

AIYANA OPUS

www.BrendasBellyDancing.com • bellydance4u@hotmail.com • (614) 407-5336

Raqs Sharqi dancer in YRArts Global

Collective and Director of Troupe Sabba Zimora. Decades 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

YRArts Global Collective (06/10/2019-Present) **Company Dancer** Canada & United States
Formerly named Arabesque Dream Company. Contribute in expressing creative and inspiring choreography, exciting performance experiences, and the future of presenting meaningful Raqs Sharqi in cities that Yasmina is teaching/performing in and/or cities where other members of the company may have a performance event.

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, Carezza Bint Asya, Aida Al Adawi from San Francisco/Detroit, Hiba Alkinani, Zhenna Smithson, Sabrina Merrill, Klouise from Ohio, Mirah Ammal, Ziva, Donna Diva, Kimahri, Amaya, Shahna, John Compton, Beata and Horacio Cifuentes from Berlin, Aziza Ammar from Michigan, Yasmina Ramzy from Canada.

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

06/19-Present **Online ESL (English as a Second Language) Instructor**, Palfish, Beijing, China
Teach Chinese students by using the company's interactive app to instruct on a wide variety of subjects, as well as forming own lessons for job search and conversation fluency. Keep young children's attention for class time.

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 11th 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>