

# Audition Guidelines: Hobbyist Troupe Participation



## ALLSPICE DANCERS

This audition opportunity is for participation in performance with Middle Eastern Style Belly Dance Troupe, Allspice Dancers, based out of Grand Rapids Michigan, under the direction of Sarah Mayne, owner of *Shimmy USA*. Troupe participation will bring you the opportunity for performances statewide and beyond, including haflas, festivals, private parties, school functions and more.

- Auditions are open to all dance artists over the age of 18 who reside in West Michigan.
- Audition Date is Saturday, March 7, 2019; 12 PM - 2 PM
- \$50 application fee per individual, payable by online [APPLICATION FEE](#)
- Audition times are on a first come, first serve basis.
- You will be notified via email when application and payment is received, along with your assigned audition time
- All applicants need to be present by 11:45 AM for check-in and auditions begin at 12 PM
- [Google Application Link](#)
- Application MUST be completed with application fee submitted before you will receive confirmation and schedule.

## Expectations for Auditions

### Allspice Dancers Performance Troupe Audition

- Do NOT come in costume - costumes are not necessary
- One Raqs Sharqi style piece choreographed by yourself or someone else between 3-5 minutes (no use of prop necessary).
- Have pre-learned 1.30 minutes of 3 existing Allspice Dancers choreographies & dance them at the audition. The link below contains 3 videos choreographies you will be expected to learn for the auditions. Please insert yourself into the blocking anywhere you choose. The time for each choreography section applies to the FRONT view of the

videos, the back view is provided for further clarification. \*You may learn as much of each choreo as you like, but only the time frame below is required.

### [VIDEO LINK](#)

1. Tabla Ya Issam
2. Rannet al Tabla
3. Saidi Festival

### **What do we look for in an Allspice Dancer?**

Sarah Mayne is seeking dancers who are passionate about Middle Eastern dance genres that are rooted in ethnic, traditional, national, religious and/or cultural heritage. She is seeking open minded, artistic individuals who have a vision to enlighten and change the uninformed & common perception of “belly dance” as a form of vulgarity. These individuals must be willing to uphold the image of sacred reverence, respect and honor to this culture and art. These individuals must be dedicated to the geographical, attire, and musical education of this form, ongoing and often intensive educational seminars and travel.

Shimmy recognizes that tradition is a living and evolving process and that many dance forms stem from multiple roots, and may be influenced by the context of presentation on our stage. We strive to present pieces that respect and maintain the integrity of a culture-specific dance tradition as its primary element.

### **Music**

Upload your music file for your personal piece to the link specified on the application form. Do not exceed 5 minutes for your choreography.

### **The Selection Process**

Your audition will be performed before Sarah Mayne & those she may choose to participate. The auditionees are studied for their ability to learn the pre-provided choreography and display their enthusiasm for Raqs Sharqi.

Selection will be based upon a collective Sarah feels is essential to the positive embodiment and fruition of this dance form in a most confused and misguided community where this dance is deeply misunderstood. Dancers will be HEAVILY decided upon based on the performance abilities: Choreography memorization, personality and comfort.

### **Reviewing Criteria**

The piece you audition is the piece being considered for future performances! Sarah will be using the following guidelines to evaluate your audition:

**Technical execution** — Does the dancer appear to be in command of the technique? How does the individual work with the space? How smoothly are entrances, exits and transitions accomplished?

**Choreography** — IF choreographed by auditionee: Is there consistency throughout the piece? Are the movement choices selected understood and applied appropriately?  
If choreographed by someone else: Does the auditionee have a clear understanding of the choreographers movements and intentions?

**Personal Work** — Can the soloist maintain confidence in themselves? How skilled is the solo dancer in following their choreography?

**Stage presence** — Does the dancer project to the audience or engage their attention by some means: energy, enthusiasm, dynamics, focus, concentration, virtuosity, wit or charm?

**Music** — What is the quality of the music? Does the dancer work well with the music? Is the music integral to the dance?

**Props** — Are the props/implements used with ease and confidence? Are they well constructed and appropriate to the dance genre and piece?

**Connection to cultural origin** — Is the movement vocabulary, choreographic structure, music and emotional expression distinctly connected to an art form of ethnic or cultural origin? How well balanced or realized is the combination of elements, and is the integrity of the main cultural dance form maintained?

- **Auditionees will be notified not later than SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2020**
- **Artists will be notified of their status by email. For accepted auditionees, information on class participation, contract, photo shoot and upcoming performance dates will be included.**

**NOTE: Do NOT contact Shimmy USA Staff or Instructors asking about the status of your Audition!**

### **Artist Responsibilities**

There will be a mandatory photo shoot scheduled for selected participants. Please be prepared to make this event. This time/date will be provided the acceptance letters.

Allspice Dancers will be REQUIRED to purchase a number of props, costumes & music used for Troupe Performance. Be advised, Troupe participation is an investment.

Allspice Dancers will be required, in addition to Troupe class on Tuesday nights – to take TWO OTHER Bellydance classes weekly at Shimmy for ongoing training, in addition to Workshops.