



Desert Sin

**GROUNDBREAKING FUSION PERFORMANCE TROUPE RETURNS TO
LOS ANGELES WITH THEIR CUTTING-EDGE THEATRICAL
PRODUCTION**

*The Desert Sin Dance Company presents “Musée des Femmes – Tales of the
Grotesque and Arabesque” at Hollywood’s historic Ivar Theater – May 2005*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOS ANGELES, CA – March 28, 2005 – The Desert Sin Dance Company, known nationwide for their edgy and erotic fusion of dance and theater, returns to Hollywood for an expanded return engagement of their sold out 2004 production, “**Musée des Femmes – Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque**” [Museum of Women]. This lavish, over-the-top, two-act spectacle is an imaginative journey through sight-and-sound and is guaranteed to mesmerize the audience! In the first act, the unique story line lends an emotional and human twist to stories of some of the boldest and most intriguing women throughout time, both fictional and historical, including legendary film starlet Mata Hari, The Hindu Goddess Kali, and Joan of Arc. The second act takes you on a high-tech, Vegas-style, magical dusk-till-dawn tour of ancient Egypt featuring Desert Sin’s signature, dramatic theatrical twist!

Desert Sin is one of the most experimental, cutting-edge dance companies in North America. Founded in 1999, the now 20-member Desert Sin Dance Company utilizes Middle Eastern dance, ballet, modern, neo-exotica, extensive theatrics and costuming in their critically acclaimed productions. The dance company has gained major popularity from their appearances at special events, corporate functions, theaters, nightclubs and television while touring throughout the United States. Appearances have included HBO’s Real Sex, repeated performances with the Dinah Shore “White Party” events, the “Labyrinth of Jareth Masquerade Balls,” the critically acclaimed “Evening of Experimental Middle Eastern Dance”, and with Rakkasah, renowned as the largest Middle Eastern Dance event in the United States.

Desert Sin partners Djahari Clark and Sa’Elayssa, with Co-Producer/Illusioneering FX master Jeremy Vargus, have come together once more for the reworking of last year’s sold-out, smash hit, full of groundbreaking special effects. The beautiful and haunting display of **Musée des Femmes** is brilliantly produced, delivering an unforgettable entertainment vision that the audience will never forget!

***Musée des Femmes – Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque* will return to the historic Ivar Theater from May 6 to June 12, every Fri, Sat, and Sun at 8pm. The Ivar Theatre is located at 1605 Ivar Ave. Hollywood, CA 90028. Tickets (\$32.50) are on sale at: www.TicketWeb.com or by calling: 866-468-3399**

For more information and to schedule appearances and interviews, please contact ‘Natara at Twisted Cat Productions 213-792-9041 or twistedcat@gmail.com. For photos and additional show information, please see Desert Sin website at www.DesertSin.com

