

Raq The Prairie 2025 – Program

1 BR'ISSAH

Performers: **Annissa Spechko, Lisa Zurburg, Mea Cicanski**

Song: **Magawish Edit**

Musician: **Wael Mansour**

This mejanca was learned over three days during Jillina's Maui Retreat at the beginning of March and staged by Br'Issah. We hope you enjoy the performance.



2 LOTUS AND THE LOTUS BLOSSOMS

Performers: **Lotus: Amy Korbo, Anne-Marie Urgan, Cara McDavid, Valerie Brennan;**
Lotus Blossoms: Kiara, Maeve

Song: **Allah Wahed**

Musician: **Khaled Salim**

This upbeat song has a "Bollywood" sound which inspired group members to add some fun Bollywood types of moves. Lotus choreographed this dance 15 years ago for four members. At that time, only two of the current members were in the group. Lotus has decided to bring it back for a fun performance song for the debut of the new, young members.

3 OBLIQUE BELLY DANCE

Performers: **Sarah Ludlow, Zena Charowsky**

Songs: **This Moment; Meggyújtom a Pipám**

Musicians: **The Toids; Besh o Drom**

We were inspired by the upbeat energy of "Meggyújtom a Pipám", which is a fun modern adaptation of a Hungarian folk song, though the lyrics tell of a man who misses his lover who has left him for someone else. As an intro, we've used "This Moment", a moody and atmospheric piece, to give a dramatic contrast.

4 BELLYDANCE TRIO BY RAYANA

Performers: **Alysha Hales, Pearl Ingram, and Rayana**

Songs: **Explosive; Are you ready?**

Musicians: **Bond; Artem Uzunov**

We are a Saskatoon-based trio, bringing a performance filled with powerful wing work and a lively, rhythmic tabla dance.

5 MOONFLOWER

Performers: **Beve Gardner, Cathy Simpson, Roxanne Rogowski**

Song: **Stick Dance**

Musician: **Thebes Ensemble**

A lively folkloric piece!

6 SWORD OF YARAYAH

Performers: **Alisha Nugent, Amanda Langman**

Song: **Zov Lesa edit**

Musician: **Ravn**

The song has a lot of juicy drama and texture to play with and was the easy winner when our group voted on possible song choices.



7 RAKS AZHAR

Performers: **Annissa Spechko, Brenda Smith, Chantal Day, Heather Yeske, Leah Freitag, Mea Cicansky, Lisa Zurburg**

Song: **Tablat Bassem**

Musician: **Bassem Yazbek**

Azura learned this choreography from master teacher and choreographer Pierre Haddad, who performed Lebanese dabke internationally and who was part of Nadia Gamal's dance troupe. Pierre's choreographies feature travelling combinations in multiple directions, layered shimmies, and hand and arm moves.

INTERMISSION – 15 MINUTES

8 AZURA

Song: **Ya Wad Ya Tkeel**

Musician: **Nancy Agram**

Azura learned this choreography from her teacher, Pierre Haddad. This is a fun song about a woman who can't help being attracted to a man who couldn't care less about her and who only wants everybody to look at him. The title means "You Overbearing Boy".

9 LOTUS AND THE LOTUS BLOSSOMS

Performers: **Lotus: Amy Korbo, Anne-Marie Urgan, Cara McDavid, Valerie Brennan;**
Lotus Blossoms: Kiara, Maeve

Song: **Sirens of Atlantis**

Musician: **Galactic Caravan**

We planned our choreography around the theme of Sirens: the singing enchantresses in mythology who lured sailors off the waters to their islands. In this dance, the adult members are the sirens, and our young girls use their fan veils to simulate the ocean waves.

10 SARATHUN

Song: **Three Sisters**

Musician: **Beats Antique**

Inspired by Zoe's dance style, I initially learned this choreography on my own as a challenge to push my skill set.



11 ALYSHA AND PEARL DUET

Performers: **Alysha and Pearl**

Song: **3 Daqat**

Musician: **Abu**

Alysha and Pearl perform a beautiful duet, moving in harmony to a soft and lyrical song.

12 ALSABT ALRAQS

Performers: **Beve Gardner, Erika Mrazek, Janelle Schwartz, Roxanne Rogowski**

Song: **Yearning**

Musician: **Raul Ferrando**

This is a beautiful and soulful routine.



13 NADI HARIRA

Performers: **Deidre King, Tammy Nelson**

Song: **The Majesty of Dawn**

Musician: **Jitano and the Desert Prophets**

We are always interested in stretching our limits. We became inspired by Vashti's choreography, which beautifully blends a gypsy stylization with Middle Eastern, Flamenco, and Mexican folkloric dances.

14 YARAYAH

Performers: **Alisha Nugent, Amanda Langman, Betsy MacPherson, Brenda Smith, Kelly Liberef, Lacey Bennett, Marie Bernwald, Sarah Ludlow**

Song: **Afrah in the Club**

Musician: **Roger Abboud**

Our style is primarily improv which is perfect for when we have dance opportunities such as festivals or parades, etc. For this performance, however, we have choreographed the piece. The teacher created the outline, and each dancer provided ideas to fill in the rest of the dance. The group leader, Kelly, chose the song since it was very exciting to dance to.

15 RAYANA

Song: **Areeb Minnak Baed**

Musician: **Najat Al Saghira**

Rayana, an experienced dancer and teacher, presents a solo performance that showcases the beauty and power of belly dance.

THANK YOU TO ALL THAT HELPED MAKE THE SHOW A REALITY!

RAMED BOARD (ANNISSA, BRENDA, DEIDRE, LISA, MEA, ROXANNE, VIC)

ALL THE VOLUNTEERS AND THE DANCERS!