



The Definition of Class: SORAYA! **MARGATE CITY, NEW JERSEY**

**by: Brandon Johnson,
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If you look up class in the belly dance dictionary, it would state the perfect woman who has dedicated her life and body to offering every aspect of the art form for all to enjoy in its purest form. That definition best describes the woman who lives in New Jersey.

SORAYA is a US-born woman of Middle Eastern heritage. She has been a performer of belly dance since the age of FIVE! **Running with a passion that feeds through her veins, she has single-handedly transformed what Authentic Egyptian-style belly dance means.** She has performed in every type of venue and outdoor climate there is on the planet (so far). She is a frequently sought-out teacher and hire for many Arabic weddings and casino functions in Atlantic City. She also runs a troupe and a very successful ethnic arts production company, along with her own band: **Soraya & Middle-Eastern Sounds.**

One of her greatest joys was performing for the late King Hassan and his royal family in Morocco. She has graced the country of India as well, holding dance and music tours in the top 5-star hotels there, a country that is due to have belly dance join its many dance cultures in the near future.

Soraya is the perfect physical vision from head-to-toe, and her costuming preferences is as heralded as her dancing. Like a chameleon, she can change into any character needed to tell a story with her own unique style. **She is also known the world over and by video enthusiasts for her powerful shimmy work and hip displays, movements that no one can ever copy!** Specifically, in an era and time where the "belly" is used in belly dance, she is not one to roll and flutter. If you watch her shimmies, you don't need to. **She still** has one of the most toned, if not photogenic abdominals in the art form today! She has chosen to stick to a classic style, where abdominal tricks are not as required. **And, she still represents her fans and audiences in an elite manner every time out.**

She is also a well-minded and educated woman, holding a BA degree in Anthropology and Sociology of Middle Eastern cultures. And less than a year ago, she found time to get married to a doctor, named Rob, a VERY lucky man right now. Soraya is one of the few belly dancers who started on her own, self-taught and letting the dance come to her naturally. She has had the pleasure of working with the late Ibrahim "Bobby" Farrah; Madame Mona El Sai'd, as well as Raqia Hassan.

If you are not as fortunate to meet her in New Jersey, collecting any of her (now 8) videos from her collections of belly dances are a must! She is a magnet for audience participation--everyone wants to dance with her. She is always smiling, enjoying every moment. She is a master of moving her body through each note of music. Her innocence is always released from start to finish. And think of it, she's not even 30 years old yet!! :)

There are few women in this art form to be deemed a legend at an early age. It can only be a blessing that she has many daughters in her life, so that those of future generations can grasp a hold of not only good belly dance, but also the REAL classical belly dance. **Certain people are born with special talents for a specific purpose. Soraya's course has yet to be fully tapped, yet is has touched many already on its path.**

A class act that many will hope to follow and appreciate.

Because she is on a constant schedule, please check her link above to see

if she will be performing publicly or teaching a special workshop. She is also a nice person to talk to about belly dance through e-mail, and tries to reply as fast as she can (or as fast as her shimmies).

All Hail Soraya!!!

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*Click the arrow above to go to her fabulous cultural website (and check out the photo gallery, too)!!