



Dokus Sekiz

Dans Aşkına Newsletter, October 2016

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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

Follow us on Facebook and our website to learn about our upcoming performances!

~ Volume 5, Issue 2 - October, 2016 ~

Rakkas Minneapolis

After much planning and anticipation, it was finally here! Dans Aşkına hosted Rakkas Minneapolis the weekend of August 26th – 28th. It was a three day experience of Turkish music, dance and culture like no other this side of Istanbul. We were humbled and honored to have the three MOST amazing guest instructors/dancers extraordinaire; the Remarkable Reyhan Tuzsuz, the Spectacular Serkan Tutar, and the Amazing Artemis Mourat.

In addition to our guest instructors, we had participants and performers come from all across the United States and Canada



*~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres~*

**Classes are held on Tuesday
evenings at the Hopkins
Center for the Performing
Arts**

Fall 2016 Session - Sept 20-Nov
15
7:00-8:30 pm

Amina also offers private
lessons and coaching for
individual dancers or troupes

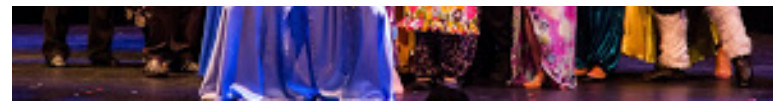
*~ Dans Askina Advisory
Board: ~*

Artemis Mourat - International
expert in Turkish Oriental and
Romanian dances, Artemis is an
award-winning dance
instructor and performer and
extensive academic researcher
of Turkish dance and culture.

Sarah Dorman - Founder and
owner of SaraCura. A local arts
patron, yoga instructor and
world traveller, Sarah is also a
blogger for the Twin Cities
Fringe Festival.

participate in the
workshops,

shopping and Anatolian Gala Show Saturday evening. We thoroughly
enjoyed getting to know and spend time with this lovely group of
dancers who came from near and far. Çok Tesekkür Ederim (thank you
very much) for being a part of this Rakkas weekend!!!



We kicked off the weekend Friday evening with
an open house/meet and greet with the guest
artists and participants. Food and drinks were
enjoyed while the mood was set with an
incredible live music set by the local Turkish
group On the Way to Uskudar. Their music was
followed by an excellent panel discussion and
questions for our guest artists.

All day Saturday
and Sunday
morning, our
schedule was
packed with
workshops by the
guest instructors
(and our very
own Amina

Beres). The workshop offerings included Romani with Reyhan, Veils,
Argentine Baladi, and Shaabi with Serkan, 9/8 Breakdown, Turkish
Oriental, and Turkish Ciftetelli with Artemis, Turkish Folkloric spoon
dances with Amina, and much more. In between all of the dancing, we



June Seaney - New England's expert on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches belly dance through the Physical Education department of Cornell University.

Nancy Fetzek - Nancy's Turkish dance and costuming expertise arose from her numerous travels across Turkey. She collaborates with the Minnesota Turkish-American Association for their Festival of Nations performances, and creates custom dance costuming through her Etsy shop - ZambakDesigns.

Emily Jarrett Hughes - Emily specializes in women's dances from the Balkans and Asia Minor, including Balkan Romani and Turkish folkloric dance and has her own performance troupe, Living Wisdom. Her company organizes special events that use culturally-based dance to connect people with the natural world. www.wisdomdances.com

Alexandra Howes - A high school teacher, Alexandra brings a broad depth of expertise as an educator,

all enjoyed food and shopping with our vendors, who brought a wonderful variety of wares to our Grand Bazaar over the weekend.

This was an amazing experience for Dans Aşkına, and we hope everyone that else enjoyed it as much as we did. A truly heartfelt THANK YOU to our sponsors, vendors, participants, audience and (of course) our fabulous guest artists. We are indebted and appreciative to everyone who helped make Rakkas Minneapolis possible!!



