



SPARKLE³

Jawaahir Dance Company ignites the stage
with an extravaganza of Arab dance and music,
including special guest artist, Luna of Cairo!



Thursday-Sunday, November 18-21, 2021

Elision Playhouse

Program Notes

Band Music

Andah Aleik played by Amwaaj
Composer: Mohamed Abdel Wahab

Al Touba

One of the best-loved songs by this composer.

Choreographer: Helen Voelker
Composer: Abdel Halim Hafez
Dancers: Courtney, Laura, Renee, Zahirah

Zay al Assal

Your love is like honey on my heart, I've met others but none compare. A song of two lovers destined for each other since childhood.

Choreographer: Theresa Kane
Composer: Baligh Hamdi, originally sung by Sabah
Dancers: Aria, Inara, Iscah Paquin, Megan, Naima, Salome Alexandra

Band Music

Layali Loubnan played by Amwaaj
Composer: Mohamed Abdel Wahab

Ya Msafer Wahdak

The name of this piece is loosely translated to mean "*the lone traveler*." In its original format, this piece was accompanied by lyrics that tell a story of longing for a loved one that has traveled and left their partner behind. The choreography is meant to convey the feelings of love, longing, and loneliness as expressed in the song.

Choreographer: Lauren Fraga
Composer: Mohammed Abdel Wahab
Dancers: Aria, Iscah Paquin, Miriam, Renee, Theresa

Band Music

Manara played by Amwaaj
Composer: Charbel Rouhana

Saidi Medley

A playful and theatrical interpretation of this medley of traditional tunes made famous by the Kenawi family band of Upper Egypt.

Choreographer: Renee Szudy
Composer: Traditional
Dancers: Inara, Lauren, Renee

Wahda Wahda

A sparkly, energetic, and vintage-inspired piece with splashes of contemporary flair.

Choreographer: Renee Szudy

Composer: Unknown

Dancers: Angelina, Courtney, Laura, Miriam, Salome Alexandra, Zahirah

Band Music

A fun drum duet between Tim O'Keefe and Susu Pampanin.

Ayela Tayha

Singer Ahmed Adaweya was a pioneer of the popular genre of Egyptian *Sha'abi* music. The lyrics tell a story of a man searching for his lost sweetie (she left). Although the narrator may lament, this song, personally, evokes great joy. Enjoy!

Choreographer: Megan Cunningham

Singer: Ahmed Adaweya

Dancers: Angelina, Laura, Miriam, Renee, Theresa

Band Music

Olive Harvest played by Amwaaj

Composer: Simon Shaheen

Dala'a al Amar

Choreographer: Kathy McCurdy

Dancers: Aria, Courtney, Helen, Iscah Paquin, Laura, Naima, Salome Alexandra, Zahirah

Raqs Sharqi

Music: Sammah Inoba Entrance

Dancer: Luna of Cairo

Intermission

Aghadan alqak

Tomorrow I See You is a contemporary take on this expressive music composed for the late Oum Kalsoum.

Choreographer: Cassandra Shore

Composer: Mohammed Abdel Wahab

Dancers: Helen, Laura, Lauren, Megan, Theresa

Music performed by Amwaaj

Band Music

Parfum de Gitane or Saraab played by Amwaaj

Composers: Anouar Brahim or Simon Shaheen

Raqs Sharqi

Music: Gabbar

Dancer: Luna of Cairo

Mashaa'l

Choreographer: Paula Rupp

Composer: Heni Mehenna

Dancers: Lauren, Megan, Miriam, Theresa, Zahirah

Band Music

Memory played by Amwaaj

Composer: Charbel Rouhana

Ahla Andalusi

An imagining of the dance of the Andalusian Court.

Choreographer: Cassandra Shore

Composer: Maher Kamal

Costumes: Laurie Olson Williams, Shannon Russell, Linae Bieber

Dancers: Courtney, Helen, Laura, Lauren, Megan, Miriam, Naima, Renee

Band Music

Qariat Al Finjan played by Amwaaj

Composer: Mohamad al Mougi

Bum Bum

This is an accurate depiction of '*shaabi*' dancing, a newer genre of Egyptian dance and music that has been progressively developing since the 2011 revolution in Egypt. The closest English translation is street dancing. This genre fuses Egyptian rhythms with beats and lyrics inspired by American hip-hop, and it developed underground in the years leading up to the Arab Spring. Contrary to older classics and pop songs, the lyrics of *shaabi* music mostly deal with politics and drug and alcohol use, perfectly capturing the pulse of the Egyptian street. The movements are big, bold, occasionally vulgar, and directly correspond to the lyrics. It is how every Egyptian dances at parties and street fairs.

