

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Starbelly School of Dance

Cecilia Rinn

208-891-6609

starbellyschoolofdance@gmail.com

<https://starbellyschoolofdance.com/>

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STARBELLY ARABIC FOLKLORIC DANCE CELEBRATION

A Free Family Dance Event

Dateline: [BOISE, ID, August 2021] — Starbelly School of Dance will be offering a free day of family fun at Idaho Dance Sports on August 21st from 2 pm to 6 pm, taught by master dancer Cecilia Rinn and assisted by such teachers as Chad Rinn and Tori King.

“After such a long period of isolation, I wanted to create an event to learn, to dance, and to celebrate together,” Cecilia Rinn shares. “One of my favorite things about Arabic Folkloric Dance is that everyone can participate, no matter your age or ability!”

Starbelly School of Dance is proud to perform Arabic folkloric arts and we highly value the arts as a way to deepen cultural connections within the Treasure Valley. This event will help bring back the tradition of families celebrating together. Boise residents will be encouraged to approach this very ancient culture in the context of movement and art, which will both be individually fulfilling and community building. Recreating the movements of folkloric dances within our bodies is the truest and most engaging way to “walk in the footsteps” of other cultures.

This event is designed for families to learn about and participate in the music, dance, and culture of the Middle East through four short classes covering history and movements of four different classic and modern traditional Arabic folk dances. The styles taught and explored will include: Saidi, Khaleeji, Debke, and Shaabi.

Starbelly friend and contributor, Saeed Al-Azzawi, will be sharing his knowledge of Iraqi Debke and Khaleeji with the Boise community that he cherishes. “We are blessed to be in Boise—it’s safe and secure for my kids and there are so many wonderful things to discover.”

It is Starbelly’s hope that this event will help reduce fear of Arabic people and culture and further bind our community together.

This event is supported in part by a grant from the Boise City Department of Arts & History.

Families can sign up for the event by RSVP’ing on the online Facebook event or

at starbellyschoolofdance.com. To include families who can't attend in person but would still like to learn about Middle Eastern dance & cultures, this event will also be Livestreamed!