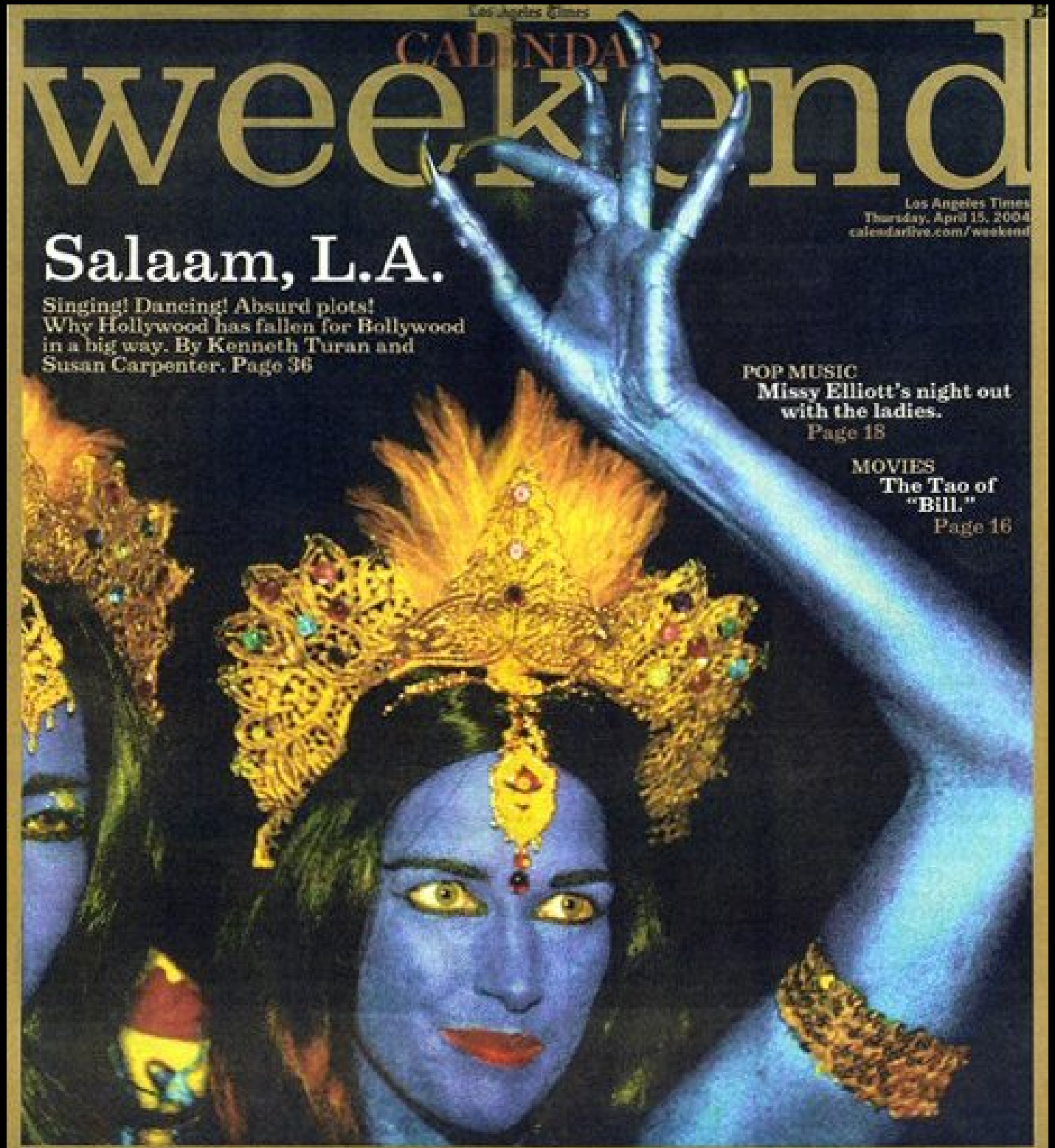






Los Angeles Times

“Hollywood meets Bollywood!”



Los Angeles Times Cover - April 2004

originally published: March 16, 2005

Night & Day

Belly Trance

A two-day belly dancing event called "Undulation2" has us mesmerized

BY HIYA SWANHUYSER

hiya.swanhuyser@sweekly.com

It was sneaky, how they got me. A nice lady recently sent mail about "**Undulation2**," a two-day belly dancing event, and her message included the following note: "I saw **Desert Sin** in L.A. last November doing an homage to silent films. Three women painted completely white, with beautiful makeup and little black flapper wigs and slip dresses, somehow managing to seamlessly fuse Middle Eastern dance, the Charleston, and the exaggerated movements of silent film stars." Despite the bizarre picture the description evoked, my thoughts were overwhelmingly along the lines of, "I want that. Gimme some of that. Carve me off a big hunka Desert Sin, like, now."

"Undulation2" doesn't stop at this one killer group of offbeat babes, though. The event is packed to the rafters with belly-inspired dance companies short on respect for tradition and long on creativity and hard work, from the crazy-for-bhangra chicks of Boom Boom Bollywood to the award-winning and (gasp!) pants-wearing women of Urban Tribal to the Bettie-Page-meets-Mata-Hari look of featured dancer Kami Liddle. Responsible for all this are, unsurprisingly, the women of Ultra Gypsy. The whole "throw belly dancing custom out a third-story window and use its blood to paint your face" idea is old hat to Gypsy leader Jill Parker and her banshee band.

A gang of high-tone DJ sets rounds out the evenings, including spinning by Janaka, Sep, and Filastine, so the inspired but untrained masses can hit the dance floor and pretend they're in Desert Sin. Finally, audience members get a new way to see the long-haired Ultra Gypsy dancers during a sneak preview of *Medusa and Machine*, a "modern trance ritual performance motion picture," according to the troupe's Web site; it's not your everyday luau flick, but it is set on the beach, and yeah, it stars shimmying girls. Gidget be damned. Carve me off a hunka that, too.



