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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

Ivy Bldg Arts Fest

Friday, October 12, 2012 - 6-9pm
Minneapolis, MN

Mirah Ammal and Al-Bahira present The Spooktacular Show

Saturday, October 13, 2012
7:00pm
Minneapolis, MN

For more information, please visit: [Al-Bahira Spooktacular](#)

Caravan's Winter Holiday Hafla

Friday, November 16, 2012
Chanhassen, MN

More information can be found at: [Caravan Dance and Music](#)

Mirah Ammal and Al-Bahira present Holiday Dazzle Hafla

Sunday, November 18, 2012
7:00pm
Minneapolis, MN

For more information, please visit: [Al-Bahira Holiday Dazzle](#)

~ Turkish Dance Classes with Amina Beres~

~ Volume 1, Issue 2 - October, 2012 ~

From Kirklareli to Trabzon to Minneapolis

What does Minneapolis have in common with two different provinces from the Black Sea coast of Turkey? Two amazing women who shared the folkdances of their homeland with Dans Aşkına!

Over this past summer, Dans Aşkına collaborated with Nese Yurttas and Figen Haugen, two Turkish women who are the driving force behind the Turkish American Association of Minnesota Folk Dancers. While you may not recognize the name at first, you have seen their colorful costumes and lightning-fast footwork at the Festival of Nations in St. Paul each year.

Our journey to the Black Sea began in January 2012, when Artistic Director Amina Beres contacted Nese and Figen about the two troupes collaborating on some dances. In the midst of their Festival of Nations rehearsals, Nese and Figen invited Amina to observe one of their rehearsals; in turn, they met with Dans Aşkına and with a big 'thumbs up', rehearsals began in June.

"Kirklareli dance," says Nese, "is from a province on the European side of Turkey, northwest of Istanbul along the western coast of the Black Sea. We started with this dance because Amina and her dancers are quite familiar with 9/8 rhythms of that region."

"The version we used is instrumental but other versions have lyrics," adds Figen.



"The music has a definite upbeat feel to it," adds company member Sonja Um-Siri. "While we expected some variations of Romani moves, given where this province is located, other sections included Figure 8 hipwork." "Yes," says company member Marilyn. "We were a little surprised that some of our 'bellydance moves' are part of this folkdance."

"While Kirklareli has fast sections in it, everything in Trabzon is faster," says Figen. "In Trabzon they drive fast, they talk very fast, and they dance even faster!"

With Kirklareli under our hipscarves, our next challenge was the Trabzon Horon. On the opposite side of the Black Sea from Kirklareli, Trabzon province is in the northeastern corner of Turkey on the Asian side. "We wanted to teach dances from opposite sides of the Black Sea to show contrast," says Nese.

"All that I can add to that," laughs company member Mahsati, "is that if you think you are in good physical shape, dancing the Horon is the best way to find out! It's filled with hopping, jumping, and very fast turns." "Absolutely!" adds company apprentice Alexandra. "Anyone who thinks folk dancing is boring has never danced with Nese and Figen."

We look forward to continued dance



Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts

Fall 2012 Session - Tuesdays,
October 2-November 27
7:30-9:00pm

~ *The Other 10 Songs Every
Turkish Style Dancer Should
Know* ~

Contributed by Artemis Mourat
and June Seaney

11. Dere Geliyor Dere
12. Şehnaz Longa
13. Nihavent Longa
14. Sultani Yegah Sirto
There are many spellings,
also known as
"Sultani Yegah Longa"
15. Üskükar
also known as
Üşküdarin Çeşmesi
16. Trakya Karşılama
17. Yüksek Yüksek Tepelere
18. Fidayda
19. Oğlan Oğlan
20. While not a specific song,
Turkish-style dancers should
also know the various Romany
rhythms, drum solos, and be
able to Taksim to clarinet,
kanoun, oud, bağlama, and
violin.

~ *Fun Facts!
Dog and cat breeds
native to Turkey.* ~

Dog in Turkish is **köpek**,
pronounced ka-peck.

Dog breeds:

- Kangal - considered the
national breed of Turkey
- Akbash
- Anatolian Shepherd
- Catalburun - has a unique trait
of a split nose
- Kars
- Konya
- Malak
- Tazi

Cat in Turkish is **kedî**,
pronounced keh-dee.

