



MARCH 20TH TO 23RD, 2026

# NEW YORK

## BELLY DANCE FESTIVAL

EMMANUEL PIERRE-ANTOINE DANCE STUDIO

320 W 37TH ST 2ND FLOOR, NEW YORK, NY 10018



United Through Movement

# EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC OF BELLY DANCE IN THE HEART OF NYC

The **New York Belly Dance Festival 2026 (NYBDF)** brings the global belly dance community together in the heart of New York City for an unforgettable celebration of movement, culture, and connection. Taking place **March 21–22, 2026**, at **Emmanuel Pierre-Antoine (EPA) Studios**, this second edition builds upon a highly successful inaugural year and continues NYBDF's mission of honoring the artistry, heritage, and creative evolution of Middle Eastern dance.

Through immersive workshops, powerful performances, and meaningful cultural exchange, NYBDF invites dancers, artists, and audiences from around the world to connect through movement in one of the world's most dynamic cultural capitals.

# WHY NYBDF MATTERS

NYBDF exists at the intersection of **cultural preservation and contemporary expression**. As a woman-led, artist-driven festival, it creates space for global voices, honors the roots of Middle Eastern dance, and encourages creativity, inclusion, and community. Hosted in New York City — a global crossroads of culture — the festival offers a rare platform where tradition and modern artistry meet.

## ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The New York Belly Dance Festival is a **two-day cultural dance experience** bringing together dancers, teachers, and enthusiasts from around the world. The festival blends the rich traditions of belly dance with the vibrant creative energy of New York City, offering:



**Educational workshops  
with world-class  
instructors**



**Evening gala  
performances**



**A curated vendor  
bazaar**



**A welcoming, inclusive,  
and international  
community atmosphere**

NYBDF is a space to celebrate artistry, honor culture, and experience dance as a powerful form of expression and connection.

# NYBDF 2026 AT A GLANCE



**Dates:** March 20th–22, 2026



**Opening Gala:** Friday, March 20, 2026

**Location:** The Laurie Beechman Theatre 407 W 42nd Street New York NY 10036



**Main & Closing Gala:** March 21st & 22nd

**Location:** EPA Studios, 320 W 37th Street, NYC



**Attendance:**

**Workshops:** 100–150 participants

**Gala Shows:** 400–500 audience members



**Audience:** Professional dancers, students, creatives, cultural enthusiasts



**Website:** [www.newyorkbellydancefestival.com](http://www.newyorkbellydancefestival.com)



**Instagram:** @newyorkbellydancefestival

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## EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Workshops

Over **12 hours of immersive instruction** led by internationally recognized master teachers, including **Diva Darina, Sadie Marquardt, and Simon (Lebanon)**. Workshops explore styles such as **Oriental, Dabke, Drum Solo**, and more, with a strong focus on technique, musicality, cultural context, and personal expression. Classes are open to dancers of all levels.

### Vendor Bazaar

A curated marketplace featuring costumes, jewelry, accessories, and artisan goods from international and local vendors. The bazaar will be open throughout the festival at EPA Studios.

# Gala Shows

Friday, March 20, 2026

## OPENING GALA

Raqs in the City

**Laurie Beechman  
Theatre, Times Square**

An intimate opening night featuring guest artists in a classic NYC cabaret setting.

Saturday, March 21, 2026

## EMPIRE RAQS

**EPA Studios**

Performances by international master instructors, guest artists, and festival participants.

Sunday, March 22, 2026

## GOLDEN APPLE (CLOSING GALA)

**EPA Studios**

A celebratory closing night featuring master instructors, guest artists, and participants, plus raffles and an after-party.

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## MASTER TEACHERS



**Diva  
Darina**

**UKRAINE / BRAZIL**

📷 @divadarina\_official  
(492K)



**Lebanese  
Simon**

**LEBANON / USA**

📷 @lebanesesimon  
(117K)



**Sadie**

**USA**

📷 @sadiesbellydance  
(142K)

# PAST HIGHLIGHTS & SOCIAL PROOF

- Sold-out Festival and gala shows during the festival's first edition
- International attendance from dancers across multiple countries
- Strong return rate from artists, instructors, and vendors
- Rapid community growth and high engagement across platforms

NYBDF's first year established a strong foundation of trust, quality, and artistic excellence — setting the stage for continued growth in 2026.

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## ABOUT THE CREATOR



Samantha Diaz

PERU / USA

[www.samanthadance.com](http://www.samanthadance.com)

 @sammydance  
(14.7K)

**Samantha Diaz** is a director, choreographer, producer, and **resilient leader** with over **20 years of experience** in the dance and entertainment industry. She is the founder of **Dance Soul Entertainment** and the creator of the **New York Belly Dance Festival** and the **Orlando Belly Dance Convention**.

A **burn survivor**, Samantha's journey of healing and resilience through dance informs her artistic vision and leadership. Her work is rooted in cultural respect, creative expression, and community building, creating platforms that empower artists and bring people together through movement.

# WHY ATTEND NYBDF

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Learn from internationally renowned instructors
- Perform and showcase their artistry on stage
- Connect with a global dance community
- Experience New York City through culture and movement

NYBDF is more than a festival — it is a celebration of art, identity, and shared experience.

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## EVENT DETAILS

### DATES:

March 20th–22nd, 2026  
(Opening Gala: Friday, March 20, 2026)

### MAIN VENUE:

Emmanuel Pierre-Antoine Studios  
320 W 37th Street, New York City

### FESTIVAL PACKAGES:

2-DAY

**\$399**

Full Festival Access

**\$299**

One-Day Access

**\$199**

Single Workshop

**\$99**

Performance Fee

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## PRESS & MEDIA CONTACT

For media inquiries, interviews, partnerships, or coverage opportunities:

### New York Belly Dance Festival

- ✉ [petermichaelmarino@me.com](mailto:petermichaelmarino@me.com)
- 🌐 [www.newyorkbellydancefestival.com](http://www.newyorkbellydancefestival.com)
- 📷 [@newyorkbellydancefestival](https://www.instagram.com/newyorkbellydancefestival)