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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

**Guild of Oriental Dance
Celebration of Dance**

Saturday, April 6, 2013
7pm
Old Arizona Theater,
Minneapolis, MN

Afsana Presents April Rose!

April 13, 2013
7:00pm
Gremlin Theater, St. Paul, MN

**Amina Beres and Katze in
Istanbul, Turkey**

April 30 - May 12, 2013

Celebration of Community

May 5, 2013
1-4pm
Blake School Ice Arena,
Wayzata, MN

**Banat el Kamar Annual
Spring Show**

June 8, 2013
7:00pm
Minneapolis, MN

Ren in the Glen

July 27-28, 2013
10am-6pm (5pm on Sunday)
Glenwood City, WI

For more information, please
visit: glenfests.com

~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres~

**Hopkins Center for the
Performing Arts**

Spring 2013 Session - Tuesdays,
March 19 - May 14, 2013
7:30-9:00pm

~ Volume 2, Issue 1 - April, 2013 ~

Şubat Dans Parti, II - Our 2nd Year!

On February 16, 2013 the JC Theater in the Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts was once again filled with the sights and sounds of Middle Eastern Dance at our 2nd Annual Şubat Dans Parti.

Gracing the stage this year were performers from the western and southern metro Community Education Bellydance programs at Pratt, Bloomington/Richfield, Hopkins, Minneapolis/Eden Prairie, Minnetonka, and special guests the Turkish-American Association of Minnesota Folkdance group. Soloists performing were the instructors from each program, making for an exciting evening showcasing the breadth of styles within 'bellydance'.



The performances included fast Turkish footwork, popping and locking fusion, fluid veil dances, a group sword dance, a few light-hearted comedic numbers, and student solos and duets. Rounding out the evening were solo performances by the

instructors from each Community Education Program and a zill-only piece by Dans Aşkına. Our audience was very engaged, going so far as to provide a clapping accompaniment when a minor technical difficulty resulted in no music for the finale solo by Dans Aşkına co-director Kerime Posz.

Once again, we partnered with non-profit organizations ResourceWest and ICA Foodshelf, and once again our generous dancers and audience stepped up to the plate - DOUBLING the donations from last year. We collected close to 200 pounds of nonperishable food items and personal hygiene products!

Changes are on the horizon for 2014 - we are exploring options for a larger venue as we've obviously outgrown the JC Theater! What won't be changing is Şubat Dans Parti will still be in the Hopkins area, will still showcase all the talent in the west and southern metro Community Education bellydance programs, and will still partner with local nonprofit organizations - keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for further information.

Thank you for helping individuals and families in need and we look forward to hosting our third Şubat Dans Parti in 2014!



Photos by Michael Winn

~ Fun Facts! - The Caracal~

The caracal (pronounced care-a-cull) is a wild cat closely related to the African Golden Cat and Serval. Caracal comes from the Turkish word 'karakulak', meaning "black ear," as they have tufts or tassels of black hair on their ears.

They were once trained by Indian and Arabian nobility as hunting animals. It also seems they had some religious significance to the ancient Egyptians. Images are found on wall paintings; embalmed caracal bodies in tombs, and sculptures of caracals guarding tombs.

The Wildcat Sanctuary in Sandstone, Minnesota has a resident caracal named **Sampson**.

~ 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.

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.

Dans Aşkına in Turkey - May 2013 Spring Hidrellez Festival & Tour

The Hidrellez is a Turkish spring festival held in the beginning of May that is remarkable for its colorful and ancient rituals. The celebration is also known as the Day of Hizir, the Muslim saint who appears as a mendicant dervish (*a holy fool*) to grant people wishes for the coming year. Hizir is also the Patron Saint of Travelers, so it's quite appropriate Dans Aşkına Artistic Director Amina Beres and troupe member Patricia Cumbie (Katze) are travelling to the Hidrellez festival in Erdine, Turkey this spring to study Romani dance and culture with Artemis Mourat and Reyhan Tuzsuz.



Artemis Mourat has been researching, dancing, and teaching Turkish dance her entire adult life, and has arranged this one-of-a-kind tour to expand awareness of Romani dance and cultural traditions.



Reyhan Tuzsuz is a famous Romani dancer from the heart of the Roma community in Istanbul. While there have always been Romani willing to teach their dance, Reyhan is one of the few who teaches organized dance workshops structured for a western audience and has the distinction of releasing her own instructional DVD in 2011 called *Raw Roman: Turkish Gypsy Dance*. In addition to the scheduled dance lessons with Artemis that are incorporated into the tour, Amina Beres will also be taking intensive one-on-one dance lessons with Reyhan.