Cat breeds:

- Turkish Angora
- Turkish Van
- Turkish Van Kedisi - aka
Vankedisi

~ *Dans Askina Advisory
Board:* ~

Artemis Mourat - Nationally
and Internationally recognized
expert in Turkish Oriental and
Romany dances. Artemis is an
award-winning dance
instructor and performer who
combines her technical dance
ability with extensive academic
research of Turkish dance and
culture.

opportunities
with our new
Turkish friends,
and in sharing
these dances with our audiences.



A Spellbinding Weekend in October 2012 for Dans Aşkına!

No tricks, the Halloween treats are coming early for Dans Aşkına!



From October 25-27, 2012, we will be participating in a series of private workshops in Romani dance and culture from renowned experts Artemis Mourat and June Seaney.

"One-on-one instruction from Artemis and June," says Amina Beres, "allows us to learn from the experts the nuances that are key to conveying the appropriate emotion of this style. We are so fortunate to have them on our Artistic Board. I'm amazed they could coordinate their busy schedules to come here and work with us!"

"We are so please to work with Amina Beres and Dans Aşkına," says

Artemis. "We are just excited to be

able to see the Turkish dances they have been developing. As members of the Dans Aşkına Artistic Board, our visit allows us to see their creative processes in action."

"And as instructors," adds June, "it's a special opportunity to work exclusively with a troupe on Romani dance - we are very excited about the dance magic we will create!"

"Gypsy" and the Romani Archives and Documentation Center

Contributed by June Seaney, Dans Aşkına Artistic Board Member

In April, 2012, I had the good fortune to meet Dr. Ian Hancock, Professor of Linguistics at the University of Texas, Austin, when he spoke at Cornell University about the Roma during the Holocaust. Dr. Hancock is also Romani, and I was able to meet with him to discuss his culture's music and dance.

Introducing myself as a performer and instructor of Romani dances, I explained my studies of these dances from Turkey, Russia, Spain, Macedonia/Balkans, and, even though I am not Romani, I want to perform them as authentically as possible and represent his people with honor and respect. I asked his opinion on the use of the word "Gypsy" when advertising classes or performances.

I was reassured by his answer that it is ok to put the word "Gypsy" in parenthesis, such as "Romani (Gypsy) Dance" to get the public's attention - **then** once you have their attention, **educate** them. Educate them with pictures, books, whatever it takes to let the public know that Romani people are people just like everyone else. As performers and instructors in this dance, we must work to **dispel stereotypes** of the cultures we emulate in our dancing. In short, educate - educate - educate.

In that vein, here are some quick Romani facts excerpted from Dr. Hancock's book, We are the Romani People:

Sarah Dorman - Founder and owner of SaraCura, since 2001 the Twin Cities only local bellydance costume, music, and finger cymbal supplier. A local arts patron, Sarah is also a blogger for the Twin Cities Fringe Festival.

June Seaney - One of New England's regional experts on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe of Ithaca and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches bellydance through the Physical Education department of Cornell University.

Nancy Fetzek - Nancy has researched Turkish dance and costuming through her numerous and extensive travels across Turkey. She also collaborates with the Minneapolis Turkish-American Association for their Festival of Nations performances. Visit her etsy shop - ZambakDesigns.

- There are about 12 million Romani throughout the world in Europe, North and South America, Australia, parts of Africa and Asia
- The largest population of Romani live in Europe
- Romanies differ from place to place, yet maintain aspects of the same culture and speak dialects of the same language
- Romanies are originally from Rajputana (present day Rajasthan) and Punjab, India
- Romanies first arrived in Europe at the end of the thirteenth century.
 - Europeans have called them by many names. Two names which have lasted to this day are "Tsingani" and "Egyptian"
 - Both are based on mistaken identity and have produced many other names that carry derogatory meanings

Dr. Hancock is also the Director of the Romani Archives and Documentation Center located at the University of Texas at Austin. (www.radoc.net) Artemis Mourat has donated extensively to these archives and I am honored to have a book of photographs of me teaching Romani dance through The Institute for European Studies at Cornell University accepted by the Romani Archives and Documentation Center.



The "Evil Eye"

How much of the history of the "Evil Eye" are you familiar with?

The Evil Eye is the supernatural ability to harm people or their possessions just by looking at them. It is a piercing look conveying strong feelings of disapproval or jealousy, even hatred. Persons with blue or green eyes are believed to have this



power, and can unintentionally cast a spell just by gazing too long at someone. References to the Evil Eye have been traced back to the Old Testament and philosophical writings as far back as 700 B.C. Its significance varies widely among Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cultures.

