



Curriculum Vitae

Meret Gabra

Raqs Sharqi Dancer and Performer

Meret Gabra

Egyptian/British



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Dance History

1968-on	Informally learning Egyptian Dance, from family and friends
1970	Ballet and Tap, Margate school of dance, Margate Kent
1974-1976	Carluke Community, Gymnastic Club
1976-1981	Principal Actor with Carluke High School, Drama club, performed in three musicals and two dramas
1981-1984	Bells Amateur Theatre group, co-run by the Scottish Youth theatre group. Combining experimental theatre, dance and drama
1984-1988	Architecture School
1993-on	Started formal education of Egyptian Dance with the Hilal School of Raqs Sharqi at the Greenwich Dance Agency
1996-1998	Invited into Intermediate training program then into teacher training program
1997-on	Supply teacher with Greenwich Dance Agency
1998	Performed and choreographed a show at the GDA
1998-2000	Teacher Training course with the Raqs Sharqi Society (Formerly Hilal School of Raqs Sharq)
1999	Performed and choreographed a show at the Watermans Theatre
1999-2001	Community Dance Teacher, Lewisham College
2000	Completed the Raqs Sharqi Society's teacher training course
2001	Performed on BBC One's Blue Peter
2001-2002	Resident Egyptian Dance Teacher at the Albany in Deptford
2002-2004	Community Dance Teacher with Greenwich Community College

2002	Performed at Greenwich and Docklands Festival for the GDA
2002	Performed and choreographed a show at Steiner House Theatre
2002	Resident Egyptian Dance Teacher in Blackheath Village
2003	Teaching in Central, North and South East London
2004	Workshops in Hamburg, Germany
2004	Dance Holidays week long workshops in Southern Spain
2005	Dance Holidays week long workshops in Southern Spain

Performances

Numerous private parties (Haflas), weddings, hen nights and corporate events

Greenwich Dance Agency

Greenwich and Docklands Festival

Steiner House Theatre

Watermans Theatre

BBC TV Blue Peter

Blackheath Concert Halls

The Midlands Egyptian Society

Planet Egypt

Darabuka Bar club

All the listed performed pieces, group and solo works, have been my own choreographies. I have performed with in other groups and under different choreographers.

Workshops and CPD

attended since 1993 include:

Dancers & Teachers of International standing:

Mahmoud Reda

Raqia Hassan

Aida Noor

Medhat Fahmy

Nadia Hamdi

Gamal Seif

Yasmina of Cairo

Rachel Bryce

Leila Haddad

Suraya Hilal

Lilian Malki

Noor al Aceel

Beatrice Gonard

Dancers & Teachers of National standing:

Anne Ashcroft,

Julianna Brustick

Maggie Caffery

Judy Hammond

Sarah Kahan

Liza Wedgwood,

Statement

Born in Egypt, into a loud and varied Egyptian family, I started dancing when I started walking, but only pursued professional dance training from 1993. The legacy and experience acquired in those early years in Egypt have been the essential ingredient in both my personal dance development and in teaching the dance.

I have been teaching since 1999, and hold regular classes in Central, North and South East London. Combining good fun, choreography, body work, and safe teaching practice, my classes & workshops are always popular.

My skills as a choreographer are well known, and I have created stunning performance pieces for myself, my students and colleagues. My dance conveys a feeling for the intricacy, drama, and emotion of Arabic music. Having grown up with Arabic music my reference for the dance stems directly from my emotional understanding of the music and culture. In both performance and teaching I use the music as the fundamental base of the dance.

Classes are dynamic, structured, safe and fun, allowing students to progress rapidly to having a good vocabulary of dance movements. My performances have been described as powerful, expressive, delicate, sensuous, dignified and playful.

