

Suzanna & Friends presents: Belly Dance Off 2016 | Round 3

Tony Starlight Showroom Saturday, August 20th – 6:00pm dinner / 7:30pm show 1125 SE Madison Street, Portland, OR 97214 Tickets \$25-\$69, online at www.tonystarlight.com/calendar-items/belly-dance-off-08-20-16/

Belly dance competition – Live music chosen on the spot – Live judging by pros and audience Delicious dinner – Audience participation, and so much more!

Now in its sixth year, <u>Suzanna & Friends</u> brings <u>Belly Dance Off</u> to Portland, Oregon on August 20th for a glamorous Vegas-style dinner & show – one night only at <u>Tony Starlight Showroom</u>! Competing dancers appear in dazzling costumes and perform to live music chosen on the spot. Expert judges present live feedback. Audience and judges decide the winners!

Educationally enriching and powerfully entertaining, <u>Belly Dance Off</u> illuminates the secrets of improvisation in performance. Judges provide a supportive, constructive, and concise review that reflects on the dancer's strengths, so she may cultivate what makes her unique, as well as areas needing more development. And because the audience is asked to score honestly according their best judgement, they pay close attention to the feedback, and learn a lot about the art.

## "One of the best shows I've been to in quite a while. Thank you to the performers who gave it your all! You were all wonderful!" – Michael Shipley, attendee

Authentic live music interacts throughout, with <u>Ritim Egzotik</u> playing Egyptian and Turkish classics with modern infusions of rock and jazz. Dancing opens up to the audience at halftime, with a special prize for best shimmies! Tickets include a delicious multi-course dinner with choices of steak, salmon, or herbed polenta cakes. A limited number of show-only tickets are also available. All reserved seating with tickets only in advance – no tickets available at the door.

<u>Suzanna & Friends</u> has been bringing sold-out and award-winning productions to the NW since 2004, featuring belly dance and other world styles with live music. <u>Belly Dance Off</u> consists of three preliminary rounds each year, yielding three finalists in each category to compete in the annual Grand Championship for titles, trophies, ribbons, tiaras, cash, and other prizes. This Portland edition is Round 3, the last round of 2016. The Championship will take place in November at <u>Teatro ZinZanni</u> in Seattle!

Photos and video are available upon request. Many can be viewed on the official <u>website</u> or <u>Facebook</u> <u>page</u>.

## About the Director:

Suzanna is a cross-disciplinary dancer and world traveler with training in Middle Eastern, African, jazz, ballet, contemporary, lyrical, Latin, and hip hop, and a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Portland State University. Working as a professional belly dancer in hundreds of venues over the past 14 years, she began merging her theatrical prowess with her global experiences in 2004 to create events as a medium for building community and compassion. In 2010 she launched <u>Belly Dance Off</u>!