

Belly Dance in the Context of the Western and Arab Islamic Societies

The present work deals with the development and social status of the belly dance and professional belly dancers in the Arab Islamic society and examines to which extent that status was influenced by the West and how the belly dance made its way to the Western culture. The work concentrates on the 19th and 20th centuries with a special focus on Egypt as a centre of the belly dancing. This work is supplemented with a questionnaire, the results of which depict the development of the social status of the belly dance and dancers in the Arab society at the beginning of the 21st century.