

LAYLA TAJ — EDITORIAL BIOGRAPHY

A Life of Artistry, Heritage & International Prestige

Born in **Long Beach, New York**, Layla Taj is the daughter of a **Greek–Egyptian aristocrat** and celebrated actress-singer, inheriting a legacy of elegance, artistry, and refinement. Trained first in ballet at the **Rockville Centre Ballet Academy** and later introduced to Oriental dance at only **nine years old**, Layla’s path as a distinguished performer was set early.

A gifted composer as well as a dancer, Layla secured **three major record deals** and achieved a **Billboard-charted single**, yet her heart remained devoted to the **classical Egyptian art form**. Determined to master the authentic style of Egyptian Oriental dance—not the fusion trends common in New York—she pursued advanced training in **Europe and the Middle East** with the world’s most revered master teachers, including **Raqia Hassan, Mahmoud Reda, and Mohammed Gadawwi**. During a performance in Berlin, Gadawwi proclaimed:

“There are dancers, and there are stars. Layla is a star.”

Layla went on to craft her own **signature choreographies** and **couture-level costumes**, training with the discipline of a professional athlete. Her excellence earned her an invitation to the **Gala Show of the Stockholm Belly Dance Festival**, one of the most prestigious stages in the world.

Her acclaim led to elite contracts across the Middle East. Layla became the **principal in-house dancer** for several **5–7 star hotels and luxury resorts**, including The Hyatt Regency, The Ritz-Carlton, and The Sheraton Towers in Cairo. Her audiences included **Saudi royalty, dignitaries, and high-profile leaders**, solidifying her status as one of the most refined performers of her generation.

After **five transformative years in Egypt**, Layla returned to the United States, where national news outlets hailed her as **“The Dancing Queen.”** She performed for the **Egyptian Tourist Authority** and the **United Nations**, entertaining Ambassador Youssef Zada and other diplomats. She also attended an exclusive private luncheon with **Dr. Zahi Hawass** in celebration of the King Tut exhibition.

Relocating to Southwest Florida, Layla became the region’s **most sought-after high-end entertainer**, captivating elite planners and luxury clientele. Her performance at the **“Wedding of the Century”** at the Ringling Museum remains one of her most iconic moments.

Founder & Cultural Curator: Layla established The Egyptian Cultural Performing Society, Inc., a respected nonprofit dedicated to preserving Egypt’s artistic heritage. Her company showcases **traditional folkloric dance** and **contemporary Raqs Sharqi**, earning recognition from **Ivy League institutions** and cultural scholars.

With a résumé reserved for the **top echelon of international performers**, Layla Taj delivers more than entertainment—she creates **premier cultural experiences** for clients who demand world-class excellence.