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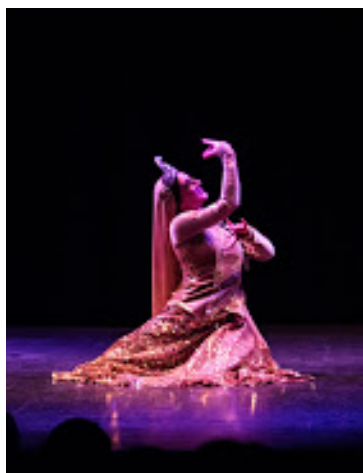
Anatolian Origins - Rakkas Minneapolis Gala Show

Capping off an amazing weekend of dance workshops, the performers in the gala show Anatolian Origins: Dance and Music from Across the Ottoman Empire, displayed a varied and dazzling array of talent. Our two guest artists from Turkey, Reyhan Tuzsuz and Serkan Tutar, performed for the first time in the Upper Midwest and we were honored with a return performance by Artemis Mourat. There were also a number of local and out-of-town dancers who graced the stage with their talents, as well as a group of skilled, local musicians that

performer, director of high school theater programs, and educator of theater and dance.

specialized in Turkish and Balkan music. It was a show not to be missed!

Our guest artists' performances were nothing short of amazing! Reyhan, famed for her Turkish Romani performance and instruction, danced two colorful and charismatic improvised solos. Serkan Tutar, currently living and teaching in Belgium, graced us with a modern drum solo with veil solo and Argentine Baladi / Egyptian Shaabi, performance which brought international flash and incredible energy to the stage. And, Artemis Mourat, the US's own Turkish dance expert, wowed the crowd with her Modern Cifatelli performance and Gypsy Girl drum solo.



We were also fortunate to have visiting dancers perform! Laman Hendricks from Anchorage, Alaska enlightened us with the delicate/feminine and powerful/masculine sides of Georgian folkloric dance in her two pieces. Her talented daughter, Vivienne Bennett, made the crowd gasp with awe at her flexibility and grace in her rhythmic gymnastics piece. Victoria Morris, from

██████████ Canada, performed a skilled Silifke spoon dance from Turkey's Mediterranean region. Sekhmet from Vermont brought her talent to the stage with a beautiful cabaret-style version of a



Karsilama choreographed by Artemis Mourat. The Turkish American Association of Minnesota Folkdancers amazed the audience with their energetic selection of folk dances. On the Way to Uskudar, a band formed in the Twin Cities, performed a variety of traditional and contemporary music, as well as original compositions.

Dans Askina performed 4 pieces: a “Sweet Ciftetelli” reminiscent of an Ottoman court dance; an intense Zikr, or Whirling Dervish performance; a 1920's-era cheeky Kanto dance hall piece; and the vocals-only Heyamo, a Laz work song from the eastern Black Sea region. Our own Ben Suleyman, improvised a historical Kocek solo, and Lou Abela, our Master of Ceremonies for the night, entertained us with a reading of Rumi poetry.

All in all, it was an amazing night!



Daniel Tuchy, CFA Kyle Schrieffler Satoru (San) Asato, CFP®, CFM Jennifer Cole Marsha Virgin
Financial Analyst Financial Advisor Financial Advisor Sr. Client Services Office Manager
Branch Manager Associate

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- San's golf handicap: 15



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*Membership based on prior fiscal year production. Requalification is required annually.

You Asked, They Answered

In our hustle-and-bustle world it's not always possible to get to know

our dance instructors in ways that go beyond technique; how do you learn what inspires them, or how did they get their start as professionals? At Rakkas Minneapolis, our Ask the Artist question and answer session gave everyone a chance to learn more about our guest artists.

Our charming guest artists Reyhan Tuzsuz, Serkan Tutar and Artemis Mourat inspired great questions and answered them with verve and warmth. It was one of the highlights of a great weekend where we all drew closer and learned so much beyond dance steps and choreographies. Here's a sampling of some the questions from participants and the panel's interesting and thoughtful answers.

What's your favorite dance move and instrument?

Artemis: Anything with arms and hands. My favorite instruments are the clarinet and doumbek.

Reyhan: Drum and violin are favorite instruments. [Then she stood up to demonstrate the Romani finger snaps, çat (pronounced 'chat') and göbek atmak (pronounced go-beck at-mahk), which is throwing the belly.]

