

YALLA RAQS THE PALACE Announcement for 2024

Dear Friends – Dancers, Musicians, Vendors, Sponsors and Supporters:

First of all, let me apologize for taking so long to get back with everyone regarding plans for Yalla Raqs for this year. I know everyone has been anxiously awaiting word on what is happening. Please read this complete announcement for upcoming plans.

I have been struggling with making the decision on whether to hold the event this year, weighing all the pros and cons and going back and forth in my mind. I am sad to say that I have decided that we will not hold Yalla Raqs in 2024. It breaks my heart to miss this year, but when taking all the factors into consideration, it is, unfortunately, our best choice at this time.

There were so many things to take into consideration; time and cost and staffing, of course, all weighed heavily. But most importantly, we have to acknowledge — I have to acknowledge — that we are all still coming to terms with the loss of our dearest Del. Del Bartlett was the rock-solid foundation on which, first, Yaa Halla, Y'all and, later, Yalla Raqs were built – he really wanted it to happen and loved me and you. There were just many tasks necessary to present a successful event, some of which that Del not so quietly but efficiently handled himself. We are all still adjusting to the fact that he is no longer here, both hugely personally, and also now to handle those tasks at which he was exceptional; the all-important contacts to book Stars, his pleasure in talking to all of you (and he recognized so many of you dancers and competitors) plus booking ads and handling finances; and we are still working at adding those important tasks to the other massive amount of work involved.

Even more so, Del's passing has left a giant emptiness in our hearts — in the heart of Yalla Raqs and in my own heart. And our hearts — my heart — simply are not ready to face that event without him this year.

Be assured, Yalla Raqs the Palace will return in 2025, as big and as wonderful as it ever was, a tribute to the wonderful man who was my partner in making it all happen and to all the wonderful dancers from around the world who meant so much to Del and I and who continue to mean so very much to me and all of us here at the Isis Studios, Academy of Performing Arts and The Isis Foundation. And we know that when Yalla Raqs returns the end of July 2025, Del will be there with us in spirit, cheering us on.

And while we will not have a full-fledged Yalla Raqs this summer, we WILL STILL be offering a very special opportunity to our friends, old and new: Two Intensive days of workshops and two shows featuring the fabulous ShoShannah Estell! We will be bringing ShoShannah to DFW at the end of July for two workshops in two days (Saturday and Sunday) — one focused on cabaret dance, the other on fusion. And she will be our very special guest performer in a Friday night show AND a Saturday night show that weekend at our home Studios. We are still finalizing details for the weekend, so stay tuned for information on dates and prices, coming soon.

Again, apologies for the delay in making this announcement. Just know we will miss you all tremendously this summer at the Palace Theatre, and we cannot wait to see you all again for our ShoShannah Intensive in July if that is possible in your schedule, or in 2025.

Don't count this wonderful Yalla Raqs event out ... we're just recovering, remodeling and will be renewing!

Much, much love, Isis