

# An Experience in Cultural Exploration

BY TANIA LABA AND MOHANAD MORAH

On the eve of November 10th, people could be seen filing their way into the Rebecca Cohn in great anticipation of the performance ahead. The Heritage '96 MultiCultural show was about to begin.

Sponsored by the Multicultural Council of Halifax, the performance served as a fund raiser for a video workshop on cross culture understanding for junior high school students. Proceeds of this fabulous event were also used to make a cash donation to the Metro Food Bank.

The evening commenced with a performance by the 33rd Battalion Volunteer Pipes and Drums.

ance. She fascinated the audience with the chiming bells wrapped around her ankles and the beauty of her rhythmic stomping and flashing yellow sequins.

The stage next filled with black tights and white skirts. A Greek Orthodox Dance Group, filled with high spirits, performed several traditional folk dances, such as the Kalamatianos and Tsamikos. Dimitri Panopolis, and other dancers, wowed the audience with an acrobatic performance of wheels and flips. In a dance called The Hassaposerviko, men threw their partners into the air while they twirled their way in and out of circles.

Silence reigned over the auditorium as the profile of a young man, Fouad Jarmash, sat on a

performance, twirling a string of blue beads called masbaha. The simplistic yet energetic performance was filled with stomps and jumps and kicks of an exhilarat-

ing rhythm.

A statement found within the program truly sums up this night with these words: "Nova Scotians are blessed with a wealth of cul-

tures. From Brazil to Russia, from Egypt to Ireland, those culture have come together for an evening of dance, music and celebration: Heritage '96."



DANIELLE BOUDREAU

"Nova Scotians are blessed with a wealth of cultures"

The stage was filled with Tartan Kilts. A scenic display of Dalhousie could be seen in the background. The performance ended as the lights dimmed and a spotlight concentrated on a young girl looking through books about various cultures. She and a young female friend were encompassed by the cultures they were reading about.

They first experienced the world of Nitya Das, a young Indian girl who proudly showed her heritage through the Pooja Dance. This dance represented a prayer to The Almighty to bless and watch over the entire perform-

chair with a drum referred to as a durbake. The lights brightened and an exotic belly dancer, Lellean Jebailey of Dalhousie University, immediately captured the audience's attention. Dressed in a satiny, beaded halter top and slitted, flowing, chiffon skirt of red, she brought the Cohn to its feet with swaying hips and elegant arm movements.

From the Balcony to the front row, the crowd was again alive and roaring as the Palestinian dance group delivered Al Dabka'. Fadi Masoud, in the conservative traditional Palestinian garb, led dancers through an exhilarating

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