



1001 Nights Middle Eastern Dance presents...

Master percussionist *Souhail Kaspar*

Middle Eastern instrumentalist *Rachid Halihal*

Workshops and Dinner Performance
July 7th & 8th, 2007 in Winston-Salem & Greensboro



For immediate release: June 11, 2007

Master percussionist Souhail Kaspar and Middle Eastern instrumentalist Rachid Halihal to lead weekend of Middle Eastern music and dance workshops in the Triad July 7th and 8th

Triad, NC - Master percussionist Souhail Kaspar and Middle Eastern instrumentalist Rachid Halihal will teach Middle Eastern music and dance workshops on Saturday July 7th and Sunday, July 8th in Winston-Salem. Kaspar and Halihal will be joined by local dancers and musicians in Greensboro on Saturday evening, July 7th for a live performance of Middle Eastern music and dance produced by Sylvana and 1001 Nights Middle Eastern Dance.

These workshops provide a rare opportunity to study Middle Eastern percussion, rhythm, and musical theory with well-known professional musicians from the Middle East. Saturday workshops include instruction on Middle Eastern percussion and rhythm/movement for dancers of all skill levels. Dance instructor and owner of the Raks Sharki Dance Studio, Paula Stump, will be assisting Kaspar during the rhythm/movement class. Sunday workshop topics include explanations of Arabic musical theory and the maqam system for all skill levels, as well as semi-private and private sessions for advanced students. All workshops will be held at Winston-Salem's Raks Sharki Studio in Reynolda Village.

Kaspar is a native of Lebanon who graduated from the Conservatory of Traditional Arabic Music in Aleppo, Syria with a degree in Classical Arabic Performance. He has performed throughout the world with Western and Arabic superstars such as Sting and Sabah. His recording career includes credits on the movie soundtracks *Prince of Egypt* and *Sinbad*, as well as cd recordings with the Kronos Quartet and world-renowned ethnomusicologist Ali Jihad Racy. Currently Kaspar lives in Los Angeles, CA.

Moroccan born Halihal studied Western classical and Moroccan Andalus music at the Conservatory of Music in Fez, Morocco. Halihal is known for his singing, as well as his talents with stringed instruments such as the oud and the violin, played both in classical and folkloric styles. Halihal has performed throughout the Middle East, Europe, the United States and Canada. Currently he lives in Colorado.

On Saturday evening the public is invited to a live performance of Middle Eastern music and dance at Tuscana Cuisine in Greensboro. For this event Kaspar and Halihal will be joined by oud player Naji Hilal from Raleigh and percussionist Omid Aghamaleki from Greensboro. Winston-Salem dance troupes 1001 Nights and Aladdin's Genies will perform, along with Greensboro troupe BellySima and other local performers. Ticket prices are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Dinner will be available during the performance for an additional fee.

Semi-private lessons on Sunday are \$50 per person for a 2 hour session. The 2 ½ hour percussion workshop on Saturday is \$40 per person. All other workshops are \$35 for two hours of instruction. For schedule, location and other details visit www.1001dance.com.

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For general inquiries: www.1001dance.com; 336-287-7189 or Sylvana@1001dance.com

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Kaspar is traveling internationally through June 24, 2007. He will be available for interview upon return.

To contact Rachid Halihal: 917-531-4159; 303-573-7610; rachidmusicman@hotmail.com; www.rachidhalihalmusic.com