

AIYANA OPUS

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Creative dancer and instructor with years of performance experience in belly dance, American cabaret (raqs sharki) style, tribal fusion, and burlesque fusion. Master of Applied Communication and Master of Liberal Studies in American culture with interest in sociology and cultural diversity. Diligent and successful in coaching people of all ages and talent levels.



GROUP DESIGNATIONS/HONORS

Mid-Michigan Belly Dance Competition

2017: 2nd Place Amateur Solo, 2nd Place Professional Solo (The Assistant Director), 4th Place Ensemble/Group.

2016: 1st Place Ensemble/Group, 1st Place Amateur Solo, 1st Place Professional Solo, and 3rd Place Amateur Solo.

2015: 2nd Place Group/Ensemble, 2nd Place Student Solo, 3rd Place Student Solo.

2014: 1st Place Ensemble/Group, 1st Place Student Solo, 2nd Place Professional Solo.

I Love Dance Competition

2019: 1st Place, Teacher Feature

“Judges Choice” & 1st place in 40+ age category

QUALIFICATIONS/SKILLS

- Experience directing stage presentations
- Direct rehearsals and instruct dancers in techniques to achieve desired effects
- Coordinate production music
- *Knowledge of theory and techniques in visual arts and fitness*
- Organizational management
- Experience with diverse populations; ethnic minorities, disabilities, criminal backgrounds
- Critical writing and reading skills
- Participate in conventions and workshops
- *Using logic to identify strengths and weakness, offering alternative solutions*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Brenda's Belly Dancing (2017-Present)

Online Instructor

Global

Create lesson plans, form PowerPoint slides, record and edit video, and produce online courses in the art of Belly Dance.

Courses: Understanding Context and Preparedness for Belly Dance Class

Brenda's Belly Dancing (09/02-Present) **Director, Fitness & Dance Instructor** Michigan
 Prepare choreography and teach dance and fitness classes suitable for the level of the participants (have contracted with the fitness center at University of Michigan-Flint, Ashleigh's Dance Shack, Kathy's School of Dance, Genesee County Parks); direct rehearsals and instruct dancers in correct technique to prevent injury; coordinate production music and costuming for performances; determine how to translate ideas and moods into dance movements; formulate curricula and handouts; keeping up with current trends by reading literature, attending and performing publicly; all basic accounting and marketing for small business, arrangement of studio rental agreements.

Workshops: candlelight belly dance, basic poi & fire safety, wine & burlesque, gothic tribal fusion, improvisation, intro to belly dance, intro to burlesque.

Event Performances: belly dance convention, retirements, wedding receptions, birthdays, hometown days, county fairs, renaissance fairs, psychic fairs, service groups, business grand opening, and business anniversaries.

Rising Phoenix Health & Arts (2007-2009) **Stage Performer & Organizer** Michigan
 Full theater production dance and music shows for fundraising and awareness of philanthropic causes such as domestic violence and autism.

DANCE EDUCATION

Flint School of Performing Arts *Dance Classes*
 2019; Modern I

Great Lakes Bellydance Convention *3 Days of Class/2 Shows Each Year*
 2005-2014

University of Michigan- Flint *Courses in Dance*
 2004-2006; Modern I, Ballet I and II, Jazz I

Perfect Dance Studio *Dance Classes*
 8+ Years Total; Belly Dance, Jazz, Lyrical, Tap

Professional Workshops
 2004-Present

Attending many workshops has allowed me to keep up with industry standards, as well as learning basics of playing dumbek (hand drum), and experience performing with zills (finger cymbals), swords, veils, and spinning fire poi.

Instructors studied under: Bozenka and Amar Gamal of the Bellydance Superstars, Sonya Blacker from Chicago, Azziza Salem from Detroit/New York, Oreet from New York, Ruby Jazayre from Illinois, Sharifa from Michigan, Yasmina Amal from Michigan, and Amara from Illinois, Amirah, Galatea, Nilaja Theesfield, Zahira, Susan Warner, Zahra, Magda Szymczyk, Jeanette, Ishra, Julianna, Tamra Henna, Laylia Dancer, Brian Shank, Mike

Guymon, Diana the Dancer, Erzsebet, Celeste, Moria Chappell, Jussenya, Najida, Asima Sarantis, Carenza Bint Asya, Aida Al Adawi, Hiba Alkinani, Zhenna Smithson, Sabrina Merrill, Klouise, Mirah Ammal, Ziva, Donna Diva, Kimahri, Amaya, Shahna, John Compton, Beata and Horacio Cifuentes, Aziza Ammar.

