



Editor's Note

Well, we've reached the last 1/3 of 2020. For most of us, it has been a non-year. We've sheltered in place, worked from home, and we miss our family, friends, and dance contacts. For some, it's been a frustrating, but still active year, working around the virus and meeting for business and fun by Zoom, or Google, or Facebook Live.

Hopefully this edition of the INBC Newsletter finds you all healthy and looking forward to our first major online event, and to a new year with less illness and fewer restrictions.

If you're still at home, waiting out the second surge of Covid-19, consider writing something for the November-December Newsletter, or sending in your photos and videos, blurbs about events you've done or events you'll be hosting in November and December and beyond. And if there are topics you'd like to see addressed, but don't feel you are the best person to write about those issues, then just send your suggestions to me and I'll try to find someone to write on those topics.

The Deadline for submitting for the November-December Newsletter is October 31, 2020.

Kat Lebo, INBC Newsletter Editor

SAVE THE DATE!

Here are some dates to plug into your calendars.

October 11, 2020 – Sunday, 5 pm by Zoom: INBC officers and members meeting.

October 17, 2020 – Saturday, 12:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Online: Learn with Simon and the Darshan Dance Company. See the FB event for more details, or check out the information on the INBC website.

December 13, 2020 – Sunday, 5 pm by Zoom: INBC officers and members meeting.

February 14, 2021 – Sunday, 5 pm, INBC officers and members meeting.

April 11, 2021 – Sunday, 5pm, INBC officers and members meeting.

Did You Know?

Your Public Relations Guru, Deb Kull, has set up different accounts for us around the interwebs. You should visit all of them and follow or subscribe!

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC03rRopknW2JZp6k_VunN1g/featured

Twitter: @in_bellydance https://twitter.com/in_bellydance

LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/indiana-bellydance-collective>

Instagram: @indianabellydancecollective
<https://www.instagram.com/indianabellydancecollective/>



INBC 2020 Fall Carnival

Mark Your Calendars!! The INBC 4th Annual Fall Carnival and Fundraiser is coming on Saturday, October 17, 2020 online by Facebook Live. This will feature two international artists, the legendary Lebanese Simon and Katie Bhairavi Marshall and the Darshan Dance Company.

Simon will be teaching Baladi Concepts and Techniques from Oriental Style in a 90-minute workshop that runs from 12pm to 1:30pm. The cost for Simon's workshop is \$40.

Katie Bhairavi Marshall & the Darshan Dance Company will offer techniques, concept, philosophy, and spiritual components with a light choreography to deepen your dance practice in a 90-minute workshop that runs from 2pm to 3:30pm. The cost of this workshop is \$40.

ALSO: A Vendors Market and Virtual Hafla featuring performances from our guests and members will be simulcasted throughout the day (11am – 6pm)!

Pre-register here:

<https://www.isametd.com/showcases-conventions-fall-carnival-summer-bazaar/inbc-fall-carnival-online/> Here you can find information on the workshops, and on the vending and the virtual hafla as well.

Reserve your spot early! Because of economic hardships during the COVID crisis, we are offering the members' rate to the general public.

Reserve your spot early! Because of economic hardships during the COVID crisis, we are offering the members' rate to the general public.

You can also join or donate to our 501(c)3 nonprofit organization on the home page.

Schedule · Saturday, October 17, 2020 (in EDT)

