



BELLY dance man
from canada to cairo

One-Hour Documentary



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How does the son of expatriate Sri Lankans – raised on the rough and tumble and relatively homogenous Canadian prairies – fare on stage in San Francisco, London, Seoul and Cairo... as a *male belly dancer*?

Only one of a handful of professional male Oriental dancers in North America, **Viraj Wanigasekera** practices this ancient Middle Eastern tradition at local restaurants when he's not performing at international festivals or instructing hordes of eager female fans.

For years it's been a struggle for this dedicated performer – mastering his art while trying to pay the rent; deciding between his calling as belly dancer or opting for a “real” job with his biochemistry degree; nurturing a career at home while also craving the lure of bigger cities and glamorous international competitions.

Will Viraj continue to pursue his dreams or will he succumb to stark financial realities? Will he be able to prove that men can do this dance and be accepted as equals? Will his audiences ever see him as anything more than a novelty act or even worse, a heretic?

Watch Viraj as he performs before receptive audiences in California and more traditional audiences in Egypt. Sit back, relax and enjoy his masterful performances, as regardless of gender, Viraj is widely acknowledged to be one of the world's most skilled practitioners of this ancient and celebratory form of dance.



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