FITNESS CERTIFICATION

2003 National Endurance & Sports Trainers Association, *Spencer Pilates Mat and Ball Calisthenics*

FORMAL EDUCATION

2017 M.A., **Applied Communication**, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan
Specialization: Non-Profit Volunteer Management Consulting
Capstone Project: The Children's Center of Wayne County

2010 M.A., Liberal Studies, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan
Specialization: American Culture
Thesis: **American Belly Dance and Its Cultural Antecedents: The Affects of Sociological and Historical Influence on the Diversity of American Belly Dance**

2006 B.A., Social Sciences (With Honors), University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, Michigan
Specialization: Sociology, Psychology, History
Involvement: Voices for Women on Campus, Student Dance Organization, Golden Key International Honor Society (**Public Relations Officer**, 1 year)

2001 A.A. and A.S., Arts and Science General Education (With High Honors), Charles Stewart Mott Community College, Flint, Michigan

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

09/13-03/14 **Adjunct Instructor**, General Education Department, Baker College, Flint, Michigan and Owosso, Michigan

Instructed undergraduate General Education courses: **(ENG 101) English Composition** during Winter 2014 semester at the Flint, MI campus and **(SPK 201) Oral Communication** (Public Speaking) during Fall 2013 and Winter 2014 semesters at the Owosso, MI campus. Developed written syllabi (adhering to pre-established curriculum) and materials for each course. Instructed a diverse population of students in the classroom, as well as in computer labs. Adapted lesson plans to meet audience needs while keeping high standards. Scheduled reference librarian presentations for new students. Responded to student emails within 12 hours. Attended all required instructor trainings. Followed appropriate classroom management procedures. Utilized Blackboard (Bb) to post grades, administer tests and essay submissions, submit class attendance, and track student progress.

AVERAGE STUDENT EVALUATION SCORE

2002-Present, Belly Dance (4.8/5 Stars Online)
2013-2014, Public Speaking (15.41/17)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & TRAINING

2017	Intensive Online Course Development , University of Michigan-Flint
2017	Faculty Introduction to Online Teaching , University of Michigan-Flint
2017	Psychological First Aid Certificate, Johns Hopkins University
2017	Arts Symposium , Flint Institute of Music, Breakout sessions attended: 1.Grants, Crowd funding, and Financing 2.Protecting your creativity: Legal Requirements for starting a business, and protecting creative works (copyright, licensing)
2016	Workshop participant, Mindfulness Summit , Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn shared his wisdom about the value of Mindfulness in health and healing for individuals and the community
2016	Introduction to Web Conferencing , University of Michigan-Flint
2016	Microsoft Excel, University of Michigan-Flint
2016	Grab-n-Go Graphics, University of Michigan-Flint
2016	Screencasting: Creating Mini-Multimedia Lessons, University of Michigan-Flint
2016	Advanced PowerPoint, University of Michigan-Flint

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2019	Insight Healing Center, Demonstration, Flint, MI
2018	Swartz Creek Hometown Days, Performance and Demonstration, Swartz Creek, MI
2017	Arizona Night Market, Performances and Cultural Booth, Peoria, Arizona
2017	Flint Drop Fest Performance, Buckham Alley, Flint, Michigan
2016	Benefit Show for Housing, The Token Lounge, Westland, Michigan
2016	Benefit Show for Medical Expenses, The Maidstone Theater, Ypsilanti, Michigan
2016	Benefit Show for Funeral Costs, The Roadhouse Bar, Flint, Michigan
2016	Annual Belly Dance Talent Competition Judge , Dance for Freedom, Raising awareness and providing education on how to combat human trafficking, Dearborn Manor, Dearborn, Michigan
2016	Art Show Reception, Flint Institute of Arts, Flint, Michigan
2016	Sabba Zimora's Annual Hafla, Steve Reynold's Studio 110, Clio, Michigan
2015	Light Up the Darkness Benefit Show, On The Dunes Sports Bar, Walled Lake, Michigan
2015	Sabba Zimora's Annual Hafla, Steve Reynold's Studio 110, Clio, Michigan
2015	Sabba Zimora Performance, Churchill's, Flint, Michigan
2014	Belly Dance Christmas Show, John Glenn High School, Bay City, Michigan
2014	Belly Dance Diva's 11 th Annual Show 'Flirt', John Glenn High School, Bay City, Michigan
2014	Metal for a Merry Christmas Food and Toy Drive, The Loft, Lansing, Michigan
2013	Sabba Zimora's Annual Hafla, Holy Rosary Hall, Flint, Michigan

SAMPLES OF WORK

<https://sites.google.com/site/brendamaybennett/experience/performing-arts>