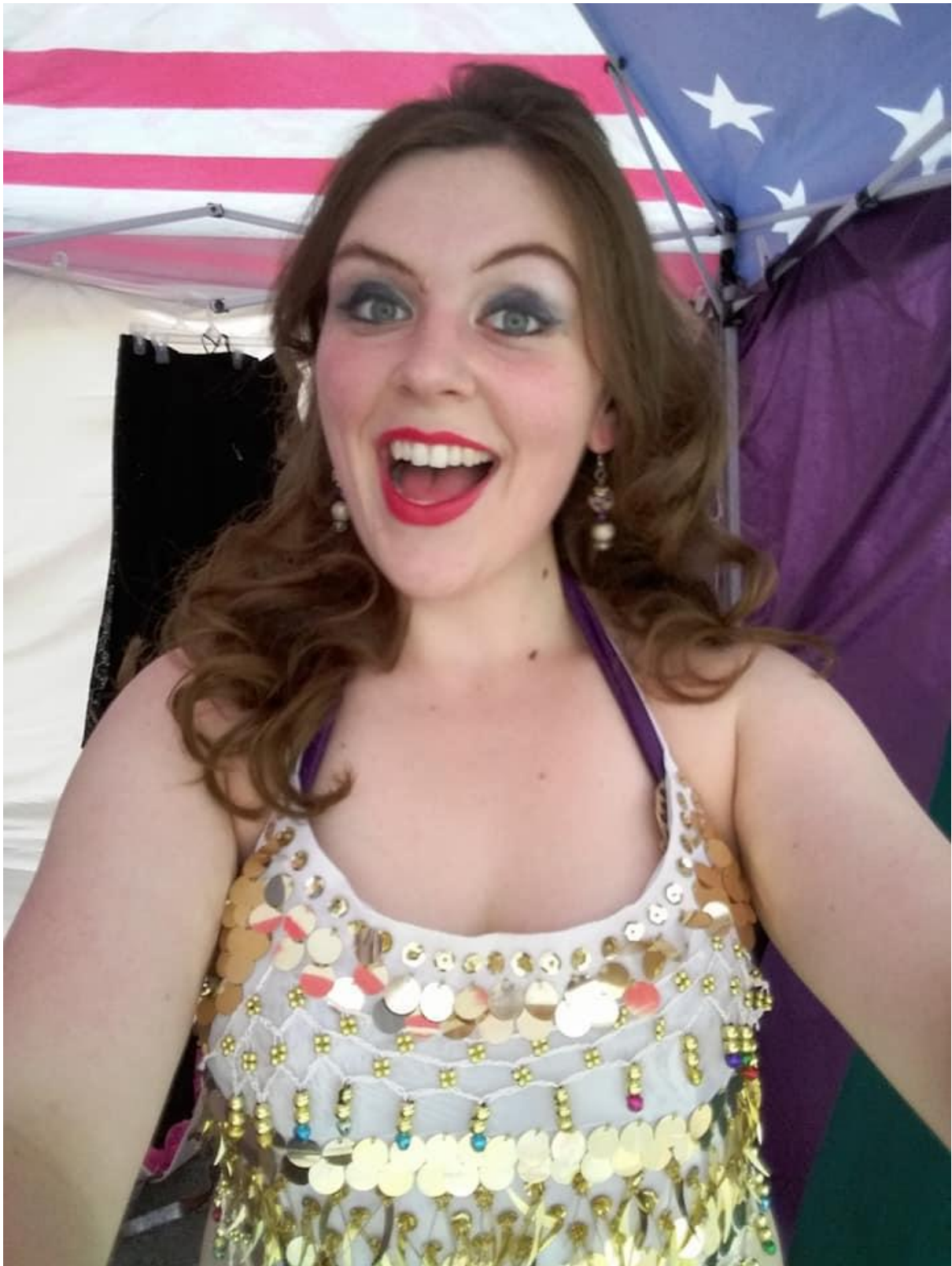
11:00 AM - 6:00 PM Vendors Market and Virtual Hafla

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Baladi Concepts and Technique with Lebanese Simon

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Intro to Darshan Dance Company's Indian Fusion - Techniques and Choreography

CALL FOR PERFORMERS!! Join the hafla at the INBC online Fall Carnival on Oct 17th! You can perform livestream from your home via our feed, or submit a pre-recorded video in advance. Dancers and musicians welcome. Get those hip scarfs on and ready to SHIMMY in the spotlight! Submit your performance information here:

<https://forms.gle/sthigdcVWtRmC4sR8>. You must be registered for at least one of the workshops in order to perform. Videos for pre-recorded performances must be submitted by September 18th.



6 Ways to Dress up a Circle Skirt Pattern

by Valerie A. Q. Figg

Hello fellow costumers, and people-who-love-to-sew (beginners and professionals alike): My name is Valerie and I am obsessed with belly dance costuming! It was one of the first things to draw me to belly dance and remains one of my favorite things about performances.