Music: Ekhwaati

Dancer: Luna of Cairo

Musicians

Nay, bass

Violin

Oud, violin

Accordion

Buzuq, Arabic percussion

Arabic percussion

Dawn Doering

Laura Harada

Yaron Klein

Mohamed Lulu

Tim O'Keefe

Susu Pampanin

Credits

Acting Artistic Director, Choreographer

Consulting Artistic Director, Choreographer

Choreographer

Choreographer

Choreographer

Choreographer

Choreographer

Choreographer

Music Co-Directors

Lighting Designer

Sound Technician

Live Music Sound Technician

Stage Manager

Lauren Olson Fraga

Cassandra Shore

Megan Cunningham

Theresa Kane

Kathy McCurdy

Paula Rupp

Renee Szudy

Helen Voelker

Laura Harada, Tim O'Keefe

Hilary Smith

Dawn Meyer

Stephen Spaise

Shannon Russell

Biographical Notes

Lauren Olson Fraga (Acting Artistic Director, Jawaahir member) started studying Middle Eastern dance in 2006 at The Cassandra School. She studied at the school for a number of years and performed with local dance troupes before joining Jawaahir in 2010. In 2011 she moved to Brazil and continued her dance studies there. She attended workshops with a number of Brazilian dancers, performed locally, and frequently took classes with Monah Souad. In 2015 she returned to the US and rejoined Jawaahir. Since then, she has studied with a number of national and international artists, and has continued to study regularly with Cassandra Shore. She performs at local restaurants, weddings, and other special events in addition to her performances with Jawaahir Dance Company.

Luna of Cairo (guest artist) is an international Raqs as Sharqi dance star who performed in Egypt's top hotels and Nile cruises from 2008 to 2018. She has an exceptionally exciting style of dance, and has been featured on Egyptian television. Luna has appeared in music videos of some of Egypt's most popular singers, including Higazi Mitqal, Mahmoud El-Hosseiny, Simsim Shehab, Ragab El-Prince, and Ahmed Salah, and was a featured dancer in several Egyptian movies. In 2008, Luna left New York City on a Fulbright scholarship to write a book about dance in Egypt. While she was conducting research, she began dancing at five star resorts across the country. She soon became one of the most sought-after dancers in Cairo. Due to her authentic Egyptian style, technical precision and stage presence, Luna was contracted at the Semiramis Hotel in 2010. She was then contracted to perform on the Nile Memphis, where she performed nightly for seven years. Luna is in high demand to teach workshops around the world. She has taught all over the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, Egypt, England, Poland, Japan, China, Vietnam, and Hong Kong. She is also a regular teacher at Raqia Hassan's Ahlan wa Sahlan Festival, which takes place every summer in the Mena House Hotel in Cairo. In addition to dancing, Luna holds a Master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies from Harvard University. She studied radical Islamist movements in the Arab world. She is fluent in Arabic and Spanish, and holds a B.A. in journalism and political science. Luna also keeps a blog about her experiences as a foreign dancer in Cairo. You can keep up with her and her crazy adventures at Kisses from Kairo* (www.kissesfromkairo.blogspot.com).

Laura Crocker (Jawaahir member) attended her first Middle Eastern dance class with Cassandra while studying linguistics in college. In 2007 Laura joined Jawaahir Dance Company, realizing that the interplay between music and movement was her new favorite language.

Megan Cunningham (Jawaahir member) began studying Middle Eastern dance through The Cassandra School in 2011. She attends class, takes workshops, and travels to expand her knowledge of music, dance, and culture. In addition to dancing in the company, she performs locally as a soloist. Megan joined Jawaahir in 2016.

Dawn Doering (nay, bass) is a founding member of the Minnesota Arabic music ensemble *Amwaaaj* (Wave). She has studied Arabic music and nay under Bassam Saba, Dr. Ali Jihad Racy, Samir Siblini, and Simon Shaheen with grants and a fellowship from the East Central Arts Council (ECAC) funded by the McKnight Foundation.

Courtney Faragher (Jawaahir apprentice) has been fascinated for decades with the rhythms & melodies of Latin and Middle Eastern music. Her dance studies first began with salsa but soon she transitioned to belly dance through Community Ed. After one year there, she continued studying this art more formally with The Cassandra School. She joined Jawaahir as an apprentice in 2018.