Serkan: It depends on my mood, but I love arms, hands, hips. My favorite instruments are the doumbek, clarinet, and kanoon.



What inspired you to start dancing?

Artemis: My family on my father's side are Greeks from Turkey, and when I was a child my parents would stand me up on a table and people would give me nickels and pennies to dance. When I was 21-years old I saw my first professional belly dancer in a night club and I said to myself 'I'm going to do that.' It took over my life.

Reyhan: When we are born we start to hear the rhythms of 9/8. My mother sang us lullabies, Romani songs in 9/8 rhythm. All of it is my inspiration. I started to dance when I was 6-years old. My first teacher was my mother, my family and friends at wedding parties and festivals. I used to go under the table, I was too shy to get picked to dance, but they would say, 'Reyhan you have to dance.' Now I love to dance. It is a pleasure and honor.

Serkan: Turkish people love to dance and have music in their life. When I was 10-years old my family went to live in a Middle Eastern country. My first belly dance lesson was from our Arabic landlady. She taught me with a tea glass and spoon how to make noise when I shimmy. After we moved back to Turkey I studied belly dance from videos, all the Egyptian stars. I also found the Turkish belly dancer Nesrin Topkapi and got lessons from her. My first paid performance was when I was 17-years old.

Who are the people who influenced your dancing?

Artemis: Over the years a lot of people have influenced me: Sema Yildiz, Pandora, Reyhan Tuzsuz, Tulay Karaca, Eva Cernik, and

Tayyar Akdeniz.

Reyhan: My first teacher was my mother because I am Roman. I have her dance in my blood. It has been this way since I was born.

Serkan: I never stop learning. I am influenced by Nesrin Topkapi, Aziza, Mahmoud Reda, and Rachel Brice. I get so much from these people, posture and hand movements, these things stay forever in my heart. As a teacher we also learn from our students.



Reyhan Tuzsuz - Sharing Passion for Romani Dance

To watch Reyhan Tuzsuz perform is pure delight. Like all great dancers, Reyhan fully inhabits her body and the stage with every movement and carries her audience with her. Whether it is a small foot tap or fervent belly throw, Reyhan's movements are powerful

emotional and physical declarations that are grounded in her unabashed love for her Romani culture and dance. For those unfamiliar with Romani dance, it is a distinct part of the culture. While Romani dance styles vary across Turkey, Russia or the Balkans, it is always characterized by a proud stance and strong upper arms combined with hands, hips and foot movements danced to 9/8 rhythms.



Having the opportunity to see Reyhan perform is a rare honor anywhere, and especially in the Twin Cities. A Minnesota Regional Arts Council grant to Dans Askina helped fund the Turkish dance festival Rakkas Minneapolis this past August, where people could experience Reyhan's talents and gifts (along with Serkan Tutar and Artemis Mourat). We had the opportunity to

interview her while she was here, and fellow Turkish dancer Serkan Tutar translated the conversation.

Reyhan is a Roman woman who has lived her whole life in Istanbul, Turkey. She said this informs everything she does as a person, performer and teacher of Romani dance. (She prefers that people use

the word Romani because “gypsy” is considered a pejorative.) She didn’t set out to become a teacher or performer, but an entire childhood steeped in the music of signature Romani 9/8 rhythms, and get-togethers featuring dancing, instilled in her a sense of pride, community and culture that motivates her teaching now. “I enjoy showing our culture and sharing,” she said.

“When you are Romani there’s always music in your life. When you are born, there’s music. When babies start to move they hear 9/8 rhythms. They grow up with it.” Reyhan started dancing as a six-year-old in the traditional way. Like most Roman girls, she learned from her mother and other women who were enjoying themselves at weddings and festivals. “My first teacher is my mother and family and friends. Not professionals.”

From her perspective this is a very important distinction. Romani dance is first and foremost a communal activity. “There’s a difference in dancing for the stage and dancing with family. Both have different feelings. At a wedding celebration there is no choreography, and people are together for the wedding. When you dance on stage the people are there to see you.”

