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Who: Jawaahir Dance Company and the Ritz Theater present
What: *Golden Nights on the Silver Screen*
When: September 22-October 2, 2011: Wednesday–Sunday, 8:00 p.m.
Where: Ritz Theater, 345 13th Avenue NE, Minneapolis, MN
Tickets: \$29 adults; \$15 children (8 or younger); Wednesday, Sept. 28, pay-as-able
Box Office: 612-436-1129 or www.ritzdolls.com
Press Room: www.jawaahir.org

**Jawaahir Dance Company presents *Golden Nights on the Silver Screen*
inspired by Egypt's film heyday**
The all-new dance production features the renowned Georges Lammam Ensemble

In the 1930s and 1940s, Cairo was the Hollywood of the Middle East. Inspired by Egypt's golden age of film, Jawaahir Dance Company presents **GOLDEN NIGHTS ON THE SILVER SCREEN**, September 22-October 2, 2011, at The Ritz Theater, 345 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis. The renowned **Georges Lammam Ensemble**, featuring virtuosic Arabic musicians from across the nation, provides the lush musical environment for all-new dances sparked by the music and movies of the time.

Audience members will enjoy clips of old Egyptian movies in the Ritz Theater lobby before taking their seats for the big show. In addition to Jawaahir Founder and Artistic Director **Cassandra Shore**, company members **Kathy McCurdy**, **Helen Voelker**, and **Peg Deppe** are also contributing to the show's captivating choreography. "We're doing a few numbers in the style of the old movies," Cassandra said, "but most are contemporized choreography with more of an oriental character as opposed to the folkloric or strictly theatrical shows we've done in recent years. Plus, we've got new surprise props I'm very excited about. People will find them very cool and unique."

Tickets are \$29 for adults and \$15 for children (8 and younger), and are available through the Ritz Theater box office at www.ritzdolls.com or 612-436-1129. For more information about the show, visit www.jawaahir.org.

Concert background: What started as Cassandra's personal interest in revisiting some Egyptian musical recordings from the 1930s and 40s, quickly became an obsession that turned into a huge inspiration. "I'd been taking vinyl albums of music from films made back then in Cairo and converting the recordings to a digital format. What I remembered when I listened to them is that this was really great music. I was fascinated," she said. "Compared to some of the dance music today, it has a lot of substance to it, and there's a lot to work with. It has great instrumentalism and a lot of dynamic musical changes. So much of that music hasn't been re-released." Cassandra watched the movies the music was featured in, completely immersing herself in Cairo's golden age of film. Until the '70s, Cairo was the Hollywood of the Middle East, producing thousands of movies. Like American movies of the time, many of them were musicals that featured dancing and singing stars of the age. In fact, Hollywood was a stimulus to many Egyptian movie directors, but the films they made always retained a strong Egyptian sensibility. Cassandra found in those films and music her muse for Jawaahir's next annual show, "Golden Nights on the Silver Screen."

About the Georges Lammam Ensemble: The violin virtuosity of Georges Lammam of San Francisco returns to rock the Ritz, along with Arabic music superstars "Mr. Soul" Elias Lammam of San Francisco (accordion and vocals), Karim Nagi of New York (riq and percussion), Nikolai Ruskin of Ithaca, NY (nay), Miles Jay of Beirut (bass), Jim Grippo of Los Angeles (qanun), and Susu Pampanin of San Francisco (tabla), joined by multi-talented local artists Tim O'Keefe (percussion), Laura Harada (violin), and Salah Abdel Fattah (violin).

About Jawaahir: Jawaahir, which means "jewels" in Arabic, is one of only three professional Middle Eastern dance companies in the Midwest, and has a worldwide reputation for excellence. The Company presents one-of-a-kind artistic and educational programs that showcase the artistry, beauty, and drama of Middle Eastern dance. The company's diverse repertoire — from traditional folkdances presented in traditional costumes with traditional music to contemporary Middle Eastern ballets — sets the stage for a performance that is entertaining, enlightening, and engaging for audiences of all ages.

"...Cassandra is so poised, self-determined and in command of herself, that she radiates an authentic, deep and powerful sense of original femininity. Politically speaking, a quality of 'feminism' that transcends the women/men dichotomy.... archetypical quality of femininity that commands natural respect through the presence of real power." *Axel Fussi Head of Trans-Culture Communication for Culture in Vienna, Austria, April 2007*

About the Workshops: Karim Nagi is teaching four workshops while he's in residence. Karim is a native Egyptian drummer, DJ, and folk dancer. He is the creator of Turbo Tabla, and has released two internationally distributed CDs of this unique brand of Arab House/Electronica using acoustic instruments. Karim has authored instructional DVDs for the Tabla/Doumbek and Riq tambourine, as well as two rhythm compilation CDs. He is also well versed in the ultra-traditional styles of music and dance as the leader of the Sharq Arabic Music Ensemble, and the Arab Dance Seminar. Georges Lammam, Susu Pampanin, and Elias Lammam are also teaching workshops during the run of the show. For more workshop information, go to <http://www.jawaahir.org/EventDetails.htm#GoldenNightsWorkshops>.

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