HBO®

HBO Real Sex - November 2003



Sensual & Ethereal... Imagination and Audacity –

Blending a carnival-macabre gleefulness with Hindu kitsch, the (mostly) women of Desert Sin Dance Company cavort through Djahari and Sa'Elayssa's undulating choreography. In these "tales of the grotesque and arabesque," not a word is spoken. A pierced-nipple ringmaster-devil (Jeffrey Damnit) slithers in front of a circular platform/merry-go-round to the sounds of a calliope... Three dancers meld to form the ancient six-armed Hindu Goddess (of Creation) Kali before breaking apart and gyrating to Middle Eastern pop. In "Red Shoes," ..Sa'Elayssa morphs into a human puppet in a skillful and brilliantly horrifying rendition of a child whose dance shoes crush her feet and dictate her motions (society's payback for her wearing only those beloved shoes to church). Djahari's "Saint Joan" – appearing from the dead and making peace with her persecution – is both sensual and ethereal at the same time... Act 2 goes Egyptian with puppets, shadows and a battle between the Sun God Ra and the serpent Apep. It employs the entire ensemble and gallons more body paint and glitter, with torsos galore.

Steven Leigh Morris

www.sfrreporter.com

ISSUE # 17 - 2003

SANTA FE

REPORTER

WEEKLY NEWS AND CULTURE

pty Seats in the Dream Circle

A cynic examines the New Age in an age of uncertainty.

BY MARIA LUISA TUCKER

| ES | SFR PICKS | MOVIES |
|------------------------|--|---|
| ley returns PAGE 10 | Democracy is at its finest when microbrews compete. | A war movie only the DOD could love. |

Sante Fe Reporter - March 2003

BIZARRE

© 2003 KVAAS

\$12.50 - CANADA \$12.50

ISSUE 19

*Bondage, and more
NowaShia*

*Robe
Choura*

*Mistress
Omega*

*Lorenzo
Sperlonga*

*Gwen
Media*

*Exotic
Erotic
Ball*

*Alice
Cooper*

*Munky
Munky.com*

"If you haven't seen Desert Sin, they are a brilliant Middle eastern dance group belly dancers in layman's terms, but on top of that they create these visually stunning characters and scenarios"

Bizarre Magazine - Issue 19 2003



Tongue Magazine - Winter 2002



Bask in the gluttony of the Desert Sin Dance Company

How did the Desert Sin Dance Company come about?

Desert Sin was created in 1999 by a family of dancers destined for rock stardom. We were a group of women from different dance backgrounds who found each other while studying Middle Eastern Dance. We all fell in love with its exotic feel and emotional freedom, and were immediately inspired to work together to create a new, cutting-edge form of dance theatre that could employ our diverse talents and our wildest, most challenging ideas. Before Desert Sin really started appearing everywhere, there was very little attention paid to the Middle Eastern world of performance.

Some of your acts are performed topless. This is not typical Middle-Eastern belly dancing, is it?

You're right. It's totally not what you would see in the Middle East because the culture would never allow for it. However, we are not a traditional Middle Eastern dance company nor do we try to sell ourselves as such. Whenever we perform topless, it's for a purpose. Whether it is an empowering statement or just an artistic aesthetic, we are very aware of what we are doing and would not do so without serious consideration. Often we try to represent ourselves as mythological characters and not just as naked girls on stage. We're embracing the beauty and the visual stimulation of the ancient deities and dance. Desert Sin has performed in front of public crowds of thousands of people while being topless and everyone loves it because it's something innovative, unique and empowering.

How many members are in the dance company and what type of training is involved to be a member?

Desert Sin consists of five principal members, and up to 20 additional amazing cast members, depending on the event. Being a Desert Sinner takes more than just dance technique. Our performers need to understand how to use their bodies and their faces to tell a story, to make the audience feel the emotional and human side of the character or scenario they are portraying. We work to bring out these talents in each other, always to move a step further—but everyone has come into the company with her own gifts to play with.

Who founded Desert Sin and what is their background?

Djahari Clark, a dancer with 18 years of theatre under her bejeweled belt, founded Desert Sin in 1999. She co-directs the company with Sa' Elayssa, a third-generation Middle Eastern dancer and choreographer with training in a variety of dance styles. Sa' Elayssa credits her Russian Gypsy heritage and Djahari credits her childhood in Morocco for early inspiration.

[Continued on page 2]

[Continued from page 1]

What about the cutting-edge show **Musée des Femmes**?