During their two-week stay, Amina and Patricia will divide their time between Istanbul and Erdine where the Hidrellez Festival is held. They will also be exploring the beautiful archeological and architectural sites of both cities and sampling the delicious cuisine between dance lessons! Both Amina and Patricia are excited for the opportunity to learn more about the Romani people first-hand, as well as deepen their knowledge of Turkish Romani dance styles and music.

The Hidrellez is a particularly important festival to the Romani (Roman Gypsy) people. Celebrations occur throughout the day and night; crowds dance to lively 9/8 rhythms played by Romani musicians; street food is served by vendors; and fortunes are told from coffee grounds, cards, and animal bones. Traditions also include jumping over a bonfire, tying wishes to tree branches, and taking a ritual dip in a river during the early hours of the morning, all symbolizing renewal and rebirth.



"I am inspired to go because it's a really rare opportunity, not only for the music and dance,



but to experience an important cultural celebration," said Patricia. "To be able to learn Romani dance from two masters *and* experience the Hidrellez first-hand is extremely exciting!"

Amina Beres has long studied the history and dances of Turkey, as well as other regions of the Middle East, and believes the entire troupe will benefit from what she learns. "Romani dance is typically a solo performance or an unstructured group dance, a dance to express what you feel whether that's happiness, sadness, grief, or elation. Because it's

a spontaneous dance, the emotional aspect can become lost when one creates a staged Romani choreography." "The cultural insights we'll gain by participating in the Hidrellez will help us capture that authenticity so we can properly translate it into choreographies for the stage," she said. "To be in Turkey, studying with Artemis and Reyhan, and participate in the Hidrellez - it's a dream come true for me!"

You can be sure this trip will inspire new and unique choreographies for Dans Aşkına! In the next issue of Dokus Sekiz, Amina and Patricia will follow-up with photos and more reports from their Hidrellez journey!

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

In our fall issue of "Dokus Sekiz," we announced our upcoming Romani Festival Weekend! Here are a few more details!

Thanks to our receipt of a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and fundraising through the annual Give to the Max Days, Dans Aşkına is excited to bring the premier



instructors of Turkish Romani dance to Minneapolis - Artemis Mourat and June Seaney!

Our Romani Festival weekend will be held at the beautiful **Old Arizona Theater and Dance Studios** in Minneapolis, and will focus exclusively on Romani dance, history, and culture.

With Turkish Romani workshops during both days, including a lunch-time lecture on Turkish Romani culture, the weekend will include a 'Silk Road Souk' with costumed local vendors and a Saturday evening show. The show will be a 'workshop participant only' event, where we recreate a typical Romani street festival for all the workshop participants to dance to in a relaxed, fun environment.

Why the departure from the regular format of attending a workshop and then watching other people dance in an evening show? "Turkish Romani dance is more about owning the moves you know and having fun dancing with your friends," says Dans Aşkına Artistic Director Amina Beres. "We wanted to incorporate this idea into our weekend festival. With limited opportunities to dance to Romani music, and to dance it with live musical accompaniment, we're excited to provide both to our workshop participants." "And," Amina adds, "Old Arizona Theater is perfect venue for this format; it's not too big nor too small, and has the right atmosphere for a great evening of social dancing."

The local musicians, hand-picked by expert musician Tim O'Keefe, will perform a variety of Turkish and Turkish Romani music with percussion, clarinet, and violin. "We're very excited to be working with local musicians," says Amina Beres, "Our dance community may be very familiar with Tim's expertise in percussion, but they may not realize his brother Pat is an expert clarinetist. The clarinet is a primary instrument in Turkish Romani music and we're fortunate to have a local expert in that style."

Stay tuned to Dans Aşkına's [website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for registration and show information; we have still more surprises in store for this unique weekend, Save the Date!

Spring is Here (Finally!)

It's time to Garden with Dans Aşkına!

Once again, we have teamed up with Malmberg's Garden Center, and you can get all your gardening supplies and donate to our Spring Fundraiser at the same time.

Shop any of the Malmberg's Garden Center locations (Brooklyn Center, Blaine, or Rogers) during the week of May 12 - May 18, 2013 - anything from seeds and plants to garden implements, lawn ornaments, and landscaping materials. Present our fundraising form to the cashier and Malmberg's will donate 10% of your pre-tax purchase to Dans Aşkına.

What could be easier?

The only requirements are our form must be presented at time of purchase, and 'our' week is May 12 through May 18. Our form is available from any Dans Aşkına member or can be printed out from Malmberg's [website](#).



Thanks and Happy Gardening!

A Choreographer's Journey - To Southeastern Turkey and the Halay

Halay (Hull-lie) folk dances are primarily from eastern, southeastern and central Turkey. While there are variations of the Halay unique to each region, our Co-Artistic Director Kerime Posz took a more global approach to choreographing this exciting dance.

