

**Artist, Singer-Song Writer,
Cultural Manager, and Artistic Director**

Chelcy Kriztin Mifsud-Reitsma

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Education:

- 1979-2016** On-going extensive studies in curation, visual art, dance, and singing. Most recently I completed the Curatorial School 'Curating the New', in Valletta and a 2-day workshop with Suzanne Wallinga 'Curating New Productions'. I'm always striving to stay up to date in the visual and performing arts and culture scene and to grow and expand my knowledge.
- 2003** BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Chicago, Illinois. With an emphasis in sculpture, painting, and drawing.
- 2002** BA (Bachelor of Arts) Humboldt State University, Arcata California. Emphasis in Art History.
- 2001** Diploma in Museum and Gallery Practices and Operations. Humboldt State University, Arcata California.
- 2000** BA (Bachelor of Arts with Honours) Humboldt State University, Arcata California. Emphasis in Fine Art: Sculpture, painting and drawing.
- 2000** Equivalent of a Minor in Dance. (2 classes shy) Humboldt State University Arcata, California.
- 1997** AA (Associate of Arts) in fine art. College of the Sequoias in Visalia, California.
- 1997** Semester in Firenze, Italy. Studied baroque and renaissance art history, Italian language and culture.
- 1986-1995** Mural painting lessons, ceramics, painting, and drawing at the Recreation Centre in Visalia, California.

Work Experience:

- 2016 Sept-Oct. European Commission - Amsterdam.** Working as the local manager in Malta organising the Global Cultural Leadership Training Programme for the European Commission in Partnership with the Goethe Institut as a section of the IFACCA World Summit on Arts & Culture.
- 2015-present Valletta 2018 Foundation: Independent Project and events Manager, Web editor, & PR** Managed: The Malta Show Case curated catalogue (printed and online) and launch party, Storyworks Screen Writing Course and public lecture, and Website and social media for Zigzag Children's Festival. Managing and designing Team Colours: Team Building event for artists and project managers, and organised 2 Focus groups in preparation for "The Sea, Our Neighbour" exhibition.
- 2004-present Artistic Director** and owner of Fringe Benefits International Dance Company in Malta and Chicago, Illinois, USA. Artistic director, choreography, project, stage and events manager, producer of shows and DVD's, and workshop instructor.
- 2008-2011** Dance instructor and lecturer at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago for the Middle Eastern Dance Club.
- 2007** Designed and painted 3 murals in Chicago in private residences for Diana Sanabria and Leigh Kogut.

- 2002-2004** Dance instructor and Company member at Latin Street Dancing in Chicago, Illinois.
- 2000-2001** News Paper Layouts, Graphics and Column writing for Arcata Eye News Paper in Arcata, California.
- 1998-2000** Graphics Artist at Humboldt State University in the on campus graphics and printing shop.
- 1999** Summer school teacher for mural painting at Rio Dell Elementary School in Rio Dell, California. **Working with a mix of challenged and under privileged children and youths aged 6-13.**
- 1999** Assistant instructor for painting under Theresa Stanley at Humboldt State University Arcata, California.
- 1998-1999** Assistant instructor for Irish Clogging.
- 1996-1997** **Play Set Designer** for the Visalia Players at the Ice House Theater in Visalia, California.
- 1997-1998** Manager, Graphics Artist, and sign painter at Homan Studios in Visalia, California.
- 1996-1998** Photo Restoration, video editing and transfers, and graphics for Mike's Quality Cameras in Visalia, California.
- 1996-1998** Assistant dance instructor and company member to Patricia Gutierrez for Turkish dancing.
- 1995-1996** Model and retail sales for No Bugles, No Horns Boutique in Visalia, CA.
- 1992-1994** Dance instructor and company member at Betty Down's Dance Arts in Visalia, CA.
- 1991-1994** **Taught arts and crafts every summer to mentally challenged students at the Creative Centre in Visalia, California for their annual summer festival.**

Artistic Director, Project Manager, Producer, and Committees:

- 2015-ongoing** Independent Project Manager, PR, and Web editor for the European Commission, Valletta 2018 Foundation, and international artists performances and exhibitions.
- 2014** March: Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Karim Nagi Raqs the Rock, in Malta and Chateau Buskett Theater. Show and workshops weekend.
- 2012** Sept: Organiser, director, choreographer and host for workshops and show in Malta with Shaba of Budapest, Hungary.
- 2011** Organised a weekend of workshops in Malta for Amira of Las Vegas.
- 2010** Produced, directed and choreographed for my own Instructional DVD Sa-Rumb-A-rabic – Samba, Rumberas, Egyptian fusion. All graphics by myself.

Feb. Organiser, director, choreographer and host for a weekend of workshops and show for Saqra of Seattle, Washington in Chicago.