At weddings and street festivals Reyhan said dancers also engage in friendly competitions around who is most creative or spontaneous, and in her case, appreciation for her dancing grew as she developed her own style. That eventually led to teaching it when a foreign visitor asked to learn more about Romani dance. Reyhan has taught visitors from around the world who come to her house to learn from her. It’s not typical for a Roman woman to do that, but she said that her children are grown and she’s in a unique position to do so. Once she

became a performer and teacher, conveying authentic Romani culture became even more important.

Reyhan said that there are lots of ways Romani dance is misunderstood, in name and in style. “It is not choreography but a culture. I like to give what I know to my students to share with them and teach them the real Romani,” she said. Reyhan’s style is uniquely her own in terms of her hand work and the steps, and that is part of the Romani tradition, too.



Reyhan teaches in the customary Romani way, where students follow the teacher’s movements, but even more imperative, learn to capture the feeling inherent in the music. “The music of 9/8 inspires me. When the music and the soul come together, the dance comes out. I am so happy to be Romani.”



Give to the Max Day, November 17, 2016!



November 17, 2016 is the date for Give to the Max Day, our biggest fundraising event of the year! Give to the Max Day is when your online donation makes the biggest positive impact on small

arts organizations like us!

Prefer to donate by check? See #4 of our Four Fun Fundraising Facts below!

As we are a proud Incubator Project with Springboard for the Arts, **your donation to Dans Aşkına** is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law – a win-win situation for all!

AND for the first time ever, Springboard for the Arts is generously waiving their administration fees for all funds donated on November 17th! This helps further maximize **your donation to us** and all the other organizations you choose to support on that day.

Since we began fundraising on Give to the Max Day in 2012, you've helped us bring these exciting Turkish dance events to the Twin Cities:

- * Our 2013 Turkish Romani Festival Weekend
- * Dans Senlik, our Annual Show
- * Our 2015 Masters in Minneapolis Dance Series, where we hold open classes and open rehearsals with national and international guest instructors
- * Our 2016 Rakkas Minneapolis Dance Festival

With your continued support, we will make 2017 our best season yet - Çok Tesekkür Ederim for helping us bring quality Turkish dance and music to Minnesota!

Four Fun Fundraising Facts for Give to the Max Day:

1. You don't need to live in Minnesota to donate!
2. Busy on November 17? Schedule your donation in advance on the GiveMN site!
3. Minimum online donation is \$10.00
4. For check donations
 - a. Make your check payable to 'Springboard for the Arts'

- b. Indicate 'For Dans Askina Turkish Dance Ensemble' in the Memo line
 - c. Mail to Springboard for the Arts,
308 E Prince St #270, St. Paul, MN 55101
 - d. There is no minimum check donation amount
-

Turkish 101 - A Visit to the Family Farm

Recently, I took a trip back home to North Dakota with my brother to visit our aile çiftligi (family farm).

The first to greet us were üç atları (three horses). Then came the köpek (dog). Her name is Molly. The çiftlik kedileri (farm cats) are not so friendly as the köpek.

There were many fine sigirlar (cattle), some of them are raised for süt (milk). There were also tavuklar (chickens) to give us yumurtalar (eggs) for breakfast.

During our stay, we visited another çiftlik and saw keçiler (goats) and koyun (sheep). I wonder if any of the çiftçileri (farmers) make peynir (cheese) from the inek veya keçi sütü (cow or goat milk)?

In North Dakota there are also bizon çiftlikleri (buffalo/bison farms), where they are raised for et (meat). At the Frontier Village in Jamestown, we saw White Cloud, a güzel beyaz bizon (beautiful white

buffalo). What a wonderful creature to see.

