

ACT ONE

Gina :: Gina is a second generation belly dancer who has performed on national and international stages throughout her lengthy career with notable artists such as Alabina, Amr Diab and Hakim. Her technique combines both fusion and classical styles. Gina began her studies with Suhaila Salimpour in 1994 and was one of the first and youngest members of the Suhaila Dance Company. Gina is currently certified in Level Three of the Suhaila Salimpour Format--tonight's performance constitutes her Level Four examination.

Sabriye Tekbilek :: Daughter of renowned Turkish musician, "Haci" Ahmet Tekbilek and Lisa Djoylan, pioneer of belly dance in Sweden, Sabriye's career as a performer and instructor of Middle Eastern dance has been shaped by a lifetime of international performance and study. Sabriye was a longtime member of Suhaila Dance Company and Bal Anat--and was featured in the original run of Suhaila's stage show *Sheherazade* as well as videos for Bal Anat, The Suhaila Dance Company and Suhaila's Bellydance Fitness Fusion Series. Sabriye is currently certified in Level Three of the Suhaila Salimpour Format--tonight's performance constitutes her Level Four Examination.

Rashid :: Under the tutelage of Jamila Salimpour, Rashid immersed himself in Arabic dance at age sixteen. He vigorously pursued Middle Eastern dance study as a performer, anthropologist and historian--studying under many great artists including Lala Hakim, Nadia Gamal and Mahmoud Reda. Rashid quickly became a principal dancer with Bal Anat and has been a contributing artist to the Salimpour schools for over thirty years. Featured on both the *Sheherazade* and *Solo Show* DVDs, Rashid continues his work as a teacher, choreographer, performer and artistic consultant with the Suhaila Salimpour School of Dance.

-Intermission-

ACT TWO

Suhaila Salimpour

Suhaila is the world's most sought-after performer, teacher, and choreographer of belly dance. A second generation belly dancer, Suhaila has developed a format combining her heritage with classical dance training. The first belly dancer to be featured on Arab American television, Suhaila toured the Middle East and Europe--returning to open her school. She has developed and offered the first certification program available in belly dance. The program offers a multi-disciplinary approach addressing technique, physiology, history, music theory, choreography and personal development of choreography. Suhaila continues to create and release instructional and performance DVDs for all dance levels, music for percussion artists, and printed dance manuals. Upcoming projects include a line of CDs with drills for dancers and a new comprehensive book outlining the Suhaila Salimpour pedagogy and curriculum.

Music by the Salimpour Band featuring:

Fathi Aljarah :: Violin

Fathi Aljarah is a prominent music composer and songwriter. Born in Aleppo, Syria, he started learning music at the age of seven. Mr. Aljarah has composed several songs, many of which have become classics in their own right. He has performed all over the world as a soloist and band leader with major singers and artists from throughout the Middle East. Awarded many times for his compositions, his music is considered part of folkloric tradition and will be sung and played for many generations to come. Fathi Aljarah began collaborating with Suhaila Salimpour in 1998 and continues to be the music director and artistic consultant for the company. Mr. Aljarah immigrated to the United States in 1996 -- in addition to his work as a musician and composer -- he is a high-end electrical engineer working in the Silicon Valley.

Kheder Kalleh :: Keyboard

Elias Khouri :: Tabla

George Krieten :: Drums

Elias Lammam :: Accordion

Imad Mezied :: Duff

Special thanks to our BRAVA technical crew!

Ushers :: Cyndee Gaynor, Suzanne Ise, Elise Nicholson

Photography by Michael Baxter. Videography by Benjamin Pierce.

Thank you for your support!

Vashti, Feliz Guarino, Renee Dearlove & Jennifer Ludwick

Bellydance Odyssey Productions

Sequel, CA

www.bellydanceodyssey.com

The Phoenix :: A mythical bird that never dies, the phoenix flies far ahead to the front, always scanning the landscape and distant space. It represents our capacity for vision, for collecting sensory information about our environment and the events unfolding within it. The phoenix, with its great beauty creates intense excitement and deathless inspiration.

-The Feng Shui Handbook, feng shui Master Lam Kam Chuen