

Performances at Café Trevi

Submitted By Katelyn Paris, Indianapolis, Indiana



On April 24, 2004, a new restaurant called Café Trevi had its Grand Opening in Indianapolis, Indiana. The restaurant is in Indianapolis, with special emphasis given to Italian food, as it is named after the best fountain in Rome: Trevi. Egyptian, Turkish, Lebanese and

Cook's food can also be found on the menu. The restaurant is located across the street from the Fountain Square Theater in historical Fountain Square on the southeast side of Indianapolis, where a new art scene is forming. What makes Café

Trevi unique, however, is the entertainment. The restaurant offers a live concert every Friday and Saturday evening on a bi-weekly, bi-ethnic/ethnic stage, where one can see authentic Egyptian and Flamenco dancing.

Sharon Fares Ali Manger is the owner of the restaurant and the dancer and choreographer of the weekly shows, which include ragi sharp, ragi sharihi, ballroom dances from Egypt, and Flamenco. A native Egyptian, Manger lived in Italy for five years, where she began her professional dancing career and where she also owned two restaurants with her sister, Nivona. Even though Manger is a native

of Cairo, Egypt, her family forbids her to dance there, as it is not something that proper families allow their daughters to take up as a profession. Manger moved to Milan, Italy in 1971 to perform both dance and piano after having played piano professionally in Egypt since 1968. She was lucky enough to have studied both ballet and piano at the Cairo Conservatory, as well as the Royal Academy of Music in London and got several gigs playing piano and dancing at famous hotels throughout Italy and Europe.

Upon meeting her American husband, Manger moved to the United States in 1976. Since then she has kept alive her love of Egyptian and Flamenco dance by teaching and sponsoring workshops and shows in Indianapolis, while continuing her performances in Europe. She has further studied Flamenco in Spain, and still travels there to perform every year.

Another highlight of the weekly shows is Manger's brother-in-law, Mahmoud, who has been performing since the age of six in Egypt and Italy. His performances include ballroom dances, such as a ballroom dance that he shares with Manger, and a solo Egyptian-derived ballroom dance.

One can see Manger and her dancers perform Egyptian ragi sharp and ragi sharihi. Mahmoud often joins them to perform ballroom dances from Egypt. Manger and her partner, Brenda (sometimes joined by another friend), perform Flamenco. Manger also invites guest performers, including long-time students, to the stage for one-on-one performances. 



Sharon Ali Manger

Upper right: Fares, Brenda, and Mahoud



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