

State of the Lotus 2025

December 31, 2025

This has been an amazing year full of growth and dance at Lotus, and I have been so honored to have done this year with the support of the teachers, students, staff, family, and friends. There is simply no way that Lotus could have grown as much as it did this year without each of you. I will get into the breakdown of 2025, and what we look to do in 2026.

Looking Back

We had some pleasant surprises this year that certainly helped expose the studio's presence. We did plan to push for more regional presence and were proud of our four public performances. This year we had **11 public performances!** That is literally the equivalent of one a month! Our expansion covered NC, SC and VA! Thanks to the hard work of Amani Lotus, they really moved from being a student troupe to more of a professional troupe, and I couldn't be prouder of their dedication and representation of Lotus to the area.

We started a teaching workshop for those who are interested in becoming belly dance instructors. It was a great workshop for sharing information, and some have gone off to teach at other schools in the area. It is my hope that the information we shared was helpful.

Lotus sponsored a MENHAT student to take belly dance workshops in Egypt! While it seems easy for us to take classes, there are others who struggle to do so. Part of ensuring this art form remains alive is to be helpful wherever we can. Therefore, I personally took monies from workshops that I taught and with the help of Zara Dance donated to sponsor a dancer.

We returned to our black box theater performance for Spirit of the Dance Recital! I was very pleased to be able to provide an experience that allowed for a full run of shows in a more upscale theater and believe most of the performers enjoyed the ability to give more depth to their performances. There were many lessons learned as well! We also continued with our annual Holiday Hafla. We're thankful to our students and Charlotte and regional belly dance community.

The student base increased an additional 73 students to a total of 487 active students for the year. While growth is good, we did see impact due to environmental factors such as job loss of students. We fully realize that dance is a luxury for some, and priorities must be adjusted. We were able to utilize scholarships to help some in need.

Looking Forward

We're so excited to get into 2026 with the following:

We're starting our teacher shadowing! This is phase two of the teacher's growth work that we're doing, and I couldn't be prouder of the work that we're doing. We've also started with our Master Instructor classes for the year, and the classes are sold out!

We'll continue to strengthen our Lotus presence. This means to solidify our performances and merchandise! We have it in place; we just need to let others know about it.

Expansion of our Beginner classes. We're up to three beginner classes a week, and it's our hope to hold the fort in doing so!

I'm excited about the amazing that Lotus is to become this year!