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Green dress covered in rhinestones is belly dancer's favorite

Sara Graham, aka Sumaiya, in her new belly dancing costume.

BY DIANE TOROIAN KEAGGY

ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

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For belly dancer, Sumaiya, a new costume is a major investment, costing hundreds of dollars. Fortunately one of the top costume distributors, Dahlal Internationale, is based in Kirkwood. Sumaiya performs weekends at Nara Cafe, 1326 Washington Avenue, and at the Naughti Gras erotic art show Friday and Feb. 6 at Koken Art Factory, 2500 Ohio Avenue.

“For a belly dancer, getting a new costume is always a treat. They can be beautifully handmade, often from Egypt or Turkey. I remember the first professional costume I purchased — it came directly from Turkey and smelled strongly of cigarette smoke. I envisioned a chain-smoking, deep-voiced woman spending hours putting it together in her sewing room veiled with smoke and covered with fabric, sequins and coins. My Christmas present to myself this year is my favorite costume yet — an elegant chartreuse green covered in silver rhinestones in a classic design.”

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