Over the past few years I've designed, sewn, beaded, and altered a half-closet full of belly dance costumes. A main staple of my collection is a variety of circle skirts. These skirts are simple to make, easy to wear, and can coordinate with almost any style top and belt. But do you ever feel like a basic circle skirt is a little too mundane for the look you're going for? The good news is that it doesn't take much to alter a circle skirt pattern to develop some lovely variations of skirt. Here are my top 6 favorite

1. The number of circles and where they are stitched together.

I typically use 1 full circle for my base skirts, but for fun overskirts, I like to use 2 circles, which means 4 panels that are each 1/2 of a circle. You can either change the diameter of the circle to match 1/2 of your hip circumference, or you can keep the same diameter as you would using 1 circle, but then add pleats or gathers at the waistband to size it down. The more circles you use, the fuller the skirt will be at the bottom.

Depending on where the panels are stitched together, you can obtain very different looks- especially while spinning. If you want the bottom to flare out a little extra, try sewing the panels together only from hip to about knee. If you're looking to show more leg, you can arrange panels on the waistband such that one is in the front center, and the other panels are on the side-back. Sew together the side-back panels, but only stitch them to the front panel at the waistband, or from waistband to mid-thigh, or from waistband to knee.

2. Handkerchief hem

I love this technique. On one hand, it makes the fabric a lot easier to hem (curved circle skirt hems can be finicky), and on another hand, it adds an interesting visual to the lines of the costume. The pattern I use for my standard circle skirts is a 1/4 circle that I cut on a fold. For a handkerchief hem style, instead of cutting the bottom edge along the circle line, I cut it square, so that when I unfold my fabric, instead of looking like a semi-circle with a small semi-circle taken out of the top middle, it looks like a big rectangle with a small semi-circle taken out of the top middle. When put together, this gives the effect of the skirt having 2 long "corners" and 2 short area in between. I prefer the long corners hanging down on the sides rather than in front & back so that I don't trip myself (as would be my luck). I highly recommend pairing this style with beaded trim or fringe trim along the hem. Since the eye is drawn to the unusual shape of the hem, it means trims will be accentuated too.

3. Add spirals / spiral ruffle fringe

Spiral fringe is created by cutting out a large circle of fabric, and cutting along a spiral line that starts on one edge of the circle and travels to the center. The size of the initial circle, and the spread of the spiral cut will determine the length and width of the ruffle.

There are multiple ways to incorporate these in a circle skirt.

i) Cut dozens of spirals that are 12"- 18" long (I recommend distance from knee to ankle), and shorten your standard circle skirt pattern by the length of the spirals. Then stitch the spirals vertically around the bottom hem, evenly spaced, so that you have dozens of spirals hanging by one end from the bottom of your skirt. These will bounce and add volume while dancing in such a fun way.

ii) If you want to keep the full length of your skirt, try cutting very long fabric spirals, and stretching them out to be flat on the inside line, turning them into a ruffled looking trim. These can be attached to the skirt in numerous vertical rows, on a diagonal, in a few horizontal rows along the bottom, or as an accent on the edges of a slit in the skirt.

The downside to using spirals is that you need a significant amount of extra fabric or accent fabric- A 12" diameter circle produces 2-3 feet of spiral depending on the width. Also note that with most fabrics, the raw edges will need to be finished so that they don't fray.

4. Basque waistband/ Pointed or V-shaped waistband

My go-to for circle skirts is a simple, straight across waistband with a grosgrain ribbon drawstring. This makes it highly adjustable and easy to change into and out of. But, the waist has a tendency to want to bunch up and cause annoying lumps under some of my belts, which I then have to pin in place to keep flat. If you also find yourself being occasionally annoyed by this, one remedy is to add a fitted basque/"V"/pointed waistband to the top of your skirt. The easiest way to do this is to cut the smaller circle in your pattern a little wider than normal. Then using your favorite, and best-fitting bedlah belt as a pattern, cut a v-shaped waistband, and attach the skirt to the bottom edge of this. You may have to gather the top of the skirt to fit perfectly. If you cut the waistband larger than needed, you can add a couple inches of elastic to the sides for a snug fit on your hip, or if you cut it to match the bedlah size exactly, you can add a short side zipper, hooks & eyes, Velcro, or button closure to one side of the waistband. I like to use this waistband with the circle skirt panel seams in the front middle and back middle, lined up with the point of the waistband. This pattern also works well for overskirts with panels in front and back, with seams at the sides and only stitched together at the hip.