- 2009** Produced, directed, and choreographed for a Performance DVD: Cairo Raks Chicago. All graphics by myself.
- Aug. organised Artrousal fundraiser in Chicago for a needy children's charity. Art, dance, and music event in a gallery.
- Nov. Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Turbo Raks Chicago. Workshops and show with Karim Nagi.
- 2008** Oct. 17-19 Organiser, producer, and director of the Cairo Raks Chicago festival hosting Aida Noor of Egypt, Karim Nagi of Boston and many performers from around the USA in Chicago – workshops & show weekend and DVD filming.
- March 29-30 Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Shoshanna of California two-days of workshops and a show in Chicago at Dance Connection and the College Preparatory theatre.
- 2007** Nov. Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Aneena of California, workshops and show in Chicago.
- 2006** One of Four Instructors Awarded Tenure as Great Lakes Belly Dance Convention featured Workshop Instructor and Performer.
- Committee member, workshop teacher and one of the organisers for the MECDA sponsored Mid-West Belly Dance Fest held in 2007.
- 2005** Dec. co-tour leader, organiser and instructor with Dr. Elizabeth-Anne Stewart. We brought an American tour group to Malta and I taught special workshops throughout the tour.
- Sept. Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Shoshanna two-day workshop at Belle Plaine Dance Studio and Show at Arkadash Cafe, Chicago.
- March. Organiser, director, choreographer and host for Patricia Gutierrez two-day workshop at Belle Plaine Dance Studio and Show at Arkadash Cafe, Chicago.
- 2004** March. Organiser, director, choreographer and host of David of Scandinavia two-day workshop and Show at Belle Plaine Dance Studio
- 2001** Organiser, fundraiser and host for a Lecture and Reception with artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude of New York hosted at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. I raised over \$15,000 to bring them to lecture and have a reception.
- Organised a fundraising campaign for Habitat for Humanity.
- 2000** Director and Curator for the Sequences Exhibit: an exhibition of prints by such artists as Christo and Jeanne-Claude, Nam June Paik, Sol Lewitt and many more. At Humboldt State University, Reese Bullen Gallery as part of the course for the Certification in Gallery Practices and Operations.
- 2000-2001** President of the Art History Club at Humboldt State University. Included fundraising, lectures, and event organising.
- 1998-2001** Committee member, event organiser and gallery manager for the campus Student Galleries and Exhibition Spaces at Humboldt State University.

- 1998-2001** Organiser and Curator for many of my own art exhibitions and opening receptions at the Campus Galleries, The Ink People Gallery and Art Centre, and local shops in Arcata and Eureka, California.
- 1999** Designed and constructed the M. Louise Stanley Exhibit at Humboldt State University Gallery as part of the course for the Certification in Gallery Practices and Operations.
- Designed and constructed the Graduate Exhibit at Humboldt State University Gallery as part of the course for the Certification in Gallery Practices and Operations.
- Worked on the democratic political campaign for Virginia Strom Martin organising events and fundraising auctions.
- 1997** Directed and designed an art and dance exhibit in Visalia, California at Susan's School of Art and Dance.
- 1992-1995** Assistant director of the Teen Mural Programs for the City of Visalia.

Awards, Grants and Notable Accomplishments:

- 2017** Wrote, Sang and Produced my first single song release "Blue" at Beehive Studios in Malta.
- 2016** Completed the Curatorial School and workshop with Suzanne Walinga in Valletta Malta.
- 2014** Published author in the Jareeda publication, Belly Dance Transformations.
- 2013** Published author in the Jareeda publication, The Soul of Belly Dance: History and Culture. My chapter is titled "The Shades of Andalusia".
- 2012** Published 2 articles in the Chronicles Belly Dance Magazine.
- 2011** Aired on PBS nation wide in the USA a documentary about Chelcy and her dance company Fringe Benefits International. By Action Video Productions released in 2010 a documentary series for TV and DVD, "Inside the Belly Dancer" the first features Chelcy with dance and teaching demonstrations, interviews and performances clips.
- 2010** Produced Instructional DVD Sa-Rumb-A-rabic – Samba, Rumberas, Egyptian fusion.
- 2009** Produced Performance DVD Cairo Raks Chicago.
- 2008-2013** Instructor and performer for the world's largest and oldest Belly Dance Festival, Rakkasah West and East in California and New Jersey.
- 2001** Won multiple grants to host and organise an educational lecture and reception with artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude of New York at Humboldt State University in Arcata, CA. I raised over \$15,000 in grants and donations.
- 2001** Received a grant from Humboldt State University to travel to San Jose, California to lecture at the annual Art History Symposium at San Jose State University.

- 2000** First place, awarded grand prize at the Ink People Art Gallery Competition for the best in show.
- 2000** Co-columnist of “Eye Candy”, an art criticism column for the Arcata Eye News Paper.
- 1997** Best in show, awarded 1st place at the California Coastal Commission Art Competition.
- 1994** Awarded the mural design and painting project by the California State Government for the mural at the Family Support division in Visalia.
- 1994** Artist of the Year award from the City of Visalia and Visalia Unified School District.
- 1993** First place in the Congressional Teen Art Competition.

Skills:

- Singer-songwriter
- Events and project management, production and organisation
- Artistic Director of staged dance and performance art shows.
- Budget management and basic accounting skills.
- Strong writing skills - I’m a published author in a book, several magazines, and wrote an art criticism column for the Arcata Eye news paper in California.
- Instructor, lecturer and workshop instructor of dance and art.
- Strong performance and public speaking skills.
- Choreographer for dance and musical shows and productions.
- Strong skills in motivating people to work together and on projects.
- Good delegation and diplomacy skills.
- Very independent and self motivated. I work well with deadlines and under pressure.
- Curation, design, and installation of art exhibits, including art handling, lighting, shipping, receiving, and loan agreements.
- Quote procurement
- Organiser of workshops, lectures and presentations.
- Organiser of gallery openings and artist receptions.
- Computer skills: Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Garage Band, Word, Dream Weaver, Word Press, Excel, and Power Point
- Artistic skills: painting, designing, drawing, graphics art, mural painting, photo restoration and theatre set design.
- Music and film editing using Final Cut Pro and Garage Band programs.
- **Languages:** Fluent in English. Very basic level in Italian and French. (not fluent). **Currently learning Maltese in weekly classes.**

References:

- In Malta:** **Eldridge Curmi:** Colleague +356 7949 0248 **email:** pcurmidancecco@gmail.com
- In USA:** **Karim Nagi:** Colleague/Professor +1 617.924.7675 **email:** nagikarim@aol.com
- Teresa Stanley:** Art Professor +1 707.826.5809 **email:** tjs1@humboldt.edu