

ANTHROPOLOGICAL MOSAIC: YOUNG SCHOLARS' PERSPECTIVES

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Original article

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REPRESENTATIONS OF DANCERS IN THE RUSSIAN DANCE JOURNAL “ORIENTAL” (2005–2014)

This study analyzes the image of the oriental dancer (belly dancer) based on materials from the dance journal Oriental. The article examines a dance common in the Middle East and North Africa, which incorporates the folk traditions of the peoples living in this region and transfers them to the stage. The 2000s saw the peak of popularity of this dance form in Russia, with the emergence of the Russian Dance Organization and the Oriental Dance Professionals League. The “Oriental” journal became a valuable source for researching dance and its context in the 2000s–2010s. It published articles containing information such as descriptions of training with dance accessories (sword, tambourine, or shawl), tips for learning Middle Eastern languages (Arabic and Turkish), techniques for performing elements of various styles, reviews of belly dance textbooks, legal commentary on plagiarism in dance, choosing music for performances, aspects of working with percussionists, organizing a concert, independently choreographing a dance, classical choreography, and issues related to recording dance on camera. Our study focused on the image of an oriental dance performer in publications aimed at Russian female readers. The methodology is based on a qualitative content analysis of 22 issues of the journal (2009–2014) using a gender approach and methods for studying women’s everyday life. The results are relevant for the study of the history of dance in Russia and can be used for further analysis of women’s everyday life and the development of oriental dance in our country.

Keywords: Arabism, Orientalism, colonialism, feminism, everyday life, gender studies, women’s history, dance anthropology, oriental dance, belly dance

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