

From: James Koenig  
Arts advocate, classical singer, voice teacher,  
director, performance coach. April 9, 2018

Hi Aisha,

You are truly amazing – and your work as a dancer, researcher, director, teacher is inspirational. In dance, as in music, many of the real treasures of the art form are culturally organic and mystical – more than they are commercial. Work like yours is not only a celebration and sharing of the art, it is the very preservation of the art form itself. From the very first time i saw you dance I could see not only the beauty and joy and playfulness of the work but the integrity. As I said in my toast to you "Keep on dancing!!!" I must add – We live in a youth culture. It is SO GREAT to see mature dancers moving and celebrating!! Picasso said, "Youth is a gift of nature. Age is a work of art." You are both an artist and example.

XOXO and keep on celebrating!!!  
Jim

James Koenig's response to the KCRW *Lost Notes* Podcast "The Incredible Journey of Aisha Ali". May 25, 2018

Aisha,

This is so delightful – compelling and warm and engaging! This should be on NPR– I think this could very well be the script of a documentary with scenes and images. I love it– and you are a wonderful story teller even when you're not dancing! I love it! So interesting how you're an all American girl "categorized " by the very ethnicity you were discovering. I think you can be very proud of this interview– and possibly expand it even more. Kudos!!