



## MARCH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Bellydance Academy Gold Coast's third edition of our monthly newsletter.

Term one belly dance classes were warm and welcoming for the beginning of the year, with students showing commitment and excitement, and having lots of fun.

Thank you to all the new students who have shown such dedication and enthusiasm, and to all past students that express determination to enhance their dancing and learn new styles and continue to flourish in this beautiful dance style.

From charity events to chamber orchestras, March has been a fantastic month for the Academy.

**CLASSES:** Term 2 starts from 16th April with new dance combinations, props and continuing to improve body conditioning and technique for all class levels and of course always having fun! If you have not booked yet, give a call and I will be happy to have a chat.

In Light & Love, Shira xx



*Photo taken in Egypt by Yasmina Cairo*

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## GOLD COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

As a lover of classical music, I was so honoured to be invited to perform with the 8-piece classical Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra on the 9th of March. It was a wonderful evening, filled with their passionate, upbeat music in the romantic setting of Bumbles Café, Budds Beach.

## DINNER IN DAMASCUS

On the 16th of March, a charity event to support refugees, "Dinner in Damascus", organised by my talented dance student, Jovana and generously hosted by the Al Medina Mediterranean & Middle Eastern restaurant, was a great success. After a delicious Syrian buffet prepared by Syrian chefs, a diverse group of storytellers, artists, entrepreneurs, students and much more shared their background stories and experiences.

Their aim was to go beyond stereotypes and borders to foster connectivity and togetherness.

The evening concluded with the Stars of the Sahara troupe's ignited performance. We were happy to meet and dance with some of our beginner and intermediate students during the evening.

Congratulations to Jovana and the amazing team effort, for a full house audience and successful event!



*Shira and the Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra at Bumbles*



*Our beginners class at Robina.*



*Evelina and Alexandra with visiting classmates.*

*Top left: Jovana presents the storytellers to the audience.*

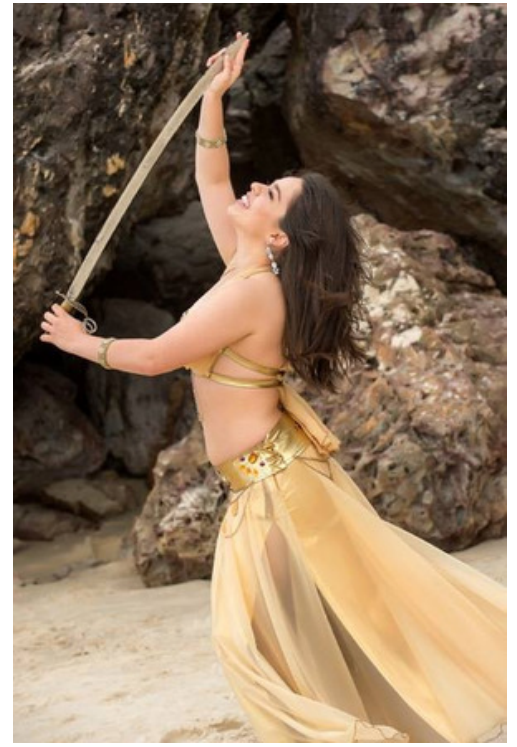
*Previous page, top: The Stars of the Sahara with our family members, classmates and restaurant staff.*



## FEATURED DANCER - EVELINA SINGH

Our amazing featured dancer for March, Evelina, started dancing when she was eight years old, and is the youngest member of our troupe. She is a highly sought after dancer, for her natural ease yet powerful dynamic energy and her beautiful smile. She loves performing fan veil repertoires in her effortless and graceful style, and is a wonderful contributor to the troupe and classes.

Evelina initially started belly dancing because she grew up with Bollywood music, and found a similarity between the beats of both genres. Belly dancing was a big part of her identity growing up, especially because it made her stand out as other kids her age didn't know what it was. Evelina enjoys other performing arts outside of belly dance, whether it be dancing, acting or playing piano. We are looking forward to enjoying her bright & successful belly dance future.



## SOMATICS FOR BELLYDANCE

We are proud to present the “Somatics for Bellydance” Workshop by international teacher & performer, Keti Sharif on Saturday, 28th April. This workshop is suitable for all levels, from beginners to advanced and professional dancers. Facebook event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2115320422032459/>



## BEHIND THE VEIL WORKSHOP

Our Behind the Veil workshop on the 24th of March was a great success, with many attending and learning how to use a veil to feel feminine and express their inner Goddess, as well as having fun! The workshop focused on the feelings and expression essential to enjoying and performing with veils, whether on stage or at home. For some of the girls, it was their first time learning to dance with the veil.

The next Veil workshop will be held in June. Date to be announced!

## BELLY DANCE ENTERTAINMENT

If you are hosting a special event such as a birthday, hens party, wedding celebration or corporate event, you can book a professional belly dancer to perform a beautiful routine and entertain your guests, which includes fun audience participation. The professional Stars of the Sahara troupe are available for additional performers.