstrations, small scale presentations, and community events

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum Qualifications

- In-depth knowledge of Middle Eastern dance, music, and culture
- Experience performing Middle Eastern dance at a professional level
- Experience choreographing Middle Eastern dance for professional-level dancers
- Experience teaching and developing talent

Preferred Qualifications

- Background in staging and performance production
- Experience in a leadership position
- Experience fostering development of good relationships within the community and other cultural organizations
- Knowledge of fundraising and audience development
- Experience managing budget/financials
- Experience performing outside of the US

LOCATION

The location of the potential candidate, in the Twin Cities or ability to work remotely (out-of-state), is open to negotiation.

COMPENSATION AND START DATE

The salary will be competitive with other dance companies of comparable size. It will also be dependent on experience and location of new Artistic Director. The start date is ideally late 2022 to early 2023.

CONTACT

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