

Bridge Street Belly Dance Bios and Photos



1. Makeda

Makeda is a versatile dancer. Makeda began training in California, studying traditional Arabic bellydance. Through her projects in the Bay Area and Portland, Oregon, Makeda has explored a mixture of dance styles. She currently resides in New York and enjoys taking part in collaborations.



2. Gerudo Vagrants

The Gerudo are known to be a reclusive tribe - but this branch is anything but! The Gerudo Vagrants are a dangerously fun fusion duo comprised of two best friends: Andriel of Tribal Energies, and Jessi of Belly of the Beast. Andriel is a certified ATS teacher, and proud FCBD Sister Studio. Jessi has roots in American Cabaret and lyrical, but quickly spread out to fusion performance. With these backgrounds, both members smushed their knowledge and experiences into their own spellbinding rhythm. In recent times, the Gerudo Vagrants have added ITS to their dance vocabulary, and are pleased any time they get a chance to break it out. Together, Andriel and Jessi have teamed up to bring a bit of nerdiness to whatever stage they appear on, and are ready to take on the final boss.



3. Rose Calavera

Rose Calavera is a modern fusion bellydancer residing in the wilds of upstate NY. She discovered bellydance at age 21 after training and performing as a traditional Irish step dancer for over 15 years. She has since immersed herself in the fusion community, studying with such teachers as Jill Parker, Rachel Brice, and Zoe Jakes. As well as being a soloist, Rose is a student of Hot Pot ITS, a proud member of the Lunachix, and 1/2 of the Moonshine Two.



4. Jaylee

Jaylee is a mom of two, a community-supporter/builder, event producer, graphic designer, and fusion dancer based north of Boston. Jaylee produces Loose Stockings Salon: A Periodic Gathering of the Hips and Minds, where Jaylee opens her home to the dance community to enjoy affordable lecture topics, workshops, and group discussion. Jaylee also co-produces Cafe Raqs, New England's exciting dance revue celebrating the beauty and diversity of the Boston bellydance and Tribal dance community, held the fourth Sunday of every month. Known as "whirly twirly girl" by her parents since a young age, Jaylee's current artistic exploration is centered on revisiting the catharsis and joy of whirling.



5. Cherish

Cherish began training in American Cabaret Belly Dance in 2003. In 2010, after seeing a Rachel Brice performance, Cherish turned her focus to Tribal Fusion Belly Dance and this is where her passion lies. Cherish performs as a soloist and is the co-creator of Half Moon Tribal an ATS Troupe based out of Clifton Park, NY. She also performs with Ms. Tina's Tribal Belly Dance Co. Cherish is the founder of Cherish Belly Dance, which produces an annual belly dance show in addition to haflas to provide a nurturing environment for the student belly dance community. Always seeking opportunities for growth, Cherish has taken many workshops with local, national and international artists and continues to study with Jill Parker. She has completed Phase 1 & Phase 2 of Rachel Brice's 8 Elements Program. Cherish enjoys sharing her love of this art form through dancing, teaching, and participating in educational presentations.



6. Lauren Robbiani

Lauren Robbiani lives in Brooklyn these days, but was born in the Hudson Valley of New York. Her Aunt was a belly dancer back in the day, who took her big sister to class. In return, her big sister took Lauren to a class, and the rest was history. Sort of. When she was 19, Lauren started Studying Egyptian Cabaret upstate with a Serena student, Laura. It wasn't long before she fell in love with ATS and Tribal Fusion stylings of Belly Dance. She took workshops with the innovators of the form for a spell while in San Francisco, and whenever possible in NYC. Fast forward some time and nowadays she dances mostly with her pal Lauren Jeanette as Corpus Callosum. Together they produce shows like "Le Bal Oriental" at NYC's Red Room, and "Maiden in the Moonshine" at Kings County Distillery in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Lauren is honored to work with Mardi Love as part of Lady Goodnight and the Voodoo Lillies, Dalia Carella and her Dance Collective, Irina and Ian Wen with their Butoh Dance Theater project Denovo, and has had the privilege of working Mattie Waters, Despina, and Alice Giampieri to name a few. Lauren is also a founding member of Maiden China. She teaches here and there when she can find the time, but enjoys nothing more than a good excuse to dance around with friends.



7. Beast Coast ITS

Beast Coast ITS is a dynamic dance troupe featuring Hot Pot Improvisational Tribal Style (ITS) dancers from across the East Coast of the USA. Featuring: Jo Boring, Serena Spears, Andriel, Jessi, Francesca Avani, Angela Flagg, Rose Calavera, Sarah Wadsworth, Diane Bellington, Patsy Beebe

INTERMISSION



8. Corpus Callosum

Featuring Lauren Robbiani & Lauren Jeanette, Corpus Callosum is the great band of commissural fibers uniting the cerebral hemispheres of higher mammals, allowing the left and right hemispheres to share information and create an (arguably) useful view of the world. New Latin, literally: callous body.



