

# Instructors Biographies

## Sabine

Is a master of “Raks al Sayf,” the sword dance, where the grace and flow of the dance movements are contrasted by the dangerous sharpness of the huge Turkish Scimitars that she balances. Sabine has taught her own special brand of “Dangerous Sword Dancing” in workshops and festivals all over the Northwest. Sabine brings a strong and unique presence to the stage. Her dancing has been called “powerful”, “mesmerizing”, and “beautiful”.



## Cecilia

Has been dancing professionally since 1995. Before falling in love with Middle Eastern dance, Cecilia studied ballet, modern, jazz, flamenco, and choreography for 18 years. Along with dancing, Cecilia is an award winning filmmaker & graphic artist. Cecilia is also a professional seamstress and costume designer under the name of Star Belly Creations.



## Charles

Is a professional artist dancer, drummer, choreographer, educator, costume designer and tailor. He is an approved teaching and performing artist through the Nebraska and Iowa Arts Councils. Charles has toured the world as a member of the Ballet National of Benin, performing and teaching traditional African dance and drumming. Now residing in Omaha, Charles wants to share his knowledge and love of Africa through traditional dancing and drumming to foster better understanding of Africa’s diverse and beautiful cultures.





### Liesel Lane (Hamila)

A professional and student/choreographer in Cecchetti Ballet, Flamenco, Contemporary Dance and now Belly has enjoyed a 35 year long dancing career. She has choreographed over 20 dance pieces in various dance forms. She has performed at World fests and Productions internationally and now also teaches core body work and technique for gymnasts, aspiring ballerinas and belly dancers. Often the discipline of “CORE” is neglected in dance and today she has brought together many core strength techniques to suit her audiences encompassing the diversity of her dance career...helping dancers to be both strong and beautiful.



### Zaia Hadiyyah

Originally from South Africa, she travels the world but calls Omaha home. Zaia started training in several dance styles at the age of 3, but has been devoted to Oriental Dance for the past fifteen years. She has studied in both the Middle East and the U.S. with some of the most respected teachers in the field. She is a professional performer, instructor and choreographer.. She directs her own performance troupe, instructs master classes and has participated in a number of in International Dance Festivals. Zaia teaches modern, classical, and folkloric dances From the Middle East, North Africa Turkey, Greece, and various Gypsy/Bedouin style dancing. She offers students the option to study a recognized 7 grade certification syllabus to chart their progress..