

# Audition Guidelines: Professional Troupe Participation

Bellydance Grand Rapids



## What is this audition for?

This audition opportunity is for participation in performance with Middle Eastern Style Belly Dance Troupe, Delkash Dancers, based out of Grand Rapids Michigan, under the direction of Sarah Mayne, owner of *Bellydance Grand Rapids*. Troupe participation will bring you the opportunity for performances statewide and beyond, including haflas, festivals, weddings, birthday parties, corporate events, restaurants, private parties, school functions and more.

### Soloists

Soloists are welcome and encouraged to audition for performance opportunities with Delkash Dancers, Anandani Dancers (Na'imah Bollywood Troupe) & other Professionals associated with BDGR. There are often cases when Sarah is looking for soloists for many of the above-mentioned venues. In the event that Sarah's performance troupes are unavailable for performance, the selected soloists would be the first referral given for the prospective position.

## Guidelines for Auditions

### Who can audition?

The auditions are open to artists residing in Michigan. Individual guest artists from any location are welcome to perform solo or with a local group. Audition applications require a \$35 application fee per individual, payable by Visa, MasterCard (via PayPal online) or check\*.

*\*Checks must be made out to 'Bellydance Grand Rapids'.*

Audition **MUST** be for legal adults beginning at age 18. **NO** applicant will be discriminated against.

### Audition Dates:

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

You will be scheduled for audition time via email. Please be **SURE** to include a working email address on your application. Audition times are on a first come, first serve basis. You will be notified via phone or email when application and payment is received, along with your assigned Audition time.

### Audition Time Limit

Each auditionee will be allowed 15 minutes, including performance piece and interview.

### Audition Application

#### Application mailed to:

Bellydance Grand Rapids  
Attention: Audition Application  
959 Lake Drive  
Grand Rapids, MI. 49506

Application may be brought with you on the day of auditions, completed. It is **recommended** to submit ahead of time. We will be posting applications on our website, please be sure to print a copy for yourself.

# Expectations for Auditions

## **Delkash Dancers Performance Troupe Audition**

One Choreographed piece by yourself or another instructor between 3-5 minutes (no use of prop necessary). You must audition in FULL costume and makeup.

## **Soloists**

One self-choreographed piece between 3-5 minutes including the use of a prop (veil, zill, cane, sword, fan, wings, poi, tray, etc.) Poi performers will need to audition in lounge area, as studio-ceiling clearance does not accommodate. If using this prop, please notify in advance for appropriate preparation of time slot.

## **Performance Troupe Contract (Professional, Student & Soloist)**

You will be given the opportunity to view and read the Performance Troupe and Soloist Contract while waiting your turn to audition. In the event of your acceptance, you will be provided a copy with your acceptance letter.

## Feedback

A brief feedback letter will be sent to every auditionee, included with audition fee. Sarah Mayne will provide audition comments and critiques as a service to performers who wish to receive detailed feedback. This is intended to strengthen artists' future auditions and work and is not meant as an explanation of why a particular individual was or was not accepted.

## What Is Bellydance Grand Rapids (BDGR) Looking For?

BDGR is seeking work that is based on Middle Eastern traditions with cultural origins. This includes dance genres that are rooted in ethnic, traditional, national, religious and/or cultural communities. BDGR encourages personal expressions of fusion dance – but will be looking for a dancer's strength in this Audition. BDGR is interested in dances that reflect all aspects of **Middle Eastern Dance Style** culture, including sacred or spiritual dances, Turkish, Egyptian, Folkloric, Trance, Tribal and dances from new work rooted in cultural traditions.

BDGR is seeking open minded, artistic individuals who have a vision to enlighten and change the uninformed & common perception of “belly dance” as a form of vulgarity. These individuals must be willing to uphold the image of sacred reverence, respect and honor to this culture and art. These individuals must be dedicated to the geographical, attire, and musical education of this form.

BDGR recognizes that tradition is a living and evolving process and that many dance forms stem from multiple roots, and may be influenced by the context of presentation on our stage. **We strive to present pieces that respect and maintain the integrity of a culture-specific dance tradition as its primary element.**

## Music

Please provide a CD of music for your performance piece, with ONLY that piece of music on the CD. Please have this CD in a jewel case with the following information written on the CD, and in a paper insert to the CD case cover. Please be prepared to leave this CD with your application and information.

- 1) Artist name & Album
- 2) Song title
- 3) Length of song
- 4) Name of dance piece (if different from song title)
- 5) Choreographer of dance piece

## The Selection Process

Your audition will be performed before Sarah Mayne & those she may choose to participate. The auditionees are studied for their enthusiasm/dedication to the education in Middle Eastern Dance, cultural expertise, and reputation in the field. Sarah is sensitive to world arts and cultures, and knowledgeable in dance/theater presentation.

Selection will be based upon a collective Sarah feels is essential to the positive embodiment and fruition of this dance form in a most conservative and slow progressing community. Dancers will be HEAVILY decided upon based on the performance abilities: Crowd engagement, personality and comfort with performing.

## TMS Reviewing Criteria

### The piece you audition is the piece being considered for future performances!

TMS will be using the following guidelines to evaluate your audition:

**Technical execution** — Does the dancer appear to be in command of the technique? How does the individual work with the space? How smoothly are entrances, exits and transitions accomplished? **Choreography** — Is there consistency throughout the piece? Is the patterning well adapted to the stage? Does the piece build effectively?

**Personal Work** — Can the soloist maintain confidence in themselves? How skilled is the solo dancer in following their choreography?

**Stage presence** — Does the dancer project to the audience or engage their attention by some means: energy, enthusiasm, dynamics, focus, concentration, virtuosity, wit or charm?

**Music** — What is the quality of the music? Does the dancer work well with the music? Is the music integral to the dance?

**Attire and Props** — Are the costumes or regalia and props used with ease and confidence? Are they well constructed and appropriate to the dance genre and piece?

**Connection to cultural origin** — Is the movement vocabulary, choreographic structure, music and emotional expression distinctly connected to an art form of ethnic or cultural origin? How well balanced or realized is the combination of elements, and is the integrity of the main cultural dance form maintained?

\* Decisions will be finalized 3 weeks after the audition.

\*Artists will be notified of their status by mail. For accepted auditionees, information on class participation, contract, photo shoot and upcoming performance dates will be included.

**NOTE: Do NOT contact BDGR Staff or Instructors asking about the status of your Audition!**

## Artist Responsibilities

There will be a mandatory photo shoot scheduled for selected participants. Please be prepared to make this event. This time/date will be provided the acceptance letters.

Delkash Members will be REQUIRED to purchase a number of props, costumes & music used for Troupe Performance. Be advised, Troupe participation is an investment.

Delkash Members will be required, in addition to Troupe class Monday, 8pm – to take another Level 2 class at BDGR for ongoing training, in addition to Workshops.