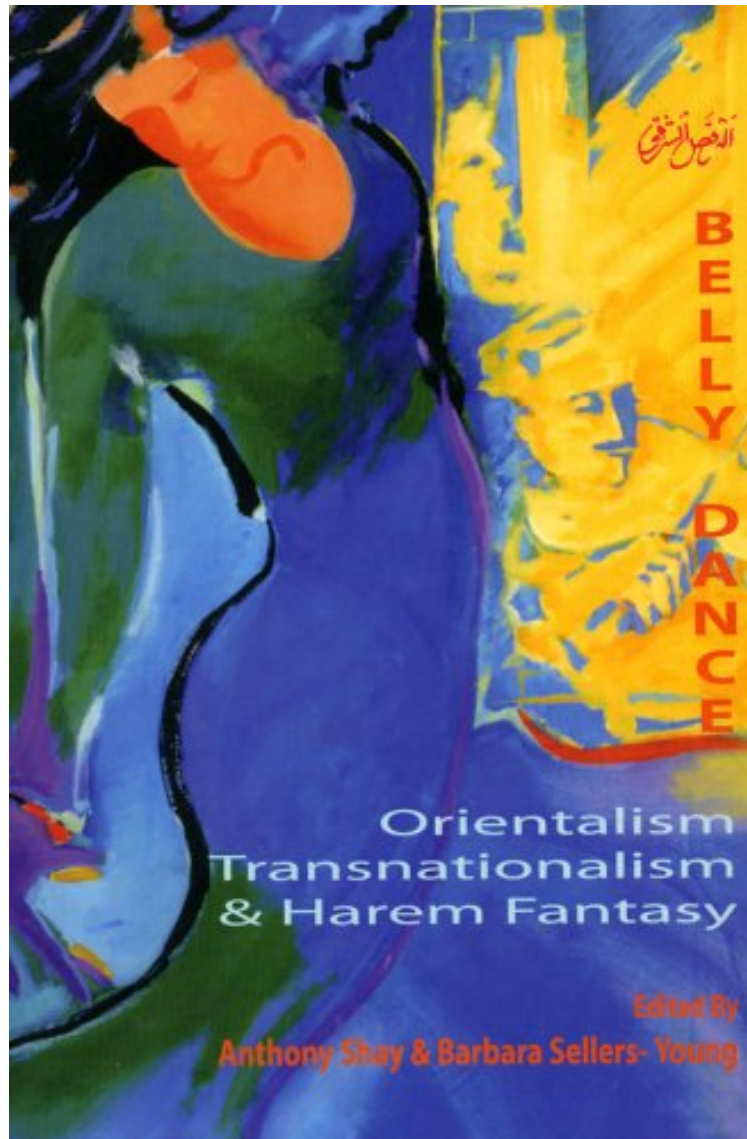


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By Sam S
This book contains a fascinating compilation of articles about cultural aspects of Oriental Dance (commonly known as bellydance) both in countries of origin and in western countries. I enjoyed the diverse viewpoints and was exposed to some new ideas by reading this book. My favorite articles include "Belly Dance: an Urban Folk Genre" and "An Evening in the Orient" (about the Arabic club scene in the Eastern US during the 1960's-70's and how that contributed to the evolution to the American styles of this dance). Other topics include: dance in Egyptian films, American Tribal Style bellydance, Men in Oriental dance, representations of Oriental Dance in the Nutcracker, and others. I highly recommend this book for bellydance enthusiasts who are interested in considering some of the cultural aspects of this dance or are interested in reading more scholarly works on Middle Eastern Dance. It may also be of interest for those interested in reading about gender roles in the Middle East as several articles include commentary on this topic.

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Great book, well supported by scholarly work, which helps to inform about various topics related to belly dancing and clarify some of its myths.

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