

Camel Tracks



July/August
2010

Summer Dance

First Neighborhood, Old West End, Cherry fest, Arab American Fest, Hair Show, Crosby. Bobby pins, hairspray, skirts, glitter, jewels, stunt hair. Oh my!

It seems like a whirlwind of constant activity in the studio these days, even if we are on summer "break". It is so great to see Monsters out and about representing Middle Eastern Dance and its community, as well as our studio and our community. Each show, we not only perform our studio pieces, we also educate the public about our art form. I've heard many positive comments from festival attendees regarding their idea of belly dance and what we present. I'm always thrilled that our shows feature diversity in the performers, costumes and in the dances.

Each year, it seems like our processes and performers become more organized and more professional. We all owe Kelly Ford a huge thanks for keeping us in order. Our professionalism shows to the festival organizers and its attendees, which reflects on the Middle Eastern Dance community as a whole. Kelly makes certain we make a good impression.

This year, the Monsters have danced through heat, rain, sound issues, glass on stages and more, while keeping the energy high and positive. I am so proud of the Monsters and the support I have seen given to each other at each event. I know this will continue through the remaining festivals of the year. Keep up the great work ladies!

Evolutions: Sweat out to sell out...

I admit to trepidation approaching this year's production. How would we top last year's Mirage? My own schedule was already so booked, how would I find time to create enough choreographies? Our ranks had expanded so over the past year, how could I manage the run time of the program and still give all the groups stage time? Could we afford to hire enough technical and artistic support to accommodate the number of dancers who wanted to perform? And on and on...!...!...!



At one point I was commiserating over the above with an out of state colleague. She reminded me of advice I had dispensed to her in similar circumstances a few years back. "Step back, and let the group dynamics evolve." Admittedly, it's not always easy taking one's own advice, but my friend has a way of clearing my head. I vowed to step back.

In January, we added Tribal Style and in April, Hip Hop, to our menu of classes. Monsters were expressing their interest in expanding horizons and taking the initiative to make it happen. Level 1 and 1-B dancers asked to dance in the performance, and several studio members opted to create choreographies for their chosen groups or to step up for their first solo performances. The program was coming together with traditional, tribal, modern belly dance and some world dance in the mix.

But two weeks before show time, our budget was so stressed due to low ticket sales, I had to face the option of cancelling. I've never been faced with that...ever. "Let the group dynamics evolve..." I laid it out for the Monsters, and within one week, we made budget. By performance day we had only 10 tickets left to sell. Thirty minutes before curtain, people were scalping tickets in the lobby and on the street in front of the theatre. Some reported paying double the face value to get a ticket. Others were incensed that both seating and standing room were sold out and they were turned away. Talk about group dynamics...

The title, "Evolutions" was chosen to reflect the growth of individual dancers as well as the growth of the studio and its offerings. I think I evolved, too, in this year's process. Monsters are dynamic and Monsters made it happen. You are loved and appreciated.

Aegela

All Evolutions photos
by Jen Bak

Aegela Centers for Middle Eastern Dance

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Camel Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Laura Omori and Barbara Lundgren's Birthday	2	3	4
5 Emily Meadows' Birthday	6	7 Kendra Scarlavi's Birthday	8	9	10 Monclova Festival River Raisin Festival	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 Fan Veil Workshop with Nicole at studio
19	20 Cheryl Johnson's Birthday	21	22 Rebecca Huth's Birthday	23	24 Aegela in Columbus, OH Judging Personal Best Competition	25 Aegela in Columbus, OH Judging Personal Best Competition
26	27 Melanie Johnson's Birthday	28 End of Summer I series for Levels 1 and 1-B	29	30	31 Lenawee County Fair	1

July 2010

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2	3	4	5	6 Aegela in Atlanta, GA Tribute to Mahmoud Reda Tess Luchsinger's Birthday	7 Aegela in Atlanta, GA Tribute to Mahmoud Reda	8 Aegela in Atlanta, GA Tribute to Mahmoud Reda Bernice Aguilar's Birthday
9 Nancy Perkins' Birthday	10	11	12	13 Aegela in Washington, D.C.	14 Aegela in Washington, D.C.	15 Aegela in Washington, D.C.
16 Payal Patel's Birthday	17	18	19	20	21 Maumee Summer Fair	22
23	24	25	26	27 Combinations Workshop with Kelly Hassan at studio	28 Faith Yingling's Birthday	29
30 Carolyn Chapman's Birthday	31					

August 2010

Have You Heard?

Aegela will be included in Toledo's 100 Most Inspirational People book due out late this year! She's getting more famous every day!

Payal Patel graduated with a PhD in Biomedical Sciences with concentration in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease from the University of Toledo. Congrats Payal! Sadly, Payal will be leaving in September to join a research lab at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in Boston. We miss her already!

Kelly Ford is headed to Germany for her company, First Solar for training. Her trip goes from June 18 to June 25. Please come back Kelly, we need you!

Voni Garrett is nursing a foot injury so is missing dance for several weeks. Get well soon!

Ashley Smith was injured in a motorcycle accident and is off work for a week. We wish her a speedy recovery!

Our hearts and condolences go out to Becca Huth and her family in the loss of 3 relatives in the recent tornado in Millbury, OH.

Sue Ryan's father passed away Sunday, May 2. He had been in declining health for some time. Our sympathies and condolences Sue!

Interested in going to Egypt in January? Please see Aegela or Racheal. We are in the planning stages on a trip to Cairo and Luxor.