5. Elastic at the Hem



Think of Princess Belle's yellow Ballgown. There are "swoops" in the fabric all along the bottom, creating a voluminous shape. This look can be achieved (on a smaller scale) using strips of elastic or gathering stitches. I recommend at least 12 strips of elastic, up to 6" in length (though preference depends on height, so be sure to experiment!).

Evenly space the elastic strips, and attach them vertically from the hemline up, stretching as much as possible, or evenly placing vertical gathered stitches around the hem. This will create a “swoopy” look. You won’t get as much flare when spinning, but it does add a fun poofy look for something different. I recommend extending your base skirt pattern length by a few inches in case the elastic/gathers pull the hem up higher than anticipated.

6. Sheer layers

Lightweight, sheer overskirts are an easy way to change the look of a costume, but have you ever thought of letting a sheer circle skirt stand on its own? Patterned Chiffon, colorful lace, sequined netting- let your favorite sheer steal the show. There’s a couple of ways you can make this work.

i) Layer up to make the fabric less transparent. Either cut double of all of your standard circle skirt pattern pieces, or cut the normal pieces plus a second round that is just a few inches shorter, and possibly even a third round that is a few inches shorter than that. Stitch all these sheer skirts together at waist (shortest one on top), and you’ll end up with a tiered bottom hem look.

ii) If you only have enough fabric for one sheer layer, use remnants or miscellaneous fabric you’ve had stashed away to make a knee length or longer underlining, by shortening your circle skirt pattern. You can use “boring” (neutral) fabrics for this underlining, or you can use a bold color that coordinates or emphasizes the pattern or color of the sheer material.

There you have it, my 6 ways to alter a simple circle skirt pattern for some extra pizzazz! One more thing to note, don’t be afraid to combine these options! ...I’m imaging a bright pink lace skirt with black knee length underlining, and a slit on one side with black spiral ruffle trim. ... Or how about a lime green satin skirt with a pointed waist band and elastic at the hem.... Or a purple floral patterned 2-circle skirt, each one with a handkerchief hem.... The possibilities are endless. (Just wait until I get started talking about beads and appliques and rhinestones and fringe...)

Open call for photos and videos!

by Deborah Kull, Public Relations Officer



You know that stellar picture of you - the one with your hair flying, eyes twinkling, hips a-bumpin', and smile intoxicating everyone around you? We need that! We want to amp up our sites to make them as professional and captivating as you are! We would love to feature our members and activities on our website and social media pages. But we don't have any (digital) photos or videos (that we have legal permission to use). Help us publicize you!

Please send us your favourite photos and videos of INBC/ISAMETD events or performances or members. They can be individuals or a group; you can be dancing or posing or just having fun. They can be recent, or anytime in yours or ISAMETD's history (since 1978! We love throwbacks!)

With each video/photo submission, we need:

1. The names of every person in the photo
2. Explicit permission from each person in photo/video (otherwise we will have to blur out faces, etc. to protect privacy)
3. Some context - where it was taken, approximate date, activity involved
4. If a dance work, please state the choreographer and name of the work, if applicable
5. Who took the photo/video (if known)

Please send photos and videos to publicrelations@isametd.com. We will send you a media release form to digitally sign upon receipt. Thank you!!

Music and Dance in Iran

by Kat Lebo



While we in the Western World enjoy listening to whatever music we want from wherever we want, and enjoy dancing in whatever style catches our imagination, dancers, musicians, and singers in the Middle East often face challenges in pursuing what interests them.

