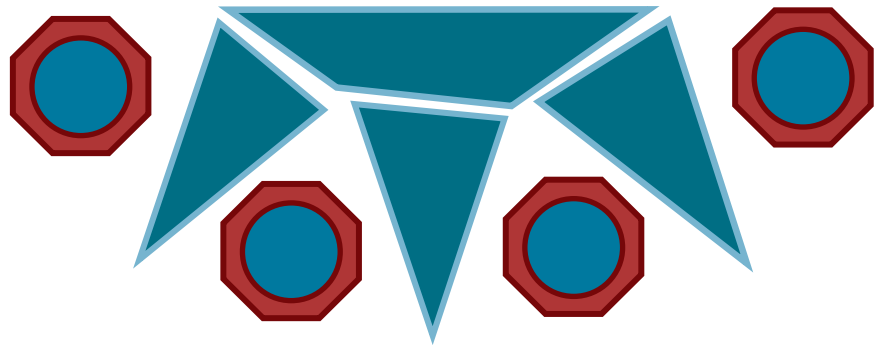


MOSAIC

Dance Theater Company





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We are excited and delighted to tell you all about the audience-pleasing productions Mosaic Dance Theater Company (MDTC) has in store. With our diverse repertory of original works from the Mediterranean region, we can take you on a journey through the realms of tradition, myth, fantasy, and imagination.

Virtuosic choreography, sparkling storytelling, lavish costuming, master musicians, and unforgettable performances await you. Small casts and modest technical requirements make MDTC a perfect choice to bring the rich cultural heritage of North Africa, the Middle East, and Mediterranean Europe to your audiences. Our programs are suitable for all ages and all stages — main stage, student activities, arts-in-education, diversity celebrations. We are eager to work with you to create the ideal performance for your audiences. Join us in celebrating the Mediterranean's lively arts!

We look forward to discussing the possibilities!

Best wishes,

Morgiana Celeste Varricchio,
Producing Artistic Director

Samara Adell,
Artistic Director for Dance



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Mosaic Dance Theater Company (MDTC) is dedicated to the dance and folkloric traditions of the Mediterranean—the Middle East, North Africa, and Southern Europe—creating dance, theater, and educational programs which celebrate the rich diversity of cultures of this region. The dances and music, the stories and myths, and the history and legends of this fascinating area form the wellspring of inspiration for MDTC's creative vision.

Founded in 2003, this award-winning company is known for its artistry and authenticity, not only in creating the critically-acclaimed original works that comprise its repertory, but also in faithfully researching their origins to ensure cultural integrity.

Touring nationally to performing arts venues, universities, schools, and community organizations, the Company is the recipient of the Sunshine Award for its contribution to the performing arts, recognized by NARAS (National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences) and the United Nations.

In a world engulfed by popular culture, MDTC embraces the historical treasures of the past, the ways of tradition, and the sensibilities of the present in its passionate goal to celebrate the remarkable varieties and similarities of the Mediterranean cultures.

Photos throughout by Gary Heller.

Celebrating the Mediterranean's Lively Arts



Take a Journey

"A colorful Mosaic of Mideast magic."

—Robert Johnson
The Star-Ledger

Visions of The Near East



From the folkloric to the contemporary, from the traditional to the interpretive, *Visions of The Near East* provides a dynamic travelogue of dance through the Arab world. Faithful to the ethnic dance traditions of the region, these inspired original works transcend cultural boundaries and captivate audiences, young and old alike. (Flexible cast of five to seven.)

"...a travelogue in movement
(absolutely fabulous)..."

—Eva Yaa Asantewaa
The Village Voice



"...magnificent performance..."

—Roxana Tourigny, Director
*Great Performances,
University of Rhode Island*



From Folklore...

