

# Diana Shahein

## Dances and Culture of Egypt

Diana Shahein of Beledi Dance Theatre moved to Asheville in December 2004. Egyptian by marriage, she has lived several years in Egypt and was a preschool, dance, and English language teacher there. She first became interested in working as a teaching artist in the schools after doing a program for a third grade class.

Diana holds a B.S. in education and brings her sincerity of spirit to each performance and class that she teaches. With the ability to play four musical instruments, her dance, music, and theatre career spans over 35 years. Her hour-long performances include a variety of traditional Egyptian dances while her residencies incorporate aspects of Egyptian culture from food to basic vocabulary. She also offers adult classes in basic traditional dance.

Her Egyptian Culture and Dance program is designed with the purpose of giving children an experience in a culture which goes back to the roots of civilization, calling on her experience as an educator, performer, and frequent resident of Egypt. The curriculum is related to history, geography, math, language, music, and dance. Activities include making ancient percussive instruments and learning typical modern rhythms and tempos; temple dance from the Pharonic period; modern men's stick and women's cane dance; costuming; Hieroglyphic writing, modern Arabic greetings, numbers and currency; customs; and a typical Egyptian breakfast.



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Grades: K-12

Materials/Cost: \$1-\$2 per student

Available for Residency less than 5 days

Available for Community workshops and performances