Erin Garayt (Aria; Jawaahir apprentice) fell in love with dance and continues to find it healing. She grew up studying ballet, tap, and jazz. In 2009, Aria started belly dancing when she joined the Julianna and Blue Lotus Belly Dancers. She joined Jawaahir in 2019 and is excited to enhance her love for this dance with Cassandra and Jawaahir's folkloric style. Aria also dances with The Blue Lotus and Bartok.

Laura Harada (violin) is an eclectic musician, performing with music groups spanning from western to eastern classical, free jazz, Brazilian forro and choro, folk music from around the world, and chamber pop. Laura has been studying and performing classical Arabic music since 1997, taught by Palestinian oud/violin virtuoso/master educator Simon Shaheen, master musician Bassam Saba, violinist Naseem Dakwar, and other outstanding faculty at the Arabic Music Retreat. Besides this formal education, Laura has been fortunate to learn through performing with the Georges Lammam Ensemble for many years of shows with Jawaahir. She performs with the National Arab Orchestra in Detroit and locally with *Amwaaaj*, Samba Meu, Aby Wolf's Champagne Confetti and Bond Goes Belly, a recent collaboration with Jawaahir.

Louise Indritz (Salome Alexandra; Jawaahir apprentice) has been a student of Cassandra Shore since January 2000 and is thrilled to be an apprentice with this talented group of dancers. Through her contact with Cassandra she has had the good fortune to attend workshops in many other Middle Eastern Dance forms.

Theresa Kane (Jawaahir member) began studying Middle Eastern dance in 1998 after attending a performance of *Shoma* and being struck by the beauty of the movements. She performs regularly as a soloist, teaches, and continues to study extensively with Cassandra as well as dance instructors from around the world. She joined Jawaahir in 2004 and is now a member of the Board of Directors.

Yaron Klein (oud & violin) is a violinist, oud player, and a scholar of premodern Arabic literature and Arab music. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 2009, and shortly after moved to Minnesota to join the faculty of Carleton College, where he serves as an Associate Professor of Arabic and Senior Lecturer of oud. Yaron was trained in both (Western) classical violin, studying with Avigdor Zamir (Haifa) and Maurice Crut (Paris), and in oud and Arab violin, studying with Bassam Saba (NYC) and Taiseer Elias (Haifa).

Mohamed Lulu (accordion) was born and raised in Kuwait as a Palestinian refugee. He started playing music in first grade with early musical influences of Beethoven and Mozart from his uncle. In 1991, he moved to the United States and started playing Arab music with bands like Oasis, Electric Arab Orchestra, and Sahara City. After meeting Elias Lammam, who gave him an Arabic accordion to play, Mohamed started to learn more about how to play Arabic music and rhythms. Mohamed plays the accordion (European and Arabic), tabla, drums, and xylophone.

Kathy McCurdy (Jawaahir member) studied ballet, jazz, tap, and modern before discovering Middle Eastern dance. She studied with Tara Auringer in Madison, WI and Dahlena in Chicago, IL before moving to Minneapolis to study with Cassandra. She is a founding member of Jawaahir, teaches at The Cassandra School, and volunteers in the Jawaahir office.

Tim O'Keefe (Arabic percussion, buzuq) is a nationally touring multi-instrumentalist and well respected percussionist in the area. He has performed in music festivals in the Middle East in Jerash, Bethlehem, and Bir Zeit. Tim has performed with top artists in Arabic, Persian, and Kurdish music including Simon Shaheen's Al-Qantara, Sattar, Morteza, Sussan, and Sivan Perwar. Locally, he performs with *Amwaj*, Siama Matuzungidi, Xibaba, Maithree, Samba Meu, Music Mundial, Choro Borealis, and Batucada do Norte, and he toured nationally with the Rose Ensemble for many years. He recorded "The Passionate Voice of the Oud" with Sakher Hattar, Jordanian oud master. Tim composes and performs with many theater and dance productions including the 2014 collaboration with Rita Mustaphi and her Kathak dance ensemble, "Robayat." He is the music director of the recent Jawaahir collaboration *Bond Goes Belly*. Tim was honored to be on the percussion staff of the 2005 Arabic Music Retreat and is available for private and group lessons.

Susu Pampanin (Arabic percussion) has explored and studied various types of percussion instruments and styles of music, but her incredible love and talent for drumming is especially evident in her work in Middle Eastern music. Susu is well known for her virtuosity in Arabic drumming and is one of the few female Middle Eastern drummers highly respected by the Arabic professional music community. She has been performing with Aswat, the San Francisco Bay Area's premier Arab Music ensemble and chorus for several years, and also performs with the Georges Lammam Ensemble on a regular basis. She has been on the teaching faculty since 2006 at "Born to Drum," California's International/World Drum Camp for women, and currently teaches in the San Francisco Bay area. Susu has worked and recorded with fusion ensembles including Wild Mango, Keith Terry and Crosspulse, Stellamara, Jazayer, Blue Nile, and Vince Delgado Quintet.

