

## Audition Guidelines: Professional Troupe Participation

Bellydance Grand Rapids



## DELKASH DANCE CO.

This audition opportunity is for participation in performance with Middle Eastern Style Belly Dance Company, Delkash Dancers, based out of Grand Rapids Michigan, under the direction of Sarah Mayne, owner of *Shimmy USA*. Company participation will bring you the opportunity for performances statewide and beyond, including haflas, festivals, weddings, birthday parties, corporate events, restaurants, private parties, school functions and more.

- Auditions are open to all dance artists over the age of 18 who reside in West Michigan.
- Audition Date is Saturday, March 7, 2019; 10 AM - 12 PM
- \$50 application fee per individual, payable by online [APPLICATION FEE](#)
- Audition times are on a first come, first serve basis.
- You will be notified via email when application and payment is received, along with your assigned audition time
- All applicants need to be present by 9:45 AM for check-in and auditions begin at 10 AM
- [Google Application Link](#)
- Application MUST be completed with application fee submitted before you will receive confirmation and schedule.

## Expectations for Auditions

### Delkash Dancer Company Audition

- Do not come in costume - costumes are not necessary - not even for your solo
- One Raqs Sharqi style piece choreographed by yourself between 3-5 minutes
- Have pre-learned 4 Delkash Dance Co. choreographies. Delkash members will be dancing these with you during your audition, so please insert yourself into the blocking anywhere you choose. You may learn as much of each choreo as you like; you MUST learn a minimum of 1 minute and 30 seconds of any given choreo, anywhere in the choreo beginning, middle, end. Do not count intro (offstage) as performance time.

## **VIDEO LINK**

Shik Shak Shok  
Lament of Isis  
Ma Tes'al Alayya  
Saiidi Rais

### **What do we look for in a Delkash Dancer?**

Sarah Mayne is seeking dancers who are passionate about Middle Eastern dance genres that are rooted in ethnic, traditional, national, religious and/or cultural heritage. She is seeking open minded, artistic individuals who have a vision to enlighten and change the uninformed & common perception of “belly dance” as a form of vulgarity or not worthy of being called high art. These individuals must be willing to uphold the image of sacred reverence, respect and honor to this culture and art. These individuals must be dedicated to the geographical, attire, and musical education of this form, ongoing and often intensive educational seminars and travel.

Shimmy recognizes that tradition is a living and evolving process and that many dance forms stem from multiple roots, and may be influenced by the context of presentation on our stage. We strive to present pieces that respect and maintain the integrity of a culture-specific dance tradition as its primary element.

### **Music**

Upload your music file for your personal piece to the link specified on the application form. Do not exceed 5 minutes for your choreography.

### **The Selection Process**

Your audition will be performed before Sarah Mayne & those she may choose to participate. The auditionees are studied for their ability to learn the pre-provided choreography, integrate with current troupe members and display their enthusiasm for Raqs Sharqi.

Selection will be based upon a collective Sarah feels is essential to the positive embodiment and fruition of this dance form in a most confused and misguided community where this dance is deeply misunderstood. Dancers will be HEAVILY decided upon based on the performance abilities: Choreography memorization, professionalism, personality and comfort with performing.

### **Reviewing Criteria**

The piece you audition is the piece being considered for future performances! Sarah will be using the following guidelines to evaluate your audition:

**Technical execution** — Does the dancer appear to be in command of the technique? How does the individual work with the space? How smoothly are entrances, exits and transitions accomplished?

**Choreography** — Is there consistency throughout the piece? Is the patterning well adapted to the stage? Does the piece build effectively?

**Personal Work** — Can the soloist maintain confidence in themselves? How skilled is the solo dancer in following their choreography?

**Stage presence** — Does the dancer project to the audience or engage their attention by some means: energy, enthusiasm, dynamics, focus, concentration, virtuosity, wit or charm?

**Music** — What is the quality of the music? Does the dancer work well with the music? Is the music integral to the dance?

**Props** — Are the props/implements used with ease and confidence? Are they well constructed and appropriate to the dance genre and piece?

**Connection to cultural origin** — Is the movement vocabulary, choreographic structure, music and emotional expression distinctly connected to an art form of ethnic or cultural origin? How well balanced or realized is the combination of elements, and is the integrity of the main cultural dance form maintained?

- **Auditionees will be notified no later than MARCH 14, 2020**
- **Artists will be notified of their status by email. For accepted auditionees, information on class participation, contract, photo shoot and upcoming performance dates will be included.**

**NOTE: Do NOT contact Shimmy USA Staff or Instructors asking about the status of your Audition!**

### **Artist Responsibilities**

There will be a mandatory photo shoot scheduled for selected participants. Please be prepared to make this event. This time/date will be provided the acceptance letters.

Delkash Members will be REQUIRED to purchase a number of props, costumes & music used for Troupe Performance. Be advised, Troupe participation is an investment.

Delkash Members will be required, in addition to Troupe class Monday nights – to take another Level 2 class at Shimmy for ongoing training, in addition to Workshops.