

## 2017 Contents

January 2017 .....	2
Dancing Tips .....	2
Background Notes.....	2
Belly Dance as a foreign language.....	2
February 2017 .....	3
Belly Raqs® YouTube Channel.....	3
June 2017 .....	4
Belly Raqs® YouTube Channel.....	4
MEDANZ.....	4

## January 2017

### **Dancing Tips**

Don't stop dancing over the holidays. You can shimmy anywhere. Walking to the kitchen or into the shower (actually shimmying in the shower can be fun).

Also a good time to just let loose. Let the music take you and dance. We are meant to be having fun.

### **Background Notes**

Continuing highlights from some of my history of the dance lectures from the last 15 plus years. In this case from posting in Facebook.

### **Belly Dance as a foreign language**

At times I make the simile explicit. Young children are not taught language; they observe and try things out. Older people have to be taught rules and vowel sounds and vocab and set time aside for practice. Belly dance is like that. Once you have the accurate sounds you can make words, then phrases. Many are most comfortable learning pieces by heart from their teacher. But eventually they need to be able to make up their own sentences - using the drilled sounds and grammar they have learnt (no point in tat that point going off to babble nonsense syllables).

## February 2017

### Belly Raqs® YouTube Channel

My YouTube channel [Belly Raqs® with Kashmir](#) has gone live.

This channel will not be covering "how to belly dance" but rather provide somewhere you can get reliable facts and history of the dance, along with explanations of belly dance related terms – and a few educated opinions.

#### [YouTube Channel](#)

I published the first three videos in my Exploring Belly Dance playlist and intend to publish a new video every Sunday.

### A little background:

Back when I first delivered my Roots and Branches lecture in 2001, a few people suggested I write a book.

Circumstances intervened although I did start writing (all with citations and footnotes) and negotiating for photo rights, and I contacted several publishers. I even had a brief meeting with one. But it began to look like thousands of hours of work, quite a bit of initial outlay, and little chance of recovering costs – let alone getting something for my time.

Then Rocky confirmed she was definitely publishing her book, so I dropped the project.

Then recently, doing some research for a day job client, I realized I could do it online.

A new purpose was born. I decided to put together a series of videos that addresses some of the questions many dancers – and non-dancers – are looking for about belly dance, MED, and related topics – and which are appalling covered online (wrong information regurgitated by people doing Google searches on other people who don't have a clue). I have already come up with ideas for the first 24 videos – and that's without going through my workshop or book notes. The first three are [now online](#). All going well, I'll publish a new one every Sunday.

Feedback is appreciated. I've already spotted some technical issues but with the time it takes to create each video (over 20 hours for the first three – although I'm sure I'll get faster – I'll have to), I am not of a mind to re-shoot and re-edit.

Now, I need to get back to making my next video – an easy one – Is "belly dance" the same as "raqs sharqi"?

## June 2017

### Belly Raqs® YouTube Channel

My YouTube channel [Belly Raqs® with Kashmir](#) is still growing and now includes 22 short videos on a variety of topics. Every Sunday morning there is a new video.

I have published three videos on beledi (and more to come) and one on Sai`di. Sha`bi, Milaya, and Khaleegi are coming up in the next month or so. But it is more than just the dance, last Sunday I looked at a definition of "[Middle East](#)". And of course I cover [myths](#) and history in the mix as well.

If you want to make a donation towards my work I have set up a [Give a Little](#) page.

Or feel free to watch at your leisure: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCNjnFAcPbEy6nS6rBeydjcw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNjnFAcPbEy6nS6rBeydjcw) (once I get 100 subscriptions I can get a friendlier URL!).

### MEDANZ

Yes, I weakened and joined the committee (again). This time as Secretary – one job I have not done before.

MEDANZ stands for the "Middle Eastern Dance Association of New Zealand" although it now has a new tag line:

Contemporary and Traditional Belly Dance.

It provides a network for dancers throughout the country along with a newsletter and workshops. More information on [www.medanz.org.nz](http://www.medanz.org.nz).

There are also a number of Facebook groups – and a public page. Just search "MEDANZ".

Next year the Festival will be in **Napier: 13-15 April**. The keynote will be Saqra from the USA. 2019 will likely be in the North Island too as the last three South Island festivals lost many thousands of dollars each. Basically without local support we cannot continue to provide events in the South Island.