

***Keren Khaya Abrams, MA***  
***Ordained “Omana’ya”***

Glorieta, NM 87535  
keren@ritualartist.net  
www.ritualartist.net

**INTENTION**

To create, design and instruct courses and workshops for local colleges and universities that will serve that institution’s goals for students’ and community education using my unique synthesis of creative and spiritual healing arts.

**SUMMARY**

- Over 20 years of broad teaching experience across several disciplines and with various age groups and socio-cultural populations
- Extensive course design and implementation experience, in accordance with the needs of the institution or client
- More than a decade of spiritual and embodiment training along with a committed, regular personal practice

**EDUCATION**

**Appointment as *Shaliakh*** (Hebrew for “Emissary”) by Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi 2008

**Ordination as *Omana’ya*** (Hebrew for “Jewish Minister and Ritual Artist”) in the lineage of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi and Rabbi Ohad Ezrakhi, Hamakom Istitute, Dead Sea, Israel 2005

**Mentorship with Janet Adler**, matriarch of Authentic Movement as mystical practice, Sebastopol, CA 2000-2007

**Mentorship with Jeannie Kerrigan**, energetic healing arts including polarity therapy and esoteric sciences, Santa Fe, NM 2006-present

**Masters Degree, Interdisciplinary Arts**, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, CA 2000

**Alexander Technique Training**, San Francisco, CA 1997-1999

**Professional Modern Dance Training**, Philadelphia, New York City & San Francisco 1995-2000

**BA, Psychology**, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 1991

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Omana’ya Private Practice** in Spiritual Guidance, Glorieta, NM 2004-present

- Providing spiritual guidance, energy healing and lifecycle ritual creation & officiation
- with regular in-person & long distance clients, Israel