



TABLA bellydance are a semi-professional dance troupe. In real-life terms this means that we take our dancing seriously, but it's not a full-time job.

TABLA aims to be a troupe of professional quality. There is an understanding that all troupe members will work diligently towards each and every performance. In addition to this, there is an expectation that troupe members will participate in the creation of choreography to the best of their abilities, and work towards improving their improvisational skills. We do not have one particular teacher, and all dancers are expected to share their skills and learn from each other.

## **WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?**

The vast majority of work that is performed by TABLA is also created collectively by TABLA. Dancers who wish to become part of the troupe are expected to contribute to the choreographic process. This doesn't mean you have to be an expert choreographer or be an expert in all the various styles and props associated with bellydance. What it does mean is that you will make suggestions, give constructive feedback (ie: "I don't think that works because ..."), research, listen, learn and participate.

Before performances there are often additional rehearsals that dancers are expected to attend. You will also be expected to practice in your own time, and are encouraged to continue in classes with any (or many) of the bellydance teachers in Canberra, and attend as many workshops as you can.

## **WHAT WILL YOU GET OUT OF IT?**

The opportunity to explore bellydance, from traditional to fusion styling. TABLA is a creative bellydance troupe. Whilst we do have a traditional repertoire, we do not restrict ourselves during choreography creation to the "tried & true". You can expect to be involved in the creation of choreographies that use theatrical elements, quirky combinations and not-so-traditional interpretations of traditional dances. Being part of TABLA is an opportunity to stretch your bellydance wings and challenge yourself.



## WHAT SORT OF EXPERIENCE DO I NEED TO HAVE?

You need to be working at an intermediate/advanced level within your preferred style of bellydance. TABLA can be a little eclectic in styling at times, so you also need to be willing to learn (& practice) new movements. You need to be skilled at remembering choreography, know your preferred method of learning and be willing to work to make that happen for you. The group works to record dances in written form. If you need more than just written notes to learn dances, for example, annotating or re-writing notes, taking video or just practicing a lot, make sure you communicate those needs to the group. We often work at high speed, so you'll need to be someone who can be "on the ball" when it gets close to performance time.

Dancers are expected to either have experience with improvisation or be willing to learn. TABLA use a great deal of improvisation in performance, generally to live, improvised music. This is a challenging, but very rewarding, experience.

## COSTUMES & PROPS:

TABLA performs in a range of costumes according to the theme of the performance and the style of the dance. Dancers are expected to organise their own costuming, and can be given help to make those that need to be hand made. The troupe has a few different costumes that are used interchangeably, and a few "spares" that can be loaned out on occasion. However, you will be expected to have all of your own costumes eventually, which will probably cost you a bit of money, and a fair bit of time.

### BASIC COSTUMING REQUIREMENTS:

- ⊖ Sari Vest
- ⊖ Sari (Pantaloan-style) Harem Pants
- ⊖ Full-Circle Skirt
- ⊖ Double Circle Skirt
- ⊖ Black Gypsy Top (Provided)
- ⊖ Ghawazee Coat (traditional, with chemise)
- ⊖ Fusion Coat
- ⊖ Satin (Pantaloan-style) Harems
- ⊖ Covered Bra
- ⊖ Black Baladi Dress
- ⊖ Various hip & coin scarves, head scarves, jewelry & coin belts.

### BASIC PROP REQUIREMENTS:

It is recommended that troupe members invest in their own sword, stick, cane, zills (segat) and veil, as well as any other props the troupe adds to its repertoire.



## WHAT ARE THE REHEARSAL EXPECTATIONS?

- ⊙ Troupe members should attend the majority of rehearsal and creation sessions. If a member is injured, there is an expectation that they will still attend, but in an advisory/audience capacity.
- ⊙ Troupe members are expected to have an understanding of their own physical limitations and not push beyond them to cause themselves injury. That said, we are dedicated to improving our skills and abilities in dance, and will push ourselves, and each other, where possible.
- ⊙ Troupe members are expected to catch up on missed sessions by communicating with other members, reading notes, checking the troupe blog, practicing at home, and being very focused during the following session.
- ⊙ Troupe members should seek out any choreography notes they are missing.
- ⊙ Troupe members are expected to share responsibilities for leading warm ups, cool downs, technique sessions and session planning.

## WHAT ARE THE PERFORMANCE EXPECTATIONS?

As a semi-professional troupe, TABLA bellydance's performances are polished, smooth and well rehearsed. This required a commitment to rehearsal, professionalism and constructive feedback.

- ⊙ Troupe members are expected to be in attendance for all call times and be well prepared through rehearsals and personal practice time.
- ⊙ Troupe members are expected to have all items of standard troupe costuming. Lending is appropriate for new troupe members, but is not an indefinite arrangement. Assistance in acquiring or making new costume items is available.
- ⊙ A Standard Costume List & patterns are available to all members.
- ⊙ It is not expected that every member of the troupe will be available for every performance.
- ⊙ Any troupe member may tentatively book a performance, which is then confirmed depending on the availability of troupe members, the needs of the performance, and negotiation of the fee. The troupe member who books the performance is responsible for the organisation of that performance, including set lists, call times and liaison with the client.



## **COSTS:**

All members contribute financially to the hire of rehearsal space and insurance costs. We meet for 2 and a half hours each week for technique, choreography creation and rehearsal.

While the troupe tries to keep additional costs to a minimum, there may also be some costs involved in making or getting costumes, and in preparing for and attending performances.

## **I'M IN! WHAT HAPPENS NOW?**

All new troupe members have a probationary period of three months and one performance to see if we can all work together. It will give you time to discover if we will give you the opportunities you are looking for, and us time to meet expectations with reality. The reason we ask for one performance is because our very "laid-back" attitude during choreography creation/regular sessions does change fairly dramatically during the rehearsal process and performance. We have fairly high expectations of ourselves and we expect that other members of the troupe will all pull their weight when it's time to be "on"!

If you'd like to give us a go, please call us on either 0403020796 or 0414973012 for a chat, head to the website and send us a message or send an email to [bellydance@tabla.net.au](mailto:bellydance@tabla.net.au).

We're a friendly bunch, really, and we'd love to have you on board!

*Samina, Daluna, Zohra,  
Inara, Hadeeqa, and Richard*