**The History & Costuming of Tribal Bellydance**

Jamila Salimpour

*Bal Anat*

John Compton Masha Archer

*Habhi’ru*

Suhaila Salimpour Carolena Nericcio

*Fat Chance Belly Dance* (ATS)

Jill Parker

*Ultra Gypsy* (Tribal Fusion)

Rachel Brice

*The Indigo*, *BDSS*

Each country has developed its own style of bellydance and the US is no exception: American Cabaret, American Tribal Style (ATS), Tribal Fusion, Improvisational Tribal Style (ITS), etc.

1. Origins (San Francisco Bay Area)
   1. Mid-20th century: East and West coast melting pots of Middle Eastern immigrants
   2. 1970s Renaissance Faires in California—sequins vs. “authentic folkloric” costuming
   3. Jamila Salimpour and Bal Anat—folkloric costuming
   4. John Compton broke away and formed Habhi’ru, a folkloric/”faux”loric Ren faire performance group
   5. Masha Archer studied with Jamila then left and taught own classes—embraced the folkloric look
   6. Her student, Carolena Nericcio, started her own troupe, Fat Chance Belly Dance, a group that improvised dances together—she later formalized it and structured it into ATS
   7. Jill Parker of FCBD left to form Ultra Gypsy, which fused ATS with cabaret, jazz, etc.
   8. Rachel Brice studied with Habhi’ru, Suhaila, Carolena, and Jill, was a member of Ultra Gypsy. She infused yoga and really set up what we know as Tribal Fusion. She formed the Indigo and later toured extensively with Bellydance Superstars
2. Current Artists of Note
   1. Rachel Brice
   2. Mardi Love—member of Urban Tribal (Heather Stants), the Indigo, and BDSS
   3. Sharon Kihara—studied with Suhaila and Jill Parker, member of Ultra Gypsy, the Indigo, and BDSS
   4. Moria Chappell—studied in Atlanta with Zi’ah Ali of Awalim, member of Suhaila Dance Company, and BDSS
   5. Zoe Jakes—studied with Suhaila, member of the Indigo, BDSS, and now Beats Antique
   6. Kami Liddle—studied in Nevada, member of BDSS and Beats Antique
   7. Heather Stants—Urbal Tribal in San Diego
   8. Mira Betz
   9. Samantha Emanuel (nee Hasthorpe)
   10. Elizabeth Strong
   11. Donna Meija
   12. Paulette Rees-Denis—formerly of FCBD, now Gypsy Caravan
   13. Kajira Djoumahna—formerly of FCBD, now Black Sheep Bellydance and Tribal Fest
   14. Atash Maya, a defunct a San Diego group that included Melodia, Sabrina Fox, Steven Eggers, Medina Maitreya
3. Costuming
   1. Textiles and jewelry from Middle Eastern and Asian tribes
      1. Africa: Berber, Bedouin, Tuareg, Fulani, Moroccan
      2. Middle East: Yemeni, Persian
      3. Asia: Afghani, Kuchi, Pakistani, Indian (Rajasthani, Gujarati, Banjara, etc.), Turkmen, Chinese (minority tribes Miao, Hmong), Thai (Karen)
   2. American Tribal Style (ATS)
      1. Pantaloons (a.k.a. 3 to 4 yd "harem" pants)
      2. Full skirt (25 yd skirt or 15 yd spinning skirt)
      3. Choli
      4. Coin bra
      5. Tribal belt (Afghani/Kuchi button/coin belt or a Banjara mirror belt)--tassels or yarn fringe optional
      6. Fringed hip scarf or long fringe belt
   3. Tribal Fusion
      1. Flared pants (Melodia Designs or other)
      2. Pantaloons
      3. Tribal-inspired bra
      4. Tribal-inspired belt (can include some yarn fringe)
      5. Panel skirt (assuit or other)
   4. “Vintage” inspired Fusion
      1. Vintage-inspired bra
      2. Vintage-inspired belt
      3. Pantaloons
      4. Flared pants
      5. Mermaid skirt
      6. Draped assuit