In Iran, Mehdi Rajaban, an Iranian musician and producer, was placed under house arrest this August, for using female singers and dancers in his performances and publication of a video featuring a female dancer. Both of these activities are considered immoral in Iran. He was arrested on August 10, 2020, and is currently awaiting his trial

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVNya4j6bno>

The dancer featured in Rajaban's video was Helia Bandeh, who specializes in traditional Persian Dance. The following video is of one of her performances:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vsgf5qoSGuA>

This is not the first time Rajaban has run afoul of Iran's morality rules. He was arrested in 2013 and spent 3 months in solitary confinement. In 2015 he was sentenced to 2 years in prison before he did a 40-day hunger strike which resulted in his release.

Rajaban is not alone in Iran's quest to prevent females from performing. Other artists, such as the singer Negar Moazzam, who underwent an official investigation after a video of her singing dressed in traditional Persian costume ended up online. Here is a short video of her singing at an outdoor event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T9XInVWBEDA>

Two male musicians, Ali Ghamsari and Hamid Askari, have been banned from performing in Iran for allowing female artists to sing in their live performances. Authorities went so far as to turn off the sound so that the female singers could not be heard by the audience.

In this video Ali Ghamsari plays the Persian Tar while Haleh Seyfizadeh sings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_gkfxsXt3w

And here, Hamid Askari sings and plays guitar in a modern Persian pop piece. BTW, the tar that Ghamsari played in the above video is the forerunner of the more modern guitar.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o6lIVg37Fvk>

While there is no particular law against females in music, Iran has a long history of censoring music and art that features women and/or targeted sexual minorities, using vaguely defined morality rules to arrest performers. There is growing unrest over the limitations put upon females and other minorities in Iran. This unrest often results in Youtube or other online videos of young women removing their hijabs. The video below is of an August 2019 rally. As a result, Soba Kodafshari, a 20 yr old, was sentenced to 24 years in prison. In the opening, you can hear the crowd of women, chanting "take them off." The group was protesting on what is known as White Wednesday, when women dress in all white, or at least with a white scarf, to show solidarity with the movement to end mandatory hijab wear.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=erAfVhWGUAQ>

Singer Sahar Mohammadi was arrested for publishing a video of herself singing on her Instagram account. One of her videos on Youtube follows.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Nklz4Ut70g>

Parisa Pourtaherian, an Iranian sports photographer with 25,000 followers, says of the crackdown, "I've been obsessed with millions of questions lately. Iranian females are not allowed access to stadiums, and our phones and social media accounts are monitored. They sneak into every bit of our lives. I have no idea what is going to happen to us."

The struggle against restrictive religious laws is not new and is continuing. Reihane Taravati is an Iranian social media influencer. In 2014, she was arrested for publishing a video of herself and friends dancing to the song, "Be Happy," as part of a worldwide movement of young people making and publishing videos of themselves dancing to Pharrell Williams' song.

Here is the original video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYnLRf-SNxY>

And here is a video about the dancers' arrest.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4oNKD3xqNI>

and another video from 2019 in regard to White Wednesday:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikXt20MekEw>

Then, in June of 2019, Reihane was again arrested for posting photos of herself without a hijab on Instagram. She was tried and received a suspended sentence. Fast Forward to June 2020, when most of Iran was SIP for the 2nd wave of Covid-19, Tavarati began to fear that she would be arrested again, as the Cyber Police announced that women who appeared on social media sans hijab were breaking Iran's cyber laws. Pressure from Clerics on the government have resulted in a doubling down on what is deemed as immodesty on social media, namely the posting of photos of women without the hijab. It is estimated that at least 25 Iranians have been arrested simply for posting photos without a hijab.

Of course, there are several other reasons Iranians have for protest. Hikes in gas prices, police brutality (hey! That sounds familiar), cost of necessities, restrictions on clothing, restrictions on what the populace may see or hear, and many more.

Sources:

<https://www.ft.com/content/bb399741-970a-40dd-bca6-fd60f756e70b>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/iran-musician-faces-jail-working-women-dancers-singers-200828141434583.html>

<https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-06-07/iran-instagram-coronavirus-social-media-crackdown>

<https://www.npr.org/2018/08/03/631784518/in-iran-protests-women-stand-up-lift-their-hijab-for-their-rights>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/02/10/googoosh-iran-voice-of-hope/?arc404=true>

That's it folks! Remember the deadline to submit for the November-December newsletter is October 31st!