

**AISHA MAHMUD** began dancing in Manga during its inception, as part of the children's component of Barefoot Ballet Kids Ensemble. A student of dance and drum from an early age, Aisha spent her formative years learning various dances in the African Diaspora, wedding the art of tradition with more classical forms of music and dance like ballet and modern. A cellist of 16 years, Aisha has lent her talents to Manga on innumerable occasions.

After studying at Augusta State University, Aisha went on to enlist in the United State Navy, where she served until 2014, returning to Atlanta to continue her passion for the performing arts. Advocating for the trio of "technique, style, and enthusiasm", Aisha serves as one of Manga's foremost and charismatic instructors and choreographers in the company, with extensive knowledge of the company's vast repertoire, and a healthy respect for her predecessors and the culture that forms her rich and diverse heritage. She has taught in colleges and universities, as well as all over the Metro Atlanta area. She has also been hired to choreograph for premium network television, appearing as an actor in movies and television. She is currently studying creative writing and literature at Southern New Hampshire University. When she's not lighting up the stage, drumming, or walking students through various dance steps, Aisha is busy burning the midnight oil writing and engaging in digital art.