

# June 2018

What is a prop, classes for term 3



## Belly Dance Classes 2018

### South Brighton

#### Introduction to Belly Dance

Term 3

Thursday 7:30-8:45pm

from 6 September

#### NextSteps2

Tuesdays 7:30-8:45pm

#### NextStepsMixed

(by invitation only)

Wednesdays 7:00-8:15pm

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## What is a "prop"

A "prop" is something that adds to the dance, a support. If you take the prop away you should still have the dance. When learning many choreographies – whether with cane, candelabra or even veil – most of the time is spent on the underlying dance. Sure there are serious skills involved in manipulating a prop – but it should be a layer over the dance. You should be able to remove the prop and with a few tweaks still have an interesting dance.

Too many "belly dance" performances involve fabric swishing about – very beautiful – but not "belly dance". Call it modern dance or creative fabric play – but not belly dance.

So, what types of things are there? There are many traditional props – and even more recently added ones.

The three "standard" props would be veil, zills, and cane. I would expect any belly dancer beyond beginner to be able to use these appropriately.

**Veils** is a recent innovation. Although introduced into Egypt in the 1920s, it never really took off there. It is more popular in Turkey. However, veil work as we know it was created in the States in the 1950s/60s. (Tanya gives a demonstration of this style of veil for [my video series](#)) Since then it has developed into what we see today.

**Zills**, or finger cymbals, are not that common in NZ but are an important part of the dance. The trick is to learn to play them and move from the first time you put them on. They can be played to just follow the beat (gallops and runs), mimic the drum, or add accents. They should not be play all the time however. They can also be combined with other props – with ghawazee cane, shamadan, or even veil! (I've done the first two but never managed the third)

**Cane**, or assaya (ah-sigh-ah), is most commonly associated with Sa`iidi dance although there are other styles as well. What most belly dancers learn is actually the men's style (Sa`iidi women don't use cane). Sa`iidi cane is pretty low key. But there is also beledi, ghawazee, Saudi, and Lebanese styles. Each style matches with the appropriate music and costume – of course.

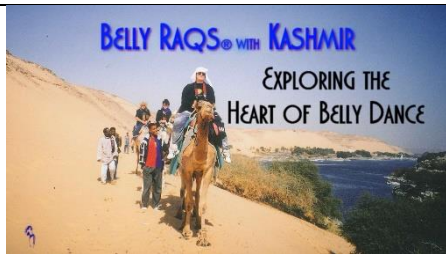
In my [video series](#) I have made a special play list for [belly dance props](#). [Here](#) you will see a very much shortened version of my Napier lecture, interviews with Tanya and Setsuna, raqs assaya and more.

## Classes

Time to huddle inside for the worst of winter (maybe time to look at some of [my Belly Dance class room videos](#) ). People ask why, well in the last fortnight turn up rate was only 37% - now everyone had good reasons – but it is just too hard to run classes with lousy weather, illness, and people taking off for warmer climes.

**NextSteps** starts again 21/22 August. Term 3 will run for eight weeks.

Tuesday class will be looking at the beledi drum solo Shik Shak Shok (which most of you already have). Wednesday



will be working on a short beledi progression. I envisage these projects to take the rest of the year.

**Term 3:** 20 August-12 October

**Term 4:** 15 October-7 December

These will be **\$90/term** (or 5 weeks for **\$70**) – or take two classes a week for **\$140**.

**Introduction to Belly Dance** is on offer from **Thursday, 6 September (7:30-8:45pm)**. No change on pricing (except for drop in):

**Early Bird \$90** (paid by 4 September)

**8 classes \$110**

**Casual \$17/class**

**Or \$170 for two people (enrolled together)**

There may be another class later if there is interest.

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