“The music and the costumes are as bright and diverse as the dancers themselves.”
—Joanne Joseph, *The New York Theatre Experience*



Mediterranean Mosaic

The many facets of this ***Mediterranean Mosaic*** beguile the senses with a dazzling array of dance works selected from the Company's extensive repertory of original works. Savor the rich folkloric traditions from the Mediterranean countries of North Africa and the Near East, with a dash of spice from Italy, Greece, and Spain. (Flexible cast from five to seven.)



Tales from The Arabian Nights



Tales from The Arabian Nights enchants audiences with four magical tales adapted from Scheherazade's thousand and one Arabian nights. Djinnis, ghost cities, beautiful princesses, heroic princes, magical mechanical flying horses, and a kingdom of serpents are brought to life through enthralling storytelling, captivating choreography, sumptuous costumes, and the remarkable performances by the cast of seven.



“...a tale becomes uncommonly seductive.”
—Robert Johnson
The Star-Ledger





Myths and Legends

Troy: Women & War

Troy: Women & War captures the essence of the Trojan War through the eyes of its women – how it began, how it ended, and the physical, emotional, and psychological brutalities suffered by the Trojan women. (Cast of seven.)



Impressions of the Alhambra

In 1829, the great American writer Washington Irving went to Spain. He documented his journey, his stay at the Alhambra, and the legends of that magnificent Moorish palace in Granada in the best-seller,

Tales of The Alhambra.

Enhanced by an abundance of projections, Irving's words and exquisite use of language come to life in *Impressions of the Alhambra*. Be transported through spoken word, movement, and styles of Middle Eastern, *escuela bolera*, and Baroque dance, to a distant place — a "haunted ground." (Cast of ten.)





Women in Different Worlds

Through Her Eyes

Celebrate women's contributions to world culture in this relevant and meaningful multimedia experience, perfect for Women's History Month. Meet two historical women of the Ancient Middle East — Enheduanna, the poet/priestess of Mesopotamia, and Hatshepsut, the female Pharaoh/King of Ancient Egypt. Enter into the world "beyond the image" where a selection of paintings of the 19th century Orientalist genre are brought to life through Middle Eastern dance. And, be captivated by the exuberance of engaging women's folkloric dance. (Cast of seven.)



Alhayat Raksa (Life Is a Dance)

This evening-length work centers around an Arab woman who, at the end of her life, resolves her conflicting emotions and resentments of having had to follow the traditional path for a woman of marriage and a family, instead of pursuing a career as a

dancer. It underscores the fragility of women's

rights and choices often taken for granted. Featuring an original commissioned score composed by Maestro Maurice Chedid, *Alhayat Raksa (Life Is a Dance)*, tells its story through different styles of Middle Eastern dance. (Cast of seven.)



"These dances are all different, yet they share a spirit of generosity. ."

—Robert Johnson
The Star-Ledger



Arts-in-Education Programs

A magic carpet ride of dance and storytelling, sure to captivate students of all ages.



Caravan to Cairo

Hop aboard the **Caravan to Cairo**, and travel through the lands of North Africa and the Middle East in a delightful dance journey filled with a diversity of engaging dance styles, musical rhythms, lavish colorful costumes, and a charming story-theater adaptation of an Arabic folktale. A short interactive dance lesson and Q&A with the cast of four add to the fun. (Grades K-8)

"The passion for detail is the thrilling part... the variety is enchanting..."
—Tom Penketh
Backstage

Photos this page by Bob Greenwald.



Land of The Pharaohs

Travel back in time to the **Land of The Pharaohs** and uncover Ancient Egypt. From its five-thousand-year-old origins to the 20th century, this eternally fascinating civilization is explored through an interdisciplinary presentation of ancient and present-day dance styles and supporting story-theater narrative, performed by a cast of six.



This entertaining and educational adventure is a perfect tie-in to school curriculum studies of ancient civilizations. Special interactive segments and a Q&A with the performers keep students thoroughly engaged and engrossed. (Grades 4-8)

"... fascinating, captivating, and extremely educational..."

—Peter Crosta
Assistant Director of Special Projects, K-12
Orange Township Public Schools

Let the journey begin—the world awaits.