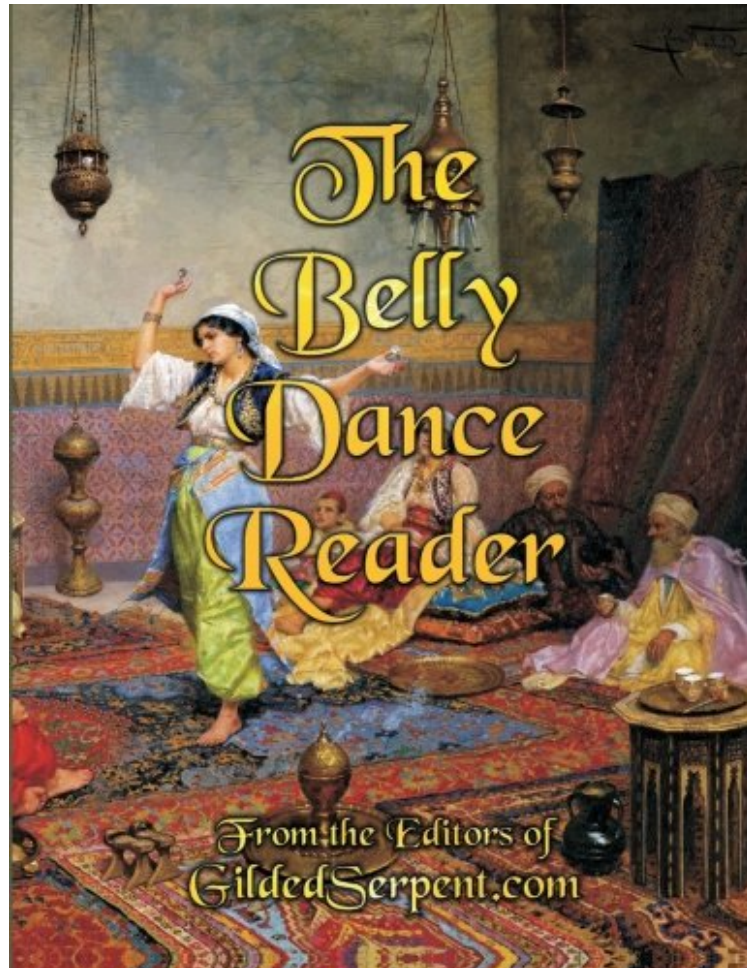


(Ebook pdf) The Belly Dance Reader

## The Belly Dance Reader

*Lynette Harris*

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**Lynette Harris : The Belly Dance Reader** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Belly Dance Reader:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great collection; but an index and bibliography would make it even better. By A. Keyes The publishers of the long-lived online "zine" Gilded Serpent have collected a stellar anthology of essays by some of the most respected names in belly dance. The breadth and depth of the topics is commendable, from transnational issues such as orientalism to nitty-gritty business issues such as soliciting tips. I'm very happy to have it in my personal library, and I suspect I will refer to it quite often. That said, despite the inclusion of more scholarly work (such as by Barbara Sellers-Young and Andrea Deagon, both PhDs), the overall presentation of the book and its inclusion of "dancer trading cards" (cartoony, but useful, clips about influential oriental dancers throughout history) and an appendix called "The Backend" (complete with a photograph of a dancer facing away from the camera and looking back over her shoulder) belies its homegrown roots. This is definitely a "by dancers for dancers" publication,

and would be perfect for the beginning hobbyist looking for a comprehensive, but not overwhelming, introduction to the dance. Two things that I hope future editions include: 1) Index. This one really bothers me. I know that indexing a book is tedious and a big pain in the ass. But it must be done, especially for a book like this one that covers so many subjects that has the potential to be a paramount reference volume on its subject. Hell, I'll index it for future editions. 2) Bibliography. Some of the articles themselves have references, but a compilation of sources at the end would also be useful and appreciated. Again, I know that writing a bibliography is time-consuming, but it's a necessary element for any non-fiction book. Overall, despite missing two very important sections, this book is an excellent addition for the hobbyist and professional belly dancer. 14 of 15 people found the following review helpful. A good collection of articles by dancers who know their stuff! By Maura Enright The book contains lots of what I wanted, which is, research and strong opinions by folks who have earned the right to have an opinion. Too many of the existing belly dance magazines are little more than belly-dance versions of People magazine, predictably featuring the dancer-du-jour and then filling the rest of the pages with bits of diluted information and rambling articles on topics that have been recycled for decades. This book is more like the late lamented Habibi and Arabesque magazines, capturing the insights and enthusiasms of articulate people who are Names in their field. You won't be bored. I suggest you buy it. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Informative, organized and well written By Customer I love belly dance and this is a great reference book to have in your collection whether you are an amateur or a pro. This book has articles about costumes, styles, music and everything else a belly dancer needs to know to prepare for belly dance and then some. There are some great tips about ethics and how to market yourself in the business so if this is something you would want to do, this book could give you a great outlook. Most of the pictures are a little outdated, if you want the current glamour and glitz of belly dancers you'll need to check youtube for that. There are some great articles about becoming a professional belly dancer as well that are worth reading.

