

## Bellydance Evolution gives 'Alice in Wonderland' a whole new groove

**DailyNews**

By Diana Sholley , Inland Valley Daily Bulletin

**What:** Bellydance Evolution presents a world fusion and Middle Eastern dance version of the classic tale.

**When:** 8:30 p.m. Aug. 1.

**Where:** John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood.

**Tickets:** \$23-\$43, \$12-\$20 students and children.

**Information:** 323-461-3673, [www.fordtheatres.org](http://www.fordtheatres.org) or [bellydanceevolution.com](http://bellydanceevolution.com)

Alice, the White Rabbit, Mad Hatter, Queen of Hearts and many others familiar characters from the classic tale "Alice in Wonderland" are coming to Hollywood — but they've never been seen like this.

True to the show's subtitle, this "magical tale reimagined through theatrical world fusion dance" is being brought to life thanks to Bellydance Evolution. The high-energy, fast-paced show will be performed at Hollywood's John Anson Ford Amphitheatre on Aug. 1.

The event includes such dance styles from around the world as belly dancing and tribal dance as well as more contemporary dance like break dancing and theatrical hip-hop.

"People think of belly dancing as the girls in the hookah bar shaking themselves around tables," said Lauren Boldt, the show's assistant director. "This style of dance has evolved and has been modified slightly so it can be on the stage and performed for mainstream audiences."

More than half of the 25 dancers in the production are flying in from Europe, Asia and Latin America to participate in the production. These international artists come from diverse backgrounds and bring their own unique vision to the production. As with ballet, the story unfolds through dance to live music, which will include an original score composed by Paul Dinletir and the live beats of Ozzy Ashkenazi, Boldt said.

Bellydance Evolution, founded in 2009 by choreographer Jillina Carlano, takes a revolutionary approach to the art of belly dance. Add that to the tribal fusion style of dance created in San Francisco, which combines Indian, flamenco, Arabic and several other tribes from the Middle East, and the show will be "completely different and so amazing to see," Boldt said.

Boldt, who also plays Alice, began belly dancing the same year she got her driver's license.

"Before that I was such a tomboy. I played the drums, cut my hair short, then when I turned 16 I just wanted to do something crazy," she said. "I found this studio and took belly dancing. The music was just so powerful it just grabbed me. I discovered such strength in my femininity — strength that I didn't even know existed before. In belly dancing, I really found myself and my passion."

Boldt also paid tribute to the venue, which is open two hours before showtime for picnicking.

"We are so honored at being able to perform at the Ford," she said. "It's such an amazing place and this is such a fun show. We just hope people will come out and have a really good time."



*Diana Sholley*

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