



FESTIVAL
ACCÈS-ASIE
May 5th to 29th 2016

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**MIDDLE-EASTERN
DANCE COMPETITION**

3rd edition

Thursday, May 19th 2016
Show stars at 9:00 pm
Doors open at 8:00 pm

La Sala Rossa
4848 Saint-Laurent Blvd

Mont-Royal metro station

\$ 10 on pre-sale
\$ 15 at doors

Montreal, March 1st, 2016

Let's shimmy the hips! Festival Accès Asie proudly announces the third edition of the Middle-Eastern Dance Competition at **La Sala Rossa on Thursday, May 19th**.

This evening of feverish rhythms will deliver solo and duo performances by artists specially selected from our last call for submissions. Dance routines will feature six dance style categories from the Middle-East: Raqs Sharqi, Baladi, Saïdi, Shaabi, Eskandarani, Khaliji for solo acts and Dabke for duo dances.

The most outstanding performances will be judged, based on artistic and technical criteria, by three professional dancers of international renown: **Denise Enan**, jury of Honour, along with **Khadija Jabiry** and **Pierre Khoury**, who are rejoining us for this joyful competition.

Three prizes will be presented along with the popular Audience Choice Award. But the highlight of the soirée will be three workshops conducted by Khadija Jabiry, Pierre Khoury and **Florence Leclerc** to feature the awarded dancers, a perfect chance to polish up their scenic presence and refine their talents.

Hosted by dancer **Diane Labelle**, the event will also welcome the winner of 2015 Edition, **Sarah Jawida Vézina**, who will present a solo performance. **Interstellaire II** and **Me Float** will make a perfect companion for this year's competition, with a live display of their visuals and sounds during the night.

This event is brought by





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Denise Enan - Jury of Honour

Born in Egypt, Denise Enan was the principal dancer of Firqa Kawmiyya (National Folkloric Troupe of Egypt) from 1960 to 1974. Both she and her husband were trained by Kawmiyya dancers Dawlat Ibrahim and Faten Salama, considered as masters of Egyptian dance today. Many times awarded for her interpretation and choreographies, Denise Enan has danced for international celebrities, presidents and monarchs included. In 1973, she began sharing her knowledge and dance experiences throughout Egypt before opening her own studio in Gatineau, Dance Oasis, in 2003.



© Pierre Filteau

Khadija Jabiry - Dance instructor and choreographer

Khadija Jabiry comes from a Moroccan home where dance and singing was part of her family day-to-day life. Passionate about Egyptian dance, she continued her training in Egypt, close to prominent master Eastern dancers such as Mahmoud Reda and Farida Fahmy. In 1999, she established the professional dance troupe Baladi et Danses de l'Orient : Tywalline, distinguished by its diverse folkloric repertoire. Khadija currently conducts workshops on North African dances both in Canada and the United States, and also serves as a board member of the Association québécoise de danse orientale (AQDO).



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Pierre Khoury - Dancer

A Montrealer of Syrian origin, Pierre Khoury has attained a strong reputation in Eastern dance circles of Quebec and North America. After completing his training under the guidance of Khadija Jabiry, he put all his passion into professional dancing and choreography. Among other performances, he has danced for the International Bellydance Conference of Canada in Toronto and the Theatrical Bellydance Conference of New York in 2010. He has also acted as artistic director at Bellydance with a Twist events in Montreal, and on juries for many Cégeps en spectacles editions. He has worked along with many local artists as a choreographer, including as an awarded soloist of the AQDO in 2013.



©Florence Leclerc

Florence Leclerc - Dancer and dance instructor

Florence Leclerc (www.florencedanse.com) holds a DCS in dance and has quickly gained a reputation in the world of Eastern dance. A talented ballroom dancer, she has been a member of the Denise and Ahmed Enan's folkloric troupe, as well as the professional company, Oriental Ballet of Canada, which has been awarded gold medals from the AQDO and the Bellydancer of the World Competition. She has won several national and international Eastern dance competitions such as Rakstar (2014). Besides her participation in a number of productions, she runs the amateur troupe Mesk El Leil, and also works as a choreographer and instructor at the Louise Lapierre Dance School.



©Andrew MacGabhann

Diane Labelle - Dancer and dance instructor

Born in Montreal, Diane Labelle (www.labellebaladi.com) began dancing at the age of twelve, engaging in classical ballet, jazz and contemporary dance. Passionate about all sorts of dance styles, she began practising baladi dance in 2003, perfecting her skills under the guidance of dance masters from Egypt, Morocco and Montreal. She has developed a distinctive style that fuses classical and contemporary dance with baladi and raqs sharqi.



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Sarah Jawida Vézina - Winner 2015 Edition

Sarah Jawida Vézina began dancing at the age of eight, learning many different styles such as ballet jazz, hip hop and ballroom dance. She discovered her passion for Eastern dance in 2008, while training with Aicha, director of the Académie de danse orientale de Québec. In the last two years, she has perfected her technique alongside professional dancers Yousry Shariff, Yasmina Ramzy, Mercedes, Tito, Mohammed Sahin, and Nour among others. Sarah is currently establishing her own voice in the world of music interpretation.



©Julien Champagne

Interstellaire II and Me Float - VJ / DJ

Interstellaire II and Me Float is a sound and visual project of two artists involved on Jeunesse Cosmique label and they are also curators of their radio show at CISM. They organise the event called PITCH DOWN - MTL. They are currently working on a tribute to Sun Ra to be presented for Festival Suoni Per Il Popolo.