The Belly Dance Reader is an anthology of essays from many of the leaders in our Middle Eastern music and dance community. The contributors range from PhD scholars to hobbyists. This book is illustrated with hundreds of photos and artwork from current to vintage, including various sub-styles of the dance, gathered from around the world. Subjects covered include: An introduction, dancing at various ages and stages, history, costuming and appearance, regional and sub styles of the dance, theory and technique, as well as valuable resources such as Arabic scales and rhythms, glossary, maps and more. Belly Dance Reader Contents Section 1 - An Introduction Gamar a poem by Beatrice Parvin of the UK Welcome to Bellydance by Najia Belly Dance and Contemporary Dance Studies by Barbara Sellers-Young PhD Reading Like a Researcher, Can You Trust Your Sources? by Mahsati Orientalism, Zumarrad's Completely Non-scholarly Quick Dirty Guide by Brigid Kelly The Soul of Belly Dance, The Most Important Thing is the Feeling by Alia Thabit Section 2-Dancing Through the Stages of Your Life Teaching Children to Dance, Joys and Pitfalls by Martha Duran A Dancer's Journey, From Beginner to Semi-Pro by Elianae Stone The Teacher-Student Relationship, A Psychological Point of View by Izzah Isabelle Gagnon PhD Bellydance Class... or Cult? Artwork by Leela Corman Turning Pro, From Hobbyist to Star to Teacher by Lauren and Jillina Boomerang Career, Life and Dance in the Land Down-Under (Pro to Teacher/Hobbyist) by Amera of Australia It Ain't Easy being the Crone by Shelley Muzzy Section 3-History "Harem Girls", Dance in Historical harems, Early 1700s - Early 1900s by Andrea Deagon PhD The American Belly Dancer in Early Burlesque and Vaudeville Theatre by Catherine Mary Scheelar (married name here) Belly Dance as a Performance, Historical Phenomenon or Logical Evolution? by Iana Komarnytska Dancer Trading Cards- Artwork by Leela Corman, Stats by Sausan Section 4-Biz What a Band Needs, But Doesn't Always Get by Denise Mannion of Pangia Dancing with Live Bands, The Little Book of Etiquette by Leyla Lanty Selling your Dance, A Series of Elevator Pitches by Athena Marketing Belly Dance for Fitness, Is It A Good Idea? by Mayada Tip O' the Hat to Tipping, Practices of Appreciation by Samira Sharuk Section 5-Costume Appearance Raqqin the Retro, Vintage Costume Care by Princess Farhana Omani Jewelry from the Collection of Nancy Hernandez Photography by Alisha Westerfeld Practice Makes Perfection, Make up Artists Share Their Secrets by Davina ~ Dawn Devine A Costume Gallery Section 6- Regional Styles Beyond Sequins, Meaning in the Movement by Yasmina Ramzy The Rom, Nomads of the Spirit by Sierra (Sadira) Suraci Romani (Gypsy) History An Introduction by Renee Rothman The Zar, Dancing with Genies by Yasmin Hekesh In Search of Zambra Mora by Dondi Dahlin Improvisational Tribal Style, Constructing Self and Community by April Rose The Ghawazi by Jalilah Two Weddings and a Dancer, The Beledi and The City by Leila Farid Zeffat Al Aroosa, Ritual Procession for the Egyptian Wedding by Sahra Carolee Kent Section 7-Theory Technique Belly Dance Motivations, Context and Content of Performance by Jezibell Anat Contextualizing, Giving Your Dance Context! by DaVid of Scandinavia Performance Enhancement by Mahsati How to Balance Anything! by Stasha Vlasuk Improvising with Ease, Strategies that Work by Anthea Kawakib Poole Shimmylab, Muscular Activation Patterns in Belly Dance by Venus Marilee Nugent Are the Stars Out Tonight? Fitting Music Dance to Your Gig by Najia The Backside Maps- Sahra's Regional Dances of Egypt, The Mid East, Mediterranean, and North Africa A Few Maqamat and Rhythms References, A Bibliography Project, Bonus Material, Disclaimers, Errata Gig Form A Glossary of Common Belly Dance Terms Contributors Bios Photo Credits Late Additions photos

About the AuthorGildedSerpent.com is an online resource in magazine format that seeks to become a freely available library of knowledge supported by and for our Middle Eastern music and dance community. Our goal is to become the Journal of Record for this community. Online we include articles ranging from historical research to up-to-the-minute news, reflecting a full spectrum of viewpoints. This is our first book, written and edited by our community. Lynette Harris is the principal editor and publisher of GildedSerpent.com - an all volunteer organization that encourages the inclusion and tolerance of all those who wish to participate. Together, we can promote our identity and pride by sharing the resources and ideas, concepts, history of dance, and the rich music and culture of the Middle East. We thank you for helping to support our goals by purchasing this book! Please also visit us online at [GildedSerpent.com](http://GildedSerpent.com).