



Dokus Sekiz

Dans Aşkına Newsletter, October 2015

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We are on Facebook!

~ Upcoming Performances ~

Seward Art Frolic at The Playwright Center

Friday December 4, 2015
7:00 pm

[Click for more information](#)

~ Volume 4, Issue 2 - October, 2015 ~

Dans Aşkına Receives Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Grant!



Dans Aşkına Turkish Dance Ensemble is thrilled to be one of the fortunate recipients of a Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) Arts Activities Support Grant!

Our funded project, Rakkas Minneapolis, will be held from August 26-28, 2016 at the Hopkins Center for the Arts in downtown Hopkins, MN. If you're a dancer, you'll have nine different Turkish and Egyptian dance workshops to choose from; if you're not a dancer, you're invited to attend our informal 'Ask the Artist' evening, plus a gala public performance by our Guest Instructors, Dans Aşkına, and other fabulous dancers.

Rakkas Minneapolis Guest Instructors:

* Artemis Mourat, Living Legend of Turkish Dance

**5th Annual Dans Senlik
Hopkins Center for the Arts**

Saturday February 20, 2016
7:00-9:00 pm

*~ Turkish Dance Classes with
Amina Beres~*

**Hopkins Center for the
Performing Arts**

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

Fall 2015 Session - Sept 22-Nov
17, 2015
7:30-9:00 pm

Turkish Triathlon - Dec 1-Dec
15, 2015
7:30-9:00 pm

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

* Serkan Tutar, 2008 Male Belly dancer of the World - 1st time instructing and performing in the Upper Midwest!

* Reyhan Tuzsuz, the Queen of Turkish Romani Dance - 1st time instructing and performing in the Upper Midwest!

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for registration information and more!

Rakkas Minneapolis is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Help Dans Aşkına Reach our Fundraising Goal on November 12, 2015!

We're over the moon about receiving our MRAC Arts Activities Grant for Rakkas Minneapolis, and we with your assistance we'll raise the matching funds required by the Grant. Our requirement is to raise \$5,000 - you can help us reach it!



Give to the Max Day is when your online donation makes the biggest positive impact on small arts organizations like us!

Don't like online donations or simply to donate by check? See #5 of our Five Fun Fundraising Facts below!

As an Incubator Project with Springboard for the Arts, your donation to

~ *Dans Askina Advisory Board:* ~

Artemis Mourat - International expert in Turkish Oriental and Romany 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.

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.

Dans Aşkına is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law – a win-win situation for all!

Since 2012, your generous donations have helped us bring exciting Turkish dance events to the Twin Cities including our 2013 Turkish Romani Festival Weekend, our annual Dans Senlik show for West-Metro Adult Community Education belly dance students, community festival performances throughout the year, and ongoing educational and cultural presentations on Turkish dance and music. With your help, we will add Rakkas Minneapolis to this list with your donation on November 12, 2015 at our GiveMN.org page!

Çok Tesekkür Ederim!

Five Fun Fundraising Facts for Give to the Max Day:

1. You don't need to live in Minnesota to donate!
2. Busy on November 12? Schedule your online donation in advance on the GiveMN site!
3. Minimum online donation is \$10.00
4. Springboard for the Arts will add an additional \$10 for each of the first 25 online donations we receive on Give to the Max Day –An additional \$250!
 - a. Springboard will also add an additional \$300 to Incubator Projects with the most individual online donations on Give to the Max Day!
5. To donate by check, make your check payable to 'Springboard for the Arts'
 - a. There is no minimum check donation amount
 - b. Mail to Springboard for the Arts, 308 E Prince St #270, St Paul, MN 55101
 - c. Indicate 'For Dans Askina Turkish Dance Ensemble' in the Memo line

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

Save the Date for Rakkas Minneapolis! ***August 26-28, 2016***

Get ready for Rakkas Minneapolis – a weekend of events at the Hopkins Center for the Arts for dancers and non-dancers alike! We're bringing the best of the best internationally-known instructors to inform, instruct, and inspire you with a wide range of Turkish and Egyptian dance styles.