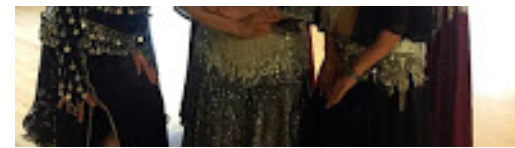
Çiftlik	<i>Cheftlek</i>	Farm
Çiftçi	<i>Cheeftchee</i>	Farmer
Aile	<i>Aeeleh</i>	Family
At	<i>Aht</i>	Horse
İnek	<i>Enehk</i>	Cow
Sığırlar	<i>suhurlahr</i>	Cattle
köpek	<i>Kupehk</i>	Dog
Kedi	<i>Kehdee</i>	Cat
Tavuk	<i>tahvook</i>	Chicken
Süt	<i>Sewt</i>	Milk
Yumurta	<i>Yoomoortah</i>	Egg
Koyun	<i>Koyoon</i>	Sheep
Keçi	<i>Kehchee</i>	Goat
Peynir	<i>Pehneer</i>	Cheese
Bizon	<i>Beezone</i>	Buffalo
Aile	<i>Aeeleh</i>	Family
Beyaz	<i>Behyahz</i>	White
Et	<i>et</i>	Meat

2016 Spring and Summer Performances

Dans Aşkına had the opportunity to perform at a number of events this past spring and summer! The 26th annual Guild of Oriental Dance show was held in April at Patrick's



Cabaret, and we performed in multicolored cabaret costumes to a Turkish Oryantal choreography of "Enduluste Ilk Buse".



In June, several members attended a workshop in Minneapolis, taught by Shahrzad who is one of the current stars performing in Egypt. The workshop and show were hosted by local artist Emalee Morem at the Tek Box Theatre downtown.



For the 3rd year in a row, we were invited to participate in the City of Brooklyn Parks annual "Tater Daze" celebration, where we performed a medley of our Turkish Oryantal, Romani, and Folkloric dances. This is one of our favorite events, with a large and receptive crowd.

July found us returning to Ren in the Glen, in Glenwood City, Wisconsin. This once a year Renaissance Festival is an incredibly family-friendly event, one which we are proud to be invited back to year after year.



Also in July, we returned for the 3rd year in a row to perform at the Little Mekong Night Market Festival in St. Paul. It has been an incredible experience to be part of such a vibrant and growing community celebration!

Our Generous Financial and In-Kind Donors

A heart-felt thanks to the following for your support in 2016 of Dans Askina, and for helping us make our Rakkas Minneapolis festival a reality. Words can't adequately express our appreciation for all you have done to help us with your financial, technical, and in-kind contributions.

Artistic Board: Sarah Dorman, Nancy Fetzek, Alexandra Howes, Emily Jarrett-Hughes, Artemis Mourat, June Seaney

Website: Pamela Nici Lawson www.nlawsondesign.com

Turquoise Level (Up to \$100): Anonymous, Steve Bachman, Lisa Bah, Elizabeth Beck Sarah Bell, Dustin Carlson, Bryan Christianson, Megan Christianson, Michael Culliton, Adedeji Famodu, Ayodeli Famodu, Kimberly Famodu, Oluremi Famodu, Oluseyi Famodu, Olutoye Famodu, Susan Geller, Sylvia Hamilton, Charles Hanson, Gregory Hathaway, Avery Holden, Kali Holden, Alexandra Howes, Emily Jarrett-Hughes, Janine Keller, Jill Kohler, Barbara Kuzelka, Benjamin Lamb, Melissa Lombardo, Marilyn Lovato, Michelle Mack, Cheryl Mayberry, Jessica McCroskey, Carey Moe, Sue Molzahn, Karen Monk, Missy Mound, Susan Nyberg, Nan Peterson, Albert C. Posz, John Repp, Nancy Sacco, Kassi Schimek, Aggie Snyder, Amy Snyder, Carol Snyder, John Snyder, Omonike Thomason, Jackie Walker, Jeanne

Zetah.

Cöcek Level (\$101 to \$300): Allie & Lou Abela, Saturo Asato, Marilyn & Mark Christianson, Jennifer Cole, Patricia Cumbie, Wendy Famodu, Nicole Gibas, Nancy Holden, Rob Siebers, Charlotte West.

Çengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Anonymous, Carlotta & Carl Posz.

Tulip Level (\$1000+): Anonymous, Rabia Gultekin Duddy.

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