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## ARTIST BIO:

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Zulaika is dancer, performer, instructor, and lecturer specializing in Arab dance and music. A lifelong student of dance, she studied various forms from childhood through college. In 1975, after graduating from Moravian College with a BA in Elementary Education, she was introduced to the fascinating world of Middle Eastern Dance through the local YWCA. The mesmerizing music and celebratory aspects of the dance form captivated her. Upon relocating to Minneapolis with her husband in 1980, Zulaika continued her studies at the Cassandra School and raised 3 sons. She traveled nationally and internationally to attend dance workshops with internationally recognized teachers to learn dances of Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Persia, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia. In 1993, 2000, 2002, and 2010, she toured and studied dance in Egypt. In 2009 she lived in Egypt for a month to study the Arabic. In 2005 and 2009, Zulaika toured and studied dance in Morocco. Since 2005, Zulaika has been an administrative assistant and student at Simone Shaheen's annual Arabic Music Retreat in Massachusetts.

Zulaika's performance career began in 1984 as a headline soloist at several Minneapolis and St. Paul Middle Eastern restaurants and at area Arabic weddings and celebrations. In 1998 and 1999, she was invited to perform at the Milwaukee Arabian Fest. In addition, Zulaika was a member of the Jawaahir Dance Company from its founding by internationally renowned dancer Cassandra Shore in 1989 until her relocation to Bellevue with her husband in 2007.

Zulaika taught Belly Dance classes through community education from 1985 – 1990 as an additional way to share this joyous dance form with other women. From 1997- 2007, she taught beginner through intermediate students at the Cassandra School in Minneapolis. Zulaika also taught specialty topics and often substitute taught the advanced through professional levels. In 2008, Zulaika opened 's School of Middle Eastern Dance and teaches dance students in Bellevue and workshops in the Seattle area.

For over 30 years Zulaika has presented Arab dance and culture in a various formats for school and community groups. She developed educational outreach programs for Jawaahir Dance Company and was a rostered artist with Young Audiences of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Arts Board, and COMPAS for ten years. In 2013, Zulaika was accepted to the ArtsWA Teaching Artist roster and in 2014, was accepted to Seattle's Community Arts Partner Roster. Zulaika's programs combine her two passions — teaching and the joyous, expressive art of Arabian dance. Some program highlights included;

- Presenter: National Dance Educators Organization's 2013 National Conference, Los Angeles.

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- Instructor: YMCA Seattle Women's Wellness Weekend, Orcas Island 2013 & 2014
- The Children's Museum World Dance Day, 2011 & 2012
- Steve & Kate's Camp, Guest Artist, Bellevue, 2013
- Bellevue's International School High School Retreat, Olympia, 2012 & 2016
- King County Library System Summer Reading Program, "One World, Many Stories", 2011
- Power of Hope Organization: Young Women on the Rise, 2011
- Bellevue Artsfair, 2010, 2017
- 2009 Arts Time Conference, Tukwila
- 2009 Dance Educators Association of Washington, Bellevue
- Issaquah High School Diversity Day, 2008
- Issaquah Middle School Diversity Day, 2008
- Bellevue Community College International Night, 2008
- Bellevue Community College Arabic Culture Day, 2008
- Gates Foundation Global Development Team Celebration, Seattle, 2008
- Lake Hills Community Event for the city of Bellevue Family Day, 2008

Zulaika's love the joyous, celebratory music and dance of these cultures and her commitment to learning, understanding, and presenting this traditional art form within its cultural context is evident in her performances, workshops and artist residencies. She believes that the arts are a door through which we can learn to appreciate what is unique and beautiful about another people, dispel stereotypes, and develop a better understanding of our world.