What is Rakkas Minneapolis? A weekend of multi-skill level dance workshops, informal public "Ask the Artist" evening, and gala public performance by our Guest instructors, Dans Aşkına, the Turkish American Assoc. of MN Folkdancers, and invited guests.

Unfamiliar with Turkish dance? Attend our 'Ask the Artist' evening to meet our experts and learn about their dances in an informal open house, or attend our gala show to experience a variety of Turkish, Turkic, and Middle Eastern dance styles.

Interested in taking a dance workshop? Workshop registrants can choose from 9 different dance workshops from our world-class instructors!

Rakkas Minneapolis Guest Instructors:

- * Artemis Mourat, American Living Legend of Turkish Dance
- * Serkan Tutar, 2008 Male Belly dancer of the World - From Izmir, Turkey - His 1st time instructing and performing in the Upper Midwest!
- * Reyhan Tuzsuz, the Queen of Turkish Romani Dance - From Istanbul, Turkey - Her 1st time instructing and performing in the Upper Midwest!

Each dance workshop will offer a combination of technique and choreography suitable for beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels of dancer. Workshop topics will include Turkish Romani, Egyptian Shaabi, Turkish Ciftitelli, Argentine Baladi, Modern Egyptian Veil, and more! Our gala show will include performers selected to bring the best of the best dances from across Turkey and the Middle East to the Twin Cities.

Stay tuned to our website and Facebook page for registration, pricing, and lodging information. We hope to see you there!

Fifth Annual Dans Senlik

Preparations are well underway for the 5th annual Dans Senlik! Our Turkish Kanto (variety) evening will be held February 20th, 2016 in the main theater at Hopkins Center for the Arts.

In addition to performances by Dans Askina, Grace Watkins-Wright and several local dance troupes will be taking the stage. Returning performers Bardmageddon and Mustafa Ali will join us with singing, storytelling and musical merriment. We are also welcoming the lovely Sarah Larsson from the Nightingale Trio, and the frolicking fun of the General Hardware Morris Dancers to the show.

The evening will be packed with entertainment, but also a chance to give back to our local community. With the donation of a food item, you'll receive a discount on the price of admission. Over the past four years, our generous guests and performers have helped Dans Askina donate nearly

600 pounds of food to ResourceWest and ICA Foodshelf. Tesekkür Ederim (Thank You)!!

Please mark your calendars for this wonderful evening, we look forward to seeing you there!

2015 Rakkas Istanbul International Dance Festival

In June 2015, our Artistic Director Amina Beres, Co-Director Kerime, and Company Dancer Meira traveled to Istanbul, Turkey for the 2015 Rakkas Istanbul International Dance Festival. We were accompanied by Carl Posz (Kerime's husband) and our new friend Rachel Matthews on this great adventure. This was Kerime's first trip to Istanbul, Meira's second trip, and the third trip for Amina.

Prior to the festival we experienced the sights and sounds of Istanbul by staying in the heart of the Beyoglu District on Iskitlal Caddesi near Taksim Square. We explored the incredible Aya Sofia, Topkapi Palace, Basilica Cistern; cruised the Bosphorus; shopped the Grand Bazaar, the Spice Market, and side-street boutiques; ate in small cafes and rooftop restaurants; and cooked our own Turkish recipes with groceries from local stores and street markets. But that wasn't the best part of our pre-festival adventures!

What was the best part? Our private workshop with Professional Turkish Folk Dancer Sibel Guzel!



Sibel spent an afternoon teaching us traditional Silifke folk dances representing village life in the mountains. These dances are performed in a group, mostly moving in a circle, and include fast-paced footwork, precise arm positions, and playing wooden spoons. Before we knew it, our workshop was over, but we knew we'd see her in

a few days as we'd all registered for her traditional Karsilama folk dance workshop at Rakkas Istanbul!

Sibel's instructions are clear and her delivery is professional; her dance style is light and lively and she is such a pleasure to work with!

Our next dance event was the opening gala show for the Rakkas Istanbul festival. The evening included dinner and dancing beginning with a traditional Henna ceremony and continuing with exciting performances from all the workshop instructors and guest artists. But there was a surprise in store for us! Festival Organizer Serkan Tutar brought Amina Beres on stage to start a traditional Turkish Halay dance with him - what a thrill! It was a wonderful "meet and greet" event.

