

TOWN HALL/NEW YORK
Friday Evening, June 20, 2003 at 8:00



With the support of the World Music Institute
ERWIN FRANKEL PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

Belly Dance Festival '03



Anahid Soflan Dance Company
ANAHID SOFIAN, Choreographer/Artistic Director
Cathy Bachner-Ferrara Patti Eiben Sandra Filipovich
Susan Harding Linda Luger Delorosa Marshall
Jean Musacchio Vicky Webberley Virginia Werner

Guest Dancers
EVA CERNIK ♦ NOURHAN SHARIF

The Sharqi Orchestra
Richard Barsamian *oud* Michael Hess *kanoun*
Seido Salifoski & Richard Khuzami *percussion*
Harold Hagopian *violin* John Vartan *guitar/kaval*

Musicians for Ms Sharif
Gamal Shafik *dumbek* & Ahmed Habesh *riq/tambourine*

Producer: Erwin Frankel Associate: Saul Rafel-Frankel
Town Hall Executive Director: Lawrence Zucker
Stage Manager: Todd McGraw Lighting: Keith Geller
Concert Supervisor: Gideon Rafel-Frankel
Sound: The Audio Company/Steve Tolvi
Press Consultant: Helene Browning/WMI
Videography: Ron Mervyk Stills: David Lindner

About the Artists . . .

ANAHID SOFIAN is one of the most versatile, innovative artists in Middle Eastern Dance. Starting in NY's famed *Greektown* clubs in 60's, she went on to perform—as soloist and with her company—at the U.N., the Museum of Modern Art, Avery Fisher and Carnegie Halls, tv's Dick Cavett Show. She formed her company in 1978 which was featured for years at Lincoln Center's Library Arts Asia Festival, and Town Hall's World Dance Festival. They just performance at Cleveland's Museum of Art—the first Middle Eastern company to be featured there. Ms. Sofian is the recipient of grants NY State and a residency at the Dance Theatre of Harlem. Her studio has been part of NY's dance community since 1972..

EVA CERNIK first discovered *Dance Orientale* at age 19 through Anahid Sofian. Eva's Eastern European heritage and travels in Turkey attracted her to the "Turkish" style. She has worked with the Erdogans Modern Turkish Troupe and the Samir Sabri troupe in Cairo, intensive Sufi training also influenced her style. In 1997 she was voted innovative dancer of the year by the Academy of Middle East Dance.

NOURHAN SHARIF officially retired from the stage last year. Tonight's special cameo performance is dedicated to honor Anahid's contribution to *Raqs Sharki*. For over 30 years she has danced around the world and led master workshops—specializing in Egyptian, Lebanese Cabaret and Folkloric style. She teaches at NY's New Dance Group Arts Center and is the executive director of the Egyptian Academy of Oriental Dance,

And the Program . . .

TEMPLE DANCE ----- Choreography & Soloist Eva Cernik
Based on East Indian folk dance and influenced by Egyptian pharaonic temple carvings, this striking dance is often done to consecrate a space before a concert..

Raksat al BADAWEEN • Costumes Michelle Van Saun; Dancers:Linda Lugo Cathy Bachner-Ferrara Sandra Filipovich Jean Musacchio Vicki Webberly
Displays the grace & beauty of the classic style of :Dance Orientale."

GAZLI (NY Premiere) • Costumes: M. Van Saun
Music: Sevara Nazarkhan, excerpt from "Yol Bolsin"
Dancers: Susan Harding Linda Lugo Jean Musacchio
*The night falls like a leaf / On the eyelashes of the desert /
The night brings tranquillity / To the Town of Gazli*

VEIL DANCE ----- Choreography & Soloist Eva Cernik
Music: Excerpt Souren Baronian's "East Meets West"
The dancer uses the veil as a metaphor for the layers of material which separate us from our true spirit ..

RAKS AL ASSAYA• Music Setrak Sarkissian Ensemble
Dancers: Delrosa Marshall Virginia Werner
Inspired by the Tahtlyb, a southern Egyptian dance in which women playfully imitated a men's dance in combat.

AVALIM • Music: "Music of the Fellahin" & Arabic Music/excerpts
Anahid Sofian ----- Choreography & Soloist Anahid Sofian
Precursor of the Egyptian cabaret style, the AVALIM Dancers were highly regarded for weddings and celebrations. Their dance was notable for its counter-rhythms Isolations..

MODES Choreography: The dancers • Music: Various Sources

Dancers:

S. Harding (Masmoud-Arabic 8/8)

D. Marshall (Beledi-Arabic 4/4)

P. Elben (Ayub-Egyptian 2/4)

J. Musacchio (Chifte Tell-Orientale 8/4)

S. Filipovich (Shaabi-Moroccan 6/8)

V. Webberly (Karshlama Turkish 9/8)

A percussive tour de force exploring "Orientale" dance rhythms and styles.

INTERMISSION

RAKS SHARQI -----Solo by Nourhan Sharif
Choreography: Yousry Sharif • Music: Excerpt "Layla Yasmin"
Based on Yousry Sharif's dance vocabulary—enhanced for the stage by Nourhan Sharif—this dance is typical of his work—Informed by jazz but never rejecting its Egyptian folk roots.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE • THE SHARQI ORCHESTRA

ALLA TURCA SUITE • Anahid Sofian with C. Bachner-Ferrara
P. Elben S. Filipovich S. Harding D. Marshall V. Werner
In the style of the Turkish Romany (Gypsy) dancers and musicians.