9. Brenna Crowley

Brenna Crowley is an eclectic belly dance artist, choreographer and instructor in NYC, performing and teaching locally and across the country in many theatrical dance productions, belly dance festivals and other events for over a decade. She has performed as a featured soloist as well as a member of Sera Solstice's Solstice Ensemble, Solstice Project, and Solar Tribe, Altagracia's Caribbean Rose Dance Company, Ayshe's Cult of Isis Ensemble and many others. She is the director of her troupe Zilla Dance Ensemble, which was formed in 2009. Since its inception, they have performed in numerous theatrical shows, belly dance festivals and other dance events each year. The dancers that make up this ensemble come from all walks of life and various belly dance disciplines; together they celebrate the exuberance of movement and music. www.brennadance.com



10. Francesca Avani

Through movement and dance, Francesca expresses what she has no words for. Francesca found belly dance in 2005, and took Cabaret and Turkish style classes for two years. In 2012, she graduated with a Masters of Education in Marriage & Family Therapy. Shortly after graduating, she came across Rachel Brice. That was when her life changed. While Francesca travels around the US and internationally to perform, collaborate, and to train with renowned dancers, she resides and teaches dance in Catskill, New York. She has been studying with Rachel Brice since 2013, and as of April 2016, is an [8 Elements™ Certified Practitioner](#). Francesca is dedicated to growing, evolving, and immersing herself in this developing art form that is Fusion Belly Dance.



11. Danielle Hutton

For over 14 years, Danielle has been a fixture within the New York City belly dance community. She was principal dancer in Solstice Dance Ensemble from 2008-2010. During her tenure with the collective, she performed at such distinguished events as Tribal Fest, The Massive Spectacular, Rakkasah East, and Spring Caravan. In addition to these collaborations, she's had the honor of performing with Zilla Dance Ensemble, Bellyqueen, and Sera Solstice's "Solstice Tribe." As a smoldering solo performer, Danielle has entranced audiences through her appearances at American History of Belly Dancers of Color.

Danielle's stirring choreography is defined by an articulate narrative sense and vulnerability. Danielle combines her technique and experience as a dancer with refreshing attention to the artist's journey in her work as an educator. Previously, she has been an instructor at the Bellyqueen School of Dance. Currently, Danielle offers private lessons, specializing in drills, and she's also a highly capable choreography creator and consultant. Additionally, Danielle conducts intensive workshops—her "Make It Real" immersive program will be featured at Art of the Belly in Ocean City, Maryland and at Super Fun Dance Camp in Cold Springs, New York. Thinking back on her journey and the core philosophy that's been constant in her 14-year career, she says: "My method of storytelling is dance. I hope my work touches people and help others harness the power of expression in dance."



12. Serena Spears

Serena Spears is an internationally renowned and award-winning fusion dance performer, teacher, and choreographer from Brooklyn, NY. As a solo artist and choreographer, she integrates decades of training in hip-hop, modern, African, ballet, and Latin dance forms with bellydance. Known for her boundless energy, athleticism, precise technique, and commanding stage presence, Serena focuses on creating exciting, seamless fusion that fascinates audiences around the world. In addition to her solo work, she has performed across the country as a principal dancer of Solstice Tribe, directed by Sera Solstice, as a satellite member of Sepiatonic, based out of Portland, OR, and in recent collaborative projects with fusion dancers and choreographers including Ebony Qualls, Sharon Kihara, Rin Ajna, and Sekou McMiller. In addition to her six years of deep training and collaboration with Sera Solstice, Serena has studied intensively under the leading ladies of fusion bellydance including Suhaila Salimpour, Rachel Brice, Zoe Jakes,

Donna Mejia, Mira Betz, Sharon Kihara, and Jill Parker. Serena completed Rachel Brice's 8 Elements: Initiation in 2013 and attained her Suhaila and Jamila Level 1 Certifications in 2013 and 2014, respectively. Serena continues to expand her movement studies outside of bellydance with regular classes and intensives in ballet, Afro-Latin, modern, hip-hop, salsa, tango, poi, and aerial arts.



13. Lauren Jeanette

Lauren Jeanette hails from Georgia and holds degrees in English and Theatre from Marymount Manhattan, where she graduated summa cum laude and was the valedictorian of her class. She was clotheslined by Bellydance about eight years ago, when she began her studies with the enchantress, Trisha McBride. She has since had the privilege of learning from, and collaborating with, some of the most beautiful dancers in the world, ala Mardi Love, Dalia Carella, Irina Wen, Mattie Waters, Mat Jacob, Alice Giampieri, Debbi Despina and Lauren Robbiani, to name a fine few. A Brooklyn based dancer with tenuous roots in Tribal Fusion and Butoh, Lauren is lucky enough to have dance around with Mardi Love's Lady Goodnight and the Voodoo Lillies, The Dalia Carella Dance Collective, and Irina and

Ian Wen's DeNovo Dance. She is a founding member of Maiden China and throws both the The Red Room's "Bal Oriental," and "Maiden in the Moonshine" at The King's County Distillery with the better half of Corpus Collosum... the illustrious Lauren Robbiani.



14. The Lunachix

The Lunachix have been crafting their unconventional brand of modern fusion dance since 2013. Winner of the 2017 East Coast Classic troupe competition, the Lunachix count Jill Parker and Amy Sigil among their biggest inspirations. Directed by Jo Boring, the Lunachix perform both original choreographies as well as Hot Pot/ Unmata style ITS. The Lunas reside all over central New York, and are bonded by dance, friendship, and the light of the moon. Featuring: Jo Boring, Sarah Cummings, Patsy Kurkowski Beebe, Rose Carballeira, Jessica Morse