

MELISSA CRANDALL
Los Angeles, CA • (818) 469-4362
melissa@mellydance.com • www.mellydance.com
YouTube: HealingDancer

Performer and Instructor of dances of the Middle East and Persia

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Faculty of Loyola Marymount University Extension, Basic Bellydance Technique/Mixed Levels 2005-2008
- 2000 ongoing: Group classes, substitute teaching, private lessons and specialty workshops throughout Los Angeles
- Teaching Locations: LMU, Your Neighborhood Studio Culver City, Synthesis Dance Center Studio City, Hot Yoga Valencia, Millenium Studios N. Hollywood, Hollywood Dance Center, Spirit Dance Studio City, Madilyn Clark Studios North Hollywood, Brand Park Teahouse Glendale, Vibe Montrose, Gypsy Camp Los Angeles, Goddesses Unplugged Retreat at the Integratron near Joshua Tree in Landers, CA

CERTIFICATIONS

- Journey Through Egypt Level II intensive seminar with Sahra Sa'eeda
- Arab Dance Seminar 2018

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY/CLASS PUBLICITY

Melissa Crandall has studied and performed various styles of Middle Eastern dance since 1994, and has been teaching since 2000. She is adept at many different styles of dance, including props such as veil, double veil, scimitar, candelabra, cane, and finger cymbals. She is fortunate to have been trained in Persian dance by A. Nazemi, director of the Pars National Ballet taken into exile during the Iranian Revolution. Melissa is also a Reiki energy healing teacher. She encourages her students to combine the proper dance technique with self-expression.

DANCE PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCE

Principal Dancer for the following Dance Troupes and Companies:

- **Adam Basma Middle Eastern Dance Company** (dir. Adam Basma)
- **Anisa's Orientale/Beledy troupe** (dir. Anisa)
- **Balance**, Co-director
- **Firuzé Dance Company** (dir. Robyn Friend) *current*
- **Full Moonlight Dancers**, Director
- **Gypsy Folk Ensemble** (dir. Julie Nelson)
- **Jewels of the Dance** (dir. Bonnie Kunkel)
- **Mighty Isis Dance Company** (dir. DeVilla and Robin)
- **Pars National Ballet** (dir. A. Nazemi)
- **Ya Helewa!** (dir. Amara)
- **Ya Leyla Wa Leyla** (dir. Angela Buttrey)
- Guest performer with **Leela with Salome' Jihad, Prince Andrew**, and others

Group and Solo performances include:

Stage Productions:

- “An Evening of Experimental Middle Eastern Dance” annual concert produced by Amara Presents, Highways Performance Space, Santa Monica and Two Roads Theater, North Hollywood
- “An Evening of International Music and Dance” produced by myself, a fundraiser for the Institute for Religious Tolerance, Peace and Justice at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles
- “An Evening on the Silk Road” annual concert produced by Robyn Friend, Los Angeles
- “Arabia Exotica” annual concert produced by Leela's Bellydance Fantasy Productions, various venues including Henry Fonda Music Box Theater, Hollywood
- “Bellydance Superstars competition” produced by Miles Copeland, Studio City
- “Café Beledy” Pars Art Center, Los Angeles
- “Circus Maximus: As Rome Burns” concert produced by Leela's Bellydance Fantasy Productions, Los Angeles
- “Club 1001 Nights” Los Angeles
- “Club Café Con Leche” Los Angeles

“Club Cleopatra” Los Angeles
 “Democratic National Convention” Figueroa Hotel, Los Angeles
 “Desert Passage Floor Show” Aladdin Hotel, Las Vegas
 “Egyptian Dance Presentation” Skirball Cultural Center, Los Angeles
 “Middle Eastern Dance Speakeasy,” (Co-producer) Smartgals Productions, Los Angeles
 “Persian Longest Night (Winter Solstice)” various performances including Venetian Hotel, Las Vegas
 “Persian New Year (*Norooz*)” various performance dates and locations including LACMA, UCLA, UCI,
 Segerstrom Center for the Arts for Farhang Foundation
 “Ra: Eclipse of the Sun”, dir. Sahra Sa’eeda, Los Angeles
 “Tit for Tat” Persian musical, portraying ‘The Matchmaker,’ St. Louis, MO and Los Angeles, CA
 Various others

Festivals:

“Cairo Carnivale” annually since in 1994, Middle Eastern Dance and Culture Association
 “Bellydance Swap Meet” various performance dates, Perfume of Araby, Los Angeles
 “Bedouin Bazaar”, San Diego
 “Laguna Sawdust Arts Festival”, Laguna Beach
 “NoHo Arts Festival” North Hollywood
 “Redlands Middle East SCA Festival”, Redlands
 “Sunset Junction”, Los Angeles
 Various others

Showcases and Restaurants:

Club Cleopatra
 Dar Maghreb
 Darvish
 “Hypzotica” at Zabumba
 Improv Wednesdays
 Marrakesh
 Middle East Connection
 Moun of Tunis
 Pars
 TaXim at Studio Iqaat
 Various others

Private Parties and Weddings:

Clos Pegase Winery, Calistoga, CA
 Beverly Hilton
 Beverly Hills Hotel
 Beverly Hills Hyatt
 Bonaventure Hotel
 Sheraton Hotel, Phoenix, AZ
 Various other hotels, private homes, corporate events, schools, retirement homes, libraries, churches and party facilities

INSTRUCTORS AND SCHOOLS

- Bachelor of Arts *Dramatic Art* (Dean’s Honors) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA
- Master of Arts *Nonprofit Management* ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY LOS ANGELES
- Middle and Near Eastern Dance Instruction: Adam Basma, Amara, Anaheed, A. Nazemi, Angela Buttrey, Anisa, Bonnie, Jillina, Mesmera, Princess Farhana, Robyn Friend, Sahra Sa’eeda, Sarala, Zahra Zuhair

PUBLISHED REVIEWS

“Cairo Carnivale Performance Review of Leela with Salome’Jihad” MECDA Cymbal magazine, 2003
 “The Soul of a Dancer Lives Through Experimentation” MECDA Cymbal magazine and Jareeda magazine, 2001
 “A Dancer’s Feast: Belly Dance Buffet” MECDA Cymbal magazine, 2000

Performance reviews and student evaluation feedback available upon request