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SO YOU THINK YOU CAN BELLY DANCE?

Local performer and instructor wins international competition.

LAS VEGAS, Nevada, September 9-11, 2010 –Edmonton Bellydance Academy and Ensemble’s artistic director Aurora places first in **So You Think You Can Belly Dance? (SYTYCBD)** competition. As the winner, Aurora received CDs, a plaque commemorating the event, \$500, performance opportunity and belly dance workshop in Morocco, and the title “Ultimate Belly Dance Artist 2010”. Second and third place finishers were Alysha and Dahab from South Korea and Columbia/Canada respectively.

SYTYCBD was designed to find the best overall belly dance artist. Contestants learnt two 45 second choreographies and performed in front of a panel of judges. Twelve (12) semi finalists were selected to go onto the next rounds of competition which included learning and performing a raks sharqi choreography and improvisation with live drummer in front of a theatre audience on Friday September 10, 2010. Audience members and judging scores determined the 6 finalists. The finalists learnt and performed a hip-hop bellydance fusion choreography on Saturday September 11, 2010. The cumulative judging scores and audience vote determined the winners of the competition. Judges were internationally recognized and acclaimed Middle Eastern Dance (MED) artists.

Doctor by day and bellydancer by night, Dr. Aurora Ongaro practices what she preaches by balancing her love for healthcare, education and dancing. During the day Aurora is found healing and educating her patients in her busy Symmetry Spinal Care clinic. In the evenings, she teaches bellydance classes and is Artistic Director for the Academy and Ensemble. She decided to enter the competition to test her skills against other dancers of the same genre.

There’s no shortage of excitement for the dancer. In November, Aurora will be bringing her mentor and instructor Yasmina Ramzy to Edmonton for workshops and EBE’s first full length theatre production Imraatu. Dancers throughout Western Canada will also be performing.

“Congratulations, again, on being our inaugural winner of the "So, You Think You Can Belly Dance?" Contest. It was a tremendous accomplishment”. – Samira, event coordinator

For further insight on the competition, please visit <http://www.bellydanceintensive.com>
For information about the studio or upcoming workshops and shows, please visit www.danceaurora.com
or www.bellydanceensemble.com

Edmonton Bellydance Academy and Ensemble are considered by many to be leaders in instruction and performance Western Canada. Their most recent activities include performance and lecture at the International Bellydance Conference of Canada. ###