Jessica Paquin (Iscah; Jawaahir member) has been studying Middle Eastern dance since 2003, where she was first drawn to the joyous expression of women and camaraderie. She is a popular soloist at area restaurants and joined Jawaahir in 2016.

Paula Rupp (Jawaahir member) began studying Middle Eastern dance in 2006 at The Cassandra School. She had never taken a dance class but quickly fell in love with the movement and music. She joined Jawaahir in 2016 and is currently on maternity leave.

Miriam Samuels-Schwartz (Jawaahir member) has been studying Middle Eastern dance since 2005, initially with the University of Wisconsin Bellydance Club (under the guidance of Mona N'wal), and with various troupes and collaborators since that time. She has been dancing with Jawaahir Dance Company since 2014.

Cassandra Shore (Consulting Artistic Director, choreographer) is recognized as one of the world's foremost performers and choreographers of Middle Eastern dance. With an early background in the Wigman and Graham styles of modern dance, Cassandra embraced Arab and Near Eastern dance in the early 1970s as a student of San Francisco's Jamila Salimpour. Cassandra founded Jawaahir Dance Company in 1989 as a way to showcase this exciting work as a vibrant living art form, steeped in generations of traditional learning, and resonating with new times and new cultural experiences.

Angela Skrade (Angelina; Jawaahir member) attended her first Middle Eastern dance classes in 2001 through Community Ed. After a year of learning with various local instructors, she moved on to classes with Cassandra, where she continues her studies to this day. Angela performs regularly as a soloist in local restaurants. She joined Jawaahir in 2011. She also practices the beautiful art of henna through her business Ancient Traditions Mehndi.

Kate Southwick (Inara; Jawaahir apprentice) has loved dance since learning the twist at age 3 and began studying Middle Eastern dance at The Cassandra School in 1991. She enjoys performing locally and regionally and joined Jawaahir in 2016.

Renee Szudy (Jawaahir member) was drawn to Middle Eastern dance after attending the NGO Forum to the UN Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). Renee began studying under Cassandra in 1996, joined Jawaahir in 2006, and enjoys teaching at The Cassandra School.

Helen Voelker (Jawaahir member) has been a member of Jawaahir Dance Company since 1990. With Cassandra as her main influence and grounding force, she has also attended classes by Dina, Raqia Hassan, and Randa Kamal, among other Egyptian greats, and traveled to Egypt several times to experience the music, dance, and culture first hand.

Heidi Waldron (Zahirah; Jawaahir member) began dancing with Nadia Sahar in Milwaukee Wisconsin. She relocated to Minneapolis in 1998 and continues to study at The Cassandra School. Since becoming a part of Jawaahir, she has enjoyed the opportunity to educate and entertain through the many performances offered by Jawaahir.

Thank You!

Jawaahir would like to thank: Jeff Bartlett, The Board of Directors, Tamara Borchardt, Elision Playhouse Staff, Jan Geisen, Eileen Goren and Terry Joyce, Louise Indritz, Jawaahir's Jewels, Theresa Kane, Alana Mari, Sandy Moore, Wendy Nemitz, Cathy Petersen, Jenny Piper, Shannon Russell, Cassandra Shore, Hilary Smith, Ahmed Tharwat.

Contributors 2020–2021

Friends of Jawaahir

We would like to thank our individual contributors whose generosity helps to make this show possible!

Diamond 1000+

Fred and Patricia Auch, Charmaine Lee, Anonymous.

Ruby 500+

Katherine Coon, Nancy Courteau, Eileen Goren, Sarah Maas, Wendy Nemitz, Dr. Susan Raatz, Sue Walters, Jovi Wilson.