Musée des Femmes, meaning “Museum of Women,” is a lavish, over-the-top spectacle retelling the tales of some of the boldest, most intriguing women in history and fiction. The carnival-esque show lends an emotional and human twist on fantastic characters such as the Hindu Goddess Kali, Joan of Arc, The Snow Queen, and Mata Hari, and includes a bevy of body-painted dancers, taking us on a virtual dusk-til-dawn tour of the ancient eastern world. We contacted Jeremy Vargus to produce our show. Jeremy really took the show to the next level and made it a commercial success. He’s an amazing and very detail-oriented performer/producer and has an incredible eye for beauty and for what really sells to the general public.



Tell me about the eclectic dance styles performed by the **Desert Sin Dance Company**?

Our shows combine elements of Middle Eastern dance, ballet, modern, hip-hop, neo-exotica, extensive theatrics, multi-media special effects, originally composed folk and dance music and extravagant costuming and body paints. We present a tight, highly polished entertainment package. When we’re creating a show, if it doesn’t rock our world—it’s out!

Who was behind the magical effects behind **Musée des Femmes** that absolutely stole the show?

That would be Jeremy Vargus. Not only did he produce the show but he also created all the special and magical effects as well as the lighting. He is the mastermind behind the “spectacle.” Jeremy booked and produced the Blue Kali segment of our show into a huge, glitzy production in Chicago called “A Night At The Taj Mahal” last August.

Jeremy Vargus’ background consists of over 20 years of professional performing experience. Although he’s only in his mid twenties, Vargus has starred in television, film and live stage shows ranging from luxury cruise liners to major touring productions as a magician-singer-dancer-actor and off-stage he works as a show producer and Illusioneer. Most recently Jeremy signed us [The Desert Sin Dance Company] exclusively to his production company RPI Entertainment. He now produces, manages and handles all publicity for The Desert Sin Dance Company. More info on Jeremy Vargus’ work can be seen at: www.JeremyVargus.com and his production company: www.RPIEntertainment.com

What’s next for the **Desert Sin Dance Company**?

“World domination!” (laughing out loudly) says Djahari Clark. Seriously, the most important thing for all of us is that we continue to create, to make art, to make beautiful things that really touch people. To watch our visions come to life is an amazing experience and to see audiences love it as much as we do— to be received with standing ovations and sold-out houses – is even more inspiring. After the millions of hours of work on Musée, we are now more excited than ever to proceed with plans of touring and putting on more fantastic productions! Please visit www.desertsin.com for more information and tour dates.



DJAHARI CLARK, founder of Desert Sin, is an 18-year theatre/dance veteran. She received her BA at UCLA in the School of Theatre, Film and Television. She has studied Modern, Jazz, Ballet, West African, Indian, Flamenco, Persian-Ballet, and Middle Eastern Dance. Although she performs solo and with The Parsat National Ballet Company, Djahari's primary focus is on directing the 20-plus member Desert Sin Dance Company with her partner, Sa'Elayssa. She has recently started mixing some beautiful Desert Sin audioscapes on her own as well. For more information on Djahari, please visit www.djahari.com.



Sa' Elayssa, meaning "with all her heart" in her Gypsy father's Romanesh language, is an international performer and choreographer. As well as being a third generation Belly Dancer she has also trained in Jazz, Ballet, Modern, and Persian Ballet. Not only does Elayssa direct Desert Sin with her partner Djahari, but is also a renowned soloist and performs with Mr. Nazemi's Parsart National Ballet Co. Whether in India, New York, Los Angeles or San Francisco you will either find her performing, teaching, taking dance lessons, rehearsing or spending her time off in local dance clubs. To learn more about Sa' Elayssa, and to view upcoming solo and group performances, please visit www.elayssa.com



JEREMY VARGUS, Producer & Illusioneering™ FX creator, has been hailed as "one of today's hottest young stars to emerge from the world of Magic." Jeremy is an acclaimed, well-rounded entertainer and producer. As a performer, Vargus is an accomplished magician-singer-dancer-actor and off-stage he works as a show producer and Illusioneer™. Jeremy Vargus has been performing for over 20 years. Vargus is often called upon for consulting and creating magical and theatrical elements into productions for stage, television and film with his award-winning magical FX and his corporate "Promo-tainment." Vargus' work is in major demand for all venues that require "world-class, spectacular entertainment!" Learn more about Jeremy by visiting www.JeremyVargus.com



Blue Kali



Mata Hari

High-Resolution photos available for media use.
For show photos & information:

www.DesertSin.com

www.RPIEntertainment.com



Snake Dance



Snow Queen



Joan of Arc