

Sample

This flyer was developed for a famous Persian dancer.

Banafsheh

To reach, to swirl, to undulate, to posture, to entrance – Banafsheh Sayyad is her own dance genre, a captivating marriage of beauty and strength.

Acclaimed for uniqueness in dance and choreography, Banafsheh has melded in yet another aspect – sensuous spirituality. Those who come to watch, are entranced through an immersion into uniqueness, an Alpha and Omega experience, both alluring and grounded in depth. Banafsheh's dance genre takes its incipency from Flamenco, Gurdjieff Movements, Tai Chi, the influence of mendicant Sufi Dervishes, and the sensuality of Persian dance. This potpourri of influence creates ecstasy through her dancing, felt by both Banafsheh and her audience.

Banafsheh's lineage perpetuates pioneer talent. Her father, Parviz Sayyad, is one of Iran's gifted filmmaker talents with a career spanning the leading edge of cinema, theater, and television.

Holding an MFA in Dance from UCLA, Banafsheh was a recipient of the James Irvine Foundation *DanceMaker Grant in Choreography*, a true engagement in the Arts. She has taught Master's level classes during her residency in the Dance Masters Series at the Dance Center of Columbia College in Chicago.

She has pioneered a fusion style into her **Dance of Oneness®**. The prominent Iranian literary critic, Shokooh Mirzadegi, says that Banafsheh's form is what *"for the first time one could call contemporary or modern Persian Dance— a dance with its own artistic language, neither Eastern nor Western. The dance form created by Banafsheh Sayyad can only be called the Banafsheh Dance, representative of Persian culture much like how Flamenco is particular to the Spanish culture..."*

Banafsheh's dance company, **Namah**, accompanies her to acclaimed performances at festivals in North America, Australia, and Europe. Sponsored by the Teatros de Canal in Madrid, Banafsheh starred in the closing night concert in a celebration of sacred music, theatre and dance. The highly-acclaimed Persian and world percussion ensemble **Zarbang**, frequently accompanies Banafsheh's dancing.

Banafsheh's website: www.Namah.net

Zarbang's website: www.Zarbang.com

Testimonials from the Media

"Part whirling dervish, part flamenco femme fatale, sensuous and audacious, Banafsheh's dance is a mesmerizing foray into the body as trance mechanism; a DNA strand, supple, fluid and noble, come to life."

- Los Angeles Times

"A group of performers who challenge stereotypes about Iranian identity, ZARBANG and Banafsheh's work is entertaining and revolutionary, both."

- Vancouver Sun

"Banafsheh's trance dance was mind-blowing. She whirled as if possessed."

- Los Angeles Times

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“As an embodied mystic of the divine feminine, Banafsheh’s presentations are not performances but transmissions which transform your vision of dance forever. Dancer and dance become one initiatory flame of grace”

- Andrew Harvey

“The fascinating dance and sounds of Persia, the modern-day Iran, transformed the concert hall to a landscape for the senses. The dancer and choreographer, Banafsheh translated the musical intensity and intricate nuances of ZARBANG with the language of the body. Her fluid movements in constant dynamism, at time floating, then whirling at high speed, opened our sights to new dimensions. With complete mastery of her body, she exuded power down to the tips of her fingers.”

- Badische Zeitung, Germany

Banafsheh's Performances

Solo work with her musicians, Banafsheh can perform at your venue (large or small) for fifteen to 90 minutes. Without live music, she performs from fifteen to 60 minutes. Her performances include:

- **Into the Vast**
- **Outer Circles**
- **En/Trance**

She has also created a Dance and Poetry show with scholar and mystic, Andrew Harvey called **ESHQ – Love’s Wild Fire**, 90 minutes in length. This show can be performed with or without live music.

Banafsheh's Workshops

FORMAT: Workshop - 3 hours – 10 days and **Master Classes** - 1.5 to 2 hours

An instruction into the pioneering and life-changing intensity of her **Dance of Oneness®**. Excerpted from the influences of Tai Chi, Persian Dance, Flamenco, Sufi and trance dances, the **Dance of Oneness®** can be customized for dancers as well as for non-dancers. This class has been taught internationally to rave reviews.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- **Introduction to Dance of Oneness®**
- **Dance of the Chakras**
- **Sufi Dance**
- **The Mystical in Dance: Technique and Choreography**
- **Contemporary Mystical Persian Dance**
- **Rumi and the Way of Ecstasy with Andrew Harvey**

Banafsheh's Lectures

Lectures and demonstrations with Banafsheh and musicians covering Rumi, Sufism, Sufi Dance and music, Persian Dance, and Women in the Middle East.