While Rakkas Istanbul features workshops by instructors from across the 'belly dance' spectrum, the workshops we selected were all with Turkish Dancers.

Tuba Saka, a very graceful and powerful dancer, lead a workshop on Turkish technique and warmups which were very helpful to reinforce the stylizations that distinguish Turkish Oryantal dance.

Reyhan Tuzsuz's first Turkish Romani workshop emphasized core Romani

dance moves, adding additional moves and gestures for the more advanced dancers. Her stance and attitude helps to give you the true Romani feel so integral to performing this dance style. Her advanced workshop was a fun choreography.



Amina, Meira, and friends with Reyhan Tuzsuz

We are so excited she will be one of our guest instructors at Rakkas Minneapolis in August 2016, where YOU will have the opportunity to learn from the reigning Queen of Romani dance!

Our workshop with Serkan Tutar was a reprise of his "New Crazy Drum Solo" which he presented to us at our April 2015 Masters in Minneapolis dance series - a great second chance to work on the intricate moves! Gul Nihal, in her beautiful style, taught us an intricate Modern Turkish Oryantal choreography; and the powerful and precise Ozlem Idilsu instructed us on proper technique and unique combinations.

Our final workshop with Serap Su was a lovely Turkish classical veil choreography with a mix of fast and slow combinations, classic floorwork,

and a Turkish drop!



Kerime & Meira's Classical Turkish workshop with Serap Su

It is a wonderful opportunity to learn from so many famous and talented Turkish dancers; a lifetime dream come true we'll never forget. We are thrilled to share our experiences in Turkey with our friends, supporters, and local dance communityStay tuned for new troupe choreographies to showcase all our new knowledge!

Turkish 101 - Directionally challenged

When visiting the caves of the Cappadocia region of Turkey , it is always wise to have a guide who knows the location well, otherwise you could easily become *kayip*.



When you are inside or underground it's hard to tell *hangi yöne* you are going. Yön is best left up to your guide.

If he says *sola git*, don't get confused and *sağa git*. At times you may be going *yukarı* only to turn *yuvarlak* and go *asağı* in a few steps.

When in doubt you can always try *dosdoğru*.

Of course, if your guide has a sense of humor, he made decide to send you *daire içinde yuvarlak* just for fun. Travel well!

Kayıp (Kayahp) = Lost

Aşağı (ashaah) = Down

Hangi Yöne (Hahngée yuhne) = Which Way

Dosdoğru (Dozdohroo) = Straight Ahead

Sağa Git (Saha Geet) = Go Right

Sola Git (Sohla Geet) = Go Left

Yukarı (Yookarah) = Up

Yuvarlak (Yoovarlak) = Circle

Yön (Yuhn) = Direction

Daire içinde yuvarlak (Daeera Eecheende Yoovarlak) = Around in Circles

Çok Teşekkür Ederim to our Supporters

A heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for your continued support of Dans Aşkına. Words can't adequately express our appreciation for all you have done to help us with your financial, technical, and in-kind contributions. We hope we remembered every one!

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

Website Maven: Pamela Nici Lawson

Financial and In-Kind Contributors

Turquoise Level (up to \$100): Anonymous, Saturo Asato, Lisa Bah, Dele Famodu, Nike Famodu, Remi Famodu, Seyi Famodu, Toy e Famodu, Mike Kaehler, Laria Kaehler, Robin Kaehler, Sue Molzahn, Jana Mora, Sandra O'Rourke, John Repp, Amy Snyder, John Snyder, Jackie Walker, Charlotte West

Cöcek Level (\$101 to \$300): Allie Abela, Lou Abela, Marilyn Christianson, Mark Christianson, Jennifer Cole, Patricia Cumbie, Laurel Gray, Nancy Holden, Wendy Famodu, Sibel Guzel, Benjamin Lamb, Rob Siebers, Serap Su

Çengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Anonymous, Joel Beres, Carl Posz, Carlotta Posz

Tulip Level (\$1000+): Be the first patron to donate!

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