

Ahlan wa Sahlan 2005

Who of us orient-obsessed people does not possess a video collection full of old 70s and 80s dance footage from Cairo, featuring stars such as Nagua Fuad, Mona Said, Lucy und Suher Saki? I had them all!

I spend hours trying to absorb the typical Egyptian dance style. Moreover, I adored the dance moves, dreamed of the costumes and wished to once experience these dancers live.

This became reality in 1989! I used to travel to Cairo three to four times per year, in order to take dance lessons, purchase costumes and to view shows of the dancers of my dreams live. However, I was not the only one, because many of my international colleagues that I met on the way to Cairo pursued a similar goal.

Nevertheless, there was always one desire remaining: we wanted to see more of them! One could spot the dancers on stage, but as quick as they appeared, the quicker they disappeared after the shows. I would have done everything to just to meet, talk or take lessons from them.

This is a wish that would have probably seemed weird for the dancers at that time. Although the dancers knew that a fairly big oriental dance scene in Europe or the U.S. existed, they could not figure why contact with outsiders could be beneficial. They always enjoyed taking pictures with being part of their excited audience. However, they were missing the conscience to consider teaching us their dances.

Over the years, more and more oriental dance stars were booked for U.S. and European shows. I remember the amazing shows organized by Dietlinde Karkutli in Frankfurt. Stars such as Nagua Fuad, Suher Zaki, Dina as well as Amani appeared there. Suddenly, the oriental dancers began to comprehend our deep passion and love for their art. They took it more seriously to transmit oriental dance and its message. There were only two options to learn Egyptian dance during the 1990s:

we either waited until one of the stars performed nearby or we had to travel to Cairo. Being in Cairo, the learning conditions were tough while taking lessons from our legend mentors. Both oprions appeared to be dissatisfying over the long run.

Many years ago, the former Reda-Troupe dancer, Raqia Hassan was at the main focus in the Cairo oriental dance scene. Whoever wanted to partake in excellent dance lessons took them with her. Whenever one wanted to know the latest news

Raqia Hassan



Dr. Mo Geddawi

about Cairo's star dancers' performances, Raqia always knew it. Whoever wanted to dance in Cairo would go through her. Raqia Hassan was and still is the oriental dance guru of Cairo!