

## *Zahira SuJong*

Usually, twirling, whirling, jingling & jangling are the sights and sounds of Zahira SuJong's Belly Dance... but not always! When performing Zahira SJ loves to mix it up. While favoring traditional Turkish, Lebanese, Eastern European Folk and modern dance, she also loves to create dramatic works or throw in a bit of funk when occasions allow.

Zahira SJ began dancing over 29 years ago in Manitoba, Canada. She has studied visual & performing fine arts, languages & graphic design in Canada, Europe, Asia & the U.S. Performing various styles of dance professionally since 1988, Zahira SJ has seized many opportunities to study diverse fine arts, martial arts, rhythms and dance everywhere her travels have taken her.

Zahira SJ has choreographed & performed traditional as well as modern styles of Mid-Eastern dance with *The Beledi Club* and *Mahasin* in AL, as well as New Horizons Dance Academy *the Ethereal Belly Dancers* in El Paso, TX and *Ruhani Dansözler*. As the Artistic Director & Graphic Designer for KB Works Studio, she has often helped promote various fine arts and dance events.

Zahira SJ is a costume designer, versatile performer and choreographer. She was also a teacher at New Horizons Dance Academy, in El Paso, Texas, as well as the Director of *the Ethereal Belly Dancers* in El Paso, TX and the *Ruhani Dansözler*. In January 2009 Zahira SuJong briefly moved back to Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, before taking up a teaching position at KonYang University, South Korea in late February. Along with teaching her university classes in language and culture, she enjoys introducing students to the joys (and work) of healthy cooking, Middle Eastern and modern dance.

"The joy of travelling is the wonder of new experiences, meeting new people and making new friends, as well as the familiar of the old ones that you come back to."