



## Fact Sheet

Mission Statement:	Jawaahir Dance Company is dedicated to bringing the rich folkloric heritage of the Middle East to the theater stage, to presenting Middle Eastern dance as a living art, to providing training in the dance in its authentic form, and to making this dance accessible to the public. On a broader scale, our mission is to promote greater understanding of Middle Eastern culture through artistic education and outreach activities.
Uniqueness:	Jawaahir, which means “jewels” in Arabic, is one of only three professional Middle Eastern dance companies in the country, and has a worldwide reputation for excellence. The Company presents one-of-a-kind artistic and educational programs that showcase the 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.
Year Founded:	1989
Number of Members:	18
Artistic Director:	Cassandra Shore began performing Middle Eastern dance in 1975 and has since made over a dozen research trips to the Middle East. In addition, she has studied with the finest teachers and choreographers of Middle Eastern dance, including Mahmoud Reda, Mohammed Khalil, Vivian Hamamjian, Ragia Hassan, and Ibrahim Farrah. In 1978, Ms. Shore opened the Cassandra School, which offers classes in technique, choreography, performance skills, dance conditioning, and Arabic language and culture studies. In 1989, she formed Jawaahir Dance Company, which has since been recognized for its ground-breaking repertoire of traditional, modern and fusion works of Middle Eastern and contemporary dance. Today, Cassandra is known as a master teacher, star performer, and creative artist in the field of Middle Eastern dance. Her work has been rewarded with grants, commissions and awards. She regularly offers workshops, concerts and master classes worldwide, teaching and performing regularly in locations such as Finland, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, New Zealand, and throughout the United States and Canada.
Choreography:	Cassandra Shore, company members, and master teachers/choreographers from the Middle East
Availability:	Year-round
Standard Fee:	\$6,000 plus travel, accommodations, and meals for full company concert (1½ to 2 hours with intermission). Lower fees can be negotiated for multiple performances or “Chamber Concerts” (30 to 50 minutes with fewer dancers).
Educational Shows:	Jawaahir presents a 45-minute performance in schools and community settings. Each dance is presented with relevant movement, musical, and cultural information. Often audience members are encouraged to participate by clapping to the music and learning simple movements. Jawaahir is rostered with Young Audiences of Minnesota, COMPAS, and the Minnesota State Arts Board.
Workshops & Residencies:	Jawaahir can present a day-long introductory workshop on Middle Eastern dance, or a week-long residency focusing in-depth on dance technique and its cultural context. Workshops focus on traditional or contemporary dance, on one country or a region of the Middle East, or on a variety of regional styles. Workshops are tailored for dancers and non-dancers alike.
Educational Programs:	Jawaahir offers a variety of options and can tailor programs to meet your community's needs and budget. Programs can be presented in theatrical venues or in more informal settings such as school gymnasiums and community centers. Programs can run from 15 minutes to 1½ hours, and can be combined with workshops, residencies, or evening-length performances. Programs can teach basic dance and rhythm patterns, introduce Middle Eastern music and instruments, or delve into the culture, history, and geography of the Middle East.

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