Emerald (100+)

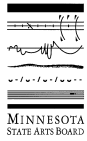
Laurel Adams, Cynthia Akagi, Lisa Bah, Cheryl Bates, Melinda Bobo, Tatyana Butkova, Christine Cameron, Kay & Gary Campbell, Ouhaib Chalbi, Georges Lamam & Jeanette Cool, Megan Cunningham, Janelle Dachtera, Dawn Doering, George Ehrenberg, Peter Ellison, Theodora Fair, Salah Fattah, Joan Gatzmeyer, Janet Geisen, Ali Hamidzadeh, Randy & Kelly Hamilton, Donna Hanbery, Libbie Henderson, James S. Hodges, Louise Indritz, Kathy Jacobson, Pam Kaufman, Mary Kertzman, Joseph & Julie Koegel, Jane Lafferrior, Lamis, Lucia Lee, Laura Lee, Marvin O. Loxterkamp, Carrie MacNabb, Kay Marszalek, Dawn Meyer, Neva Mikula, Sandy Moore, Molly Morphew, Janet Mueller, Diane Mullins, Edward Olson, Molly O'Shaughnessy, Michelle Peterson, Debra Poldoski, Raymond D. Terrill Charitable Fund, Hung Russell, Sandra Larson Family Fund, Kathleen Shovelain, Hilary Smith, Kate Southwick, Karen Tschida, Heidi & James Waldron, Susan Whitehead.

Sapphire (up to 99)

Dorothy Aho, Hend Al-Mansour, Amazon Smile, James and Georgene Angrist, Anonymous, Lisa Backes, Cindy Beddow, Leo Bjorlie, Sara Brazil, Smith Carstens, Erica Christ, Michelle Clark, Kristen Collins, Laura Crocker, Karen Cyson, Felicia Elias, Pam Gleason, Sandra Haag, Wendy Hammond, Dr. Abdallah A. Hanafy, Laura Harada, Katherine Howard, Jody Johnson-Huerbin Michael Kanner, Jon Kerr, Yaron Klein, Donald La Course, Stephanie Lundquist, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Heidi Mischke, Mariann Nelson, Anne Ravenstone, Karl Schlotterbeck, Joseph Schmidt, R. Silverman, Gloria Simon-Kuzma, Sharon Sloper, Jennifer Tether, Scott Van Wert, Diana Viteri, Jennifer Wagner, Dr. Cheryl Wall, Julia Weiler, Candi Williams, Denise Williamson, JoAnne Zingo.

In-Kind Donations

Thank you to all who donated in-kind items for our annual Caravan Under the Stars Gala: Alliance Francaise, Ancient Traditions Mehndi, Anders Genealogical Services, Ansari's Mediterranean Grill & Lounge, Black Market Barbecue, Blue Door Pub, Common Roots Café, Craft n Crew, Eastern Shore Natural Health, Foster Art and Soul, Lakewinds Co-Op, Landscape Arboretum, Mediterranean Cruise Café, Modist Brewing, Mother Earth Gardens, Oasis Dance Camp, ONX, Seward Co-Op, Tapestry Folkdance Center, The Bakken Museum, The Hook and Ladder Theater & Lounge, The Rock Camp Experience, Trader Joe's, Triple Aquarian, Turquoise International, Two Oaks Trading Co., Vanessa Barnhart, Vibrant Joy Movement Studio, Margo Abdo-O'Dell, Rana Campbell-Beams, Kate Coon, Jane Copeland, Susan Embum, Eileen Goren, Pook Grathwol, Laura Harada, Terrence Joyce, Tim O'Keefe, Jessica Paquin, Patricia Auch, Jenny Piper, Debbie Poldoski, Susan Raatz, Cassandra Shore, Shirley Taramelli.



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund; Heidi Heffelfinger Todd and Steven S. Todd Fund; Lisherness Foundation; O'Shaughnessy Foundation; St. Paul & Minnesota Foundation; Target; Employers Matching Grants from Allstate, Conoco Phillips, Marsh & McLennan Companies, Medtronic, and 3M Foundation; and friends of Jawaahir.

metro
regional
arts
council



Jawaahir Dance Company

www.jawaahir.org

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.

Board of Directors: Patricia Auch, Kay Hardy Campbell, Salah Abdel Fattah, Eileen Goren, Theresa Kane, Kathy McCurdy, Melanie Meyer, Eileen O'Shaughnessy, Cassandra Shore, Hilary Smith, Lauren Olson Fraga, Acting Artistic Director, Jenny Piper, General Manager.

The Cassandra School, the teaching arm of Jawaahir, offers year-round instruction to all levels of students in Middle Eastern dance. Visit us at www.cassandraschool.com

I want to give the Jawaahir jewels a strong setting.

Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law. Some employers will match your gift, increasing the impact of your contribution. Use the *Donate* button on our home page, or make checks payable to Jawaahir Dance Company.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, contact us for bookings, or just say hello, please email us at admin@jawaahir.org, use snail mail to Jawaahir Dance Company, 3010 Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55406, or call us at 612-872-6050. Visit our website at jawaahir.org or Friend us on Facebook. We'd love to hear from you!

Looking to belly dance yourself? Visit us at cassandraschool.com to register for classes. See you in class!