"The word *Halay* is interpreted to mean 'unity' or 'union'. So as I've been working on the choreography I'm adapting and blending different dance steps from different regions where the Halay is performed," says Kerime. "The dance is generally performed by both male and female dancers holding hands and dancing in rows, but can also be performed by groups of men or groups of women. What is consistent across all the Halay versions I've studied is they are in some form of line, start at one tempo, and the music speeds up progressively throughout the piece."

While Turkish folk music generally uses very different instrumentation and rhythms than most Middle Eastern music, Kerime discovered there are more similarities than differences in the Turkish Halay. "There's a familiar sound to the music," adds Kerime, "the predominant instruments in both are drums and reed instruments. The Turkish instruments are the davul, a large double-headed drum played with sticks and the zurna, a conical oboe woodwind. The same or very similar instruments are in Egyptian Saidi music but are known as the tabla beledi and mizmar."

"My vision of costuming for the Halay is to showcase the movement with long coats of soft fabric with split seams, underskirts or shalwar, and hand scarves. The scarves are similar to Lebanese Debke handkerchiefs which are waved by the dancers at the ends of the lines."

Keep an eye on our performance schedule; you may be the first to see our debut of Kerime's Halay!





Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?

It's 'time' to learn a few different ways to ask "What time is it?" in Turkish.

You can ask **saat kaç?** (sawt cahch) which roughly means "how much hour?" *Saat* refers to the hour, and *kaç* refers to amount or how much.

Other phrases include **Ne zaman** (neh zah-mahn) meaning "when/what time" or **kaç zaman** (cach zah-mahn), meaning "how much time?"

In answer to 'Saat Kaç', you would respond with 'Saat' for the hour and then the number for the time. For example, **Saat bir** is the reply for 'It is one o'clock.'

And here are the numbers one through twelve....until next 'time'!

- 1 - bir** (beer) remember to roll that r
- 2 - iki** (ick-ee)
- 3 - üç** (ooch)
- 4 - dört** (dert)
- 5 - beş** (besh)
- 6 - alti** (alta)
- 7 - yedi** (yih-dee)
- 8 - sekiz** (seck-eez)
- 9 - dokuz** (doe-cooz)
- 10 - on** (ohn)
- 11 - on bir** (ohn beer)
- 12 - ohn iki** (ohn ikee)

Kitap Köşe - "Book Corner"

Jason Goodwin, a British writer and historian, has completed four novels set in nineteenth-century Istanbul. The main character is Yashim Togalu, a Eunuch with close ties to the Sultan's palace who investigates politically sensitive disappearances and deaths. Yashim is assisted by his not-always-so-willing friend Stanislaw Palewski, an ambassador without a country. Filled with dramatic chases and last-minute escapes, each story also provides insights into Ottoman culture: harem life, the Janissaries, the Cöçek dancing boys, and of course, Istanbul itself, its neighborhoods, palaces, cafes, and caiques (river boats).

Goodwin also encompasses the food and meal preparation of the era into his mysteries. While exact recipe amounts are not provided, the preparation of well-known Turkish dishes such as Imam Bayildi (the Imam fainted) are a delight to read.

Because the locations and descriptions are geographically accurate, it helps to keep a map of Istanbul handy or to search online for pictures of key locations such as Topkapi Palace, Aya Sophia, the Serpent Stone,

and the Galata Tower as you follow Yashim on his adventures. Whether your goal is a cultural and historical understanding or simple enjoyment of a good story, we recommend Goodwin's books: *The Janissary Tree*, *The Snake Stone*, *The Bellini Card*, and *The Evil Eye*.

Sharing Our Love of Turkish Dance

In November of 2012, two of Dans Askina's company members, Marilyn and Esmerelda, were invited to present a Romani workshop to the Girls Service Activity Club at the Blake School in Hopkins. Fifteen 3rd graders and their leaders attended.

The workshop started with locating Turkey on a world map and providing some 'fun facts' about Turkey, including comparisons between Istanbul and Minneapolis. Next came a brief history of Turkish dance styles, complete with Çengi, Cöçek, Romani and Folkdance costumes for the girls to examine. After learning to play kaşıklar (Turkish spoons) and zills (finger cymbals), everyone put on a hip scarf to learn some Turkish Romani dance steps and gestures to 9/8 rhythm music and a folkdance.

As a memento of the afternoon, each girl was presented with our Minjck mascot or our logo pin.

"We had a wonderful afternoon with the girls", said Marilyn. "They were very attentive and asked very good questions about Turkey and the Romani people."

"And they learned the 9/8 rhythm really quickly!" adds Esmerelda.

Perhaps we have some future dancers in the making!



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