The spells range from bad luck to disease, sickness, and even death. Victims have customarily been babies and toddlers, who are often admired by those who would have reason to be covetous - such as childless women - but the Eye can also be cast on pets, livestock, and inanimate objects.



Turkey was one of the first civilizations to create an amulet (Nazar) in defense of the Evil Eye. The Nazar is designed to reflect the "glare" from the light colored eyes, and typically is made of handmade glass with concentric circles or teardrop shapes in dark blue, white, light blue, and black. The Nazar is a popular tourist souvenir, but also remains culturally accepted as you can still find it hung in homes, offices, and

cars for protection. The image adorns children's clothing, pet collars, jewelry, and even airplanes.

Save the Date - Romani Festival Weekend October 5-6, 2013!!

Dans Aşkına is excited to announce our upcoming Romani Festival Weekend! Make sure you Save the Dates of October 5-6, 2013!

What's happening, you ask?

Artemis Mourat and June Seaney will be teaching Romani dance and culture workshops for our entire dance community!



Dans Aşkına received funding from the

Metropolitan Regional Arts Council for this event, and we are excited to present a unique weekend of dance workshops. Our Romani Festival weekend will focus exclusively on Romani dance, history and culture, and includes a lunch lecture/video presentation of Romani peoples dancing their heritage.

The workshops will be available to beginning, intermediate, and advanced dancers, and our evening show will re-create a typical Romani street festival one would experience in Istanbul, complete with musicians. Our musicians will provide live music for all the workshop participants to dance to in a relaxed, fun environment.

Dans Aşkına Artistic Director Amina Beres adds, "A unique aspect of Romani dance is that it is not about knowing the most moves, but owning the moves you know and having fun dancing with your friends. We wanted to incorporate this into a Festival for our workshop participants, who may not get many opportunities to dance what they have learned to a live musical accompaniment. It's a bit of a departure from the regular format of attending a workshop and watching other people dance in an evening show, but we're excited about the opportunity this presents for our participants."

Dans Aşkına's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page will be updated with registration and show information in late winter 2012. We have more surprises in store with this unique weekend, so stay tuned!

You Say Goodbye, and I say hello...

"You say goodbye, and I say hello".....but how do you say it in Turkish?

Just as in English, there are several different ways to say hello and goodbye depending on how formal the situation is or how well acquainted you are with the people you are speaking with.

'Hello' is **merhaba** (mare- ha-ba), while a general 'good day' is **İyi günler** (ee guhn-lehr) and 'good evening' is **İyi akşamlar** (ee ahk-shahm-lahr). In either situation, if you are meeting someone for the first time you would follow with **memnun oldum** (mem-noon oll-doom), which is 'pleased to meet you'.

When it is time to say goodbye, there are a few more options available. One can repeat **İyi akşamlar** or **güle güle** (goo lay goo lay), which can mean goodbye or bon voyage, or **Hoşça kalın** (hosh-cha kal-uhn).

A fun one to try is **Görüşürüz** (gour-ehsh yehr-ehz) or 'see you later!'

And we hope we will!

"Anako/Işler Nanay - I Just Wanted to Choreograph that Lively Song!"

Little did our Company Dancer Sonja Um-Siri realize that after listening to 'Anako/Işler Nanay' she would be off on a linguistic journey!

"I'd listened to the song for months, and as choreographic visions took shape in my mind, I saw a group of Romani women doing something together. A matriarch was kvetching, and the other women dialogued with her. Heavily influenced by a Carlos Saura's classic flamenco movie, "Amor Brujo", I saw these women doing laundry together on the outskirts of their neighborhood. I pictured vividly colorful laundry baskets stacked upon each other to create a platform for the kvetching matriarch."

"This was all well and good, but did this scene make sense with the lyrics? Having no clue what they meant, I turned to my Turkish friend, Cem Ombasi. As it turns out, the lyrics are a mix of Turkish and Romani, and so my linguistic journey began!"

The Turkish language belongs to the Altay branch of the Urak-Altai linguistic family, same as Finnish and Hungarian. Romani languages have their roots in India, and are classified as a member of the Indo-European linguistic family. Vocabulary and grammatical influences from all along the Romani Trail shape the languages spoken by Roma.

"As the roots of both languages are quite different, Romani lyrics and movie dialogues are often not easily understood by non-Romani Turks! This became very real as Cem worked to translate and help me understand the lyrics of "Anako/Işler Nanay" by the Turkish group Kardeş Türküler."

Anako/Işler Nanay! - (Mama, things are not good/all screwed up)

Aman bir hecalim var! - (I have something to say - usually the start of a rant/heated discussion/argument)

Her kime? - (for who/to whom)

Istanbul'un pahasini, isini pisini, selini çekenlere! - (for those who bear the grind, dirt and flood of Istanbul)

Çal bana çakir gayday - (play me the instrument)

oyna oyna, çal gayday - (dance, dance play the instrument)

Habe yoksa, ye yorganlari - (if there is no food, eat the quilts/comforters)

Bugün de perhiz edelim - (today we'll fast)

Gel bize, keriz edelim - (come over and let's have fun)

Levan da nanay, koy movasta - (we don't have any money, there's nothing left)

Yetmedi, kalmedi, yetmedi - (it wasn't enough, nothing left, wasn't enough)

Yağmur ötelere yapar - (it rains elsewhere)

Bizim mahaleyi sel basar - (but it floods our neighborhood)

Hidrellezgeldi, geçer - (the holiday has come and passed)

Soske be burda çoro kaldik - (why are we left here in despair?)

Eyü'te, balat'ta, gültepe'de - (in Eyup, Balat, Gultepe [gypsy neighborhoods in Istanbul])

So tekera, işler nanay - (oh well/what to do things are not good/all screwed up)

"Even though the music has a lively and upbeat feel to it, the lyrics are about very challenging realities of Romani life in Istanbul. I concluded the laundry scene was a suitable context for this choreography, including Romani dance gestures to represent the playing of musical instruments mentioned in the lyrics. Now you know 'the rest of the story' for the next time you see Dans Aşkına performing 'Anako/Işler

Nanay!"

Sources:

<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/dil.htm>

<http://www.omniglot.com/writing/turkish.htm>

<http://romafacts.uni-graz.at/index.php/language/general-introduction/general-introduction>

Dans Aşkına 2012 Performances Recap

We had another wonderful year of performing and it's not over yet! Below is a brief recap of this year's performance schedule.

February - Şubat Dans Parti

We danced our winter blues away at the Şubat Dans Parti in February 2012. Held at the Hopkins Center for Performing Arts and featuring west-metro community education classes, this show was a sell-out, standing-room only performance. We were thrilled to have collected over 70 pounds of donated food and personal hygiene products for two local non-profits: ICA Food Shelf and ResourceWest. Mark your calendars for the next Şubat Dans Parti on February 16, 2013.

March - Raqs Afsana Show

Featuring the wonderful Elizabeth Strong, Dans Aşkına, local and regional troupes and soloists joined together to create an evening of amazing dance. Troupe members debuted "Anako," a Romani piece choreographed by company member Sonja Um-Siri.

April - Guild of Oriental Dance Annual Show

Breaking out of traditional Turkish dance mode, we performed "Texas Twister", a fusion of country-western line dance, Egyptian Ghawazee-inspired hip work and finger cymbal patterns, and good old-fashioned square dancing. We thank Kate Inara Southwick for granting us the use of her creative costuming ideas of jeans, beer bottle cap hip scarves, and cowboy hats - Yee Haw!

May - Al-Bahira's Summer Stars and Banat el Kamar Annual Show

These events are two of our favorites. We had such fun performing "Anako" in March, that we repeated the performance at both venues.

July - Arabian Nights, Rochester, Minnesota

Highlighting a weekend of dance workshops with the vibrant dancer Virginia Mendez, Kerime, Esmerelda, Mahsati, and Amina Beres reprised the first choreography Dans Aşkına ever performed - "Karakas Mahallesi" - a fusion piece in 9/8 of Romani moves and non-Romani skirt dancing.

September - Minnesota Renaissance Festival

Dans Aşkına joined Festival dancers, drummers, and avocational dancers in day-long improvisational performances throughout the Festival grounds.

October 6 - Guild Annual Benefit

An annual fundraising event for women's shelters, this year's event was held in the new Jawaahir Studios. We debuted "Kirklareli" (see article above) to a warm and generous audience who helped raised over \$1000.00 for [Womens Advocates, Inc.](#), a women's shelter in St. Paul, MN.

October 12 - Ivy Building Arts Fest

Our rehearsal space is in this lovely building, which dates from the Civil War, and the event features the range of artists who are tenants of the building. We will be showcasing a variety of Turkish costumes and dance styles to percussion-only accompaniment.

October 13 - Al Bahira's Spooktacular

In keeping with the mysterious theme of the event, we will debut the somber, haunting, and plaintive Turkic piece "Alagoz". We thank Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray for providing the music, costuming ideas, and

choreography sections. Dan Aşkina founding member Kerime Posz combined her own research with Dr. Gray's and we couldn't be happier with the results.

November 16 - Caravan's Holiday Hafta

We are excited to perform with the newest dance and music ensemble in the Twin Cities! In keeping with their holiday theme, our performance will deck the halls of the venue, the Chanhassen Dinner Theater.

November 18 - Al Bahira's Holidazzle

Another chance to deck the halls, this time at Patrick's Cabaret in Minneapolis. Ho Ho Ho!

December

We have a few things in the works, so please visit our [Facebook](#) page or [website](#) for updates when our plans are finalized!

Çok Teşekkür Ederim to our Supporters

We wish to extend a heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for their support of Dans Aşkina. 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, Artemis Mourat, June Seaney

Dans Aşkina Alumni: Malika Benachour, Mary Hoff, Stephanie Lundquist, Nancy Mikrut, Mary Sandberg, Janine Waldack

Website Maven: [Pamela Nici Lawson](#)

Financial and In-Kind Contributors

Turquoise Level (up to \$100): Ann-Marie, Anonymous, Breyan Abramson, Aaron and Brenda Anderson, Reya Azami, Lisa Bah, Amy Bowser-Koenig, Michael Blackmore & Katherine Broman, Von Brewster, Steffi Bruninghaus, Kedi Bruninghaus, Jennifer Cole, Pat Cumbie, Liz Dixon, Suzanne Dizon, Judy Elling, Stacy Enzmann, Wendy Famdou, Jennifer Fields Hawkins, Janet Fridgen, Mindy Hargrove, Nancy Holden, Alexandra Howes, Louise Indritz, Kathryn-Sonia Inoferio, Stephanie Kaiser, Angie Koetch, Susan Knutson, Laura Lee, Mike Lein, Marilyn Lovato, Stephanie & John Lundquist, Becky Marchand, Sue Molzahn, Saskia Nichols, Kat Richardson, Nisreen O'Neill, Cat Robinette, Ivan Rosen, Amy Snyder, Jackie Walker, Roberta Webb, Charlotte West

Cöcek Level (\$100 to \$300): Anonymous, Joel Beres, Marilyn & Mark Christianson, Isabelle Doyle, Carl & Carlotta Posz, Dave & Mary Sandberg

Cengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Lou and Allie Abela

Tulip Level (\$1,000+): Be the first patron to donate!

Dans Aşkina Receives Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant

On March 27, 2012, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) awarded \$279,189 to 60 organizations/projects in the second round of its FY 2012 Community Arts grant program. Dans Aşkina Turkish Dance Ensemble is one of the fortunate recipients of this round of grant monies!



Our MRAC grant is for a Turkish Romani Festival Weekend in Minneapolis on October, 2013! Romani dance and culture workshops will be taught by Artemis Mourat and June Seaney, and the weekend will culminate in a 'Romani Street Festival' specifically designed for workshop participants to dance the night

away to music provided by local musicians. It's a unique opportunity to learn a dance style not seen in the Twin Cities, and for participants to dance to live music in a relaxed, 'street festival' atmosphere. Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for registration information and more!



Minnesota's [Give to the Max Day](#) is November 15, 2012. Your consideration of a financial contribution to Dans Aşkına is greatly appreciated to help us meet our financial requirements of our Metropolitan Regional Arts Council grant.

Our grant monies will be used to produce a weekend-long series of workshops in October 2013 of Romani dance and culture, including a 'Romani Street Festival' evening concert for workshop participants featuring local musicians, workshop instructors, and special dance guests. Our Romani Festival is made possible in part by a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council.

Donations to Dans Aşkına can also be made through our fiscal sponsor, [Springboard for the Arts](#) and are tax deductible to the extent allowed.

Çok Teşekkür Ederim! (Thank You Very Much!)

You are receiving this newsletter because you signed up on our website or at one of our events. Not interested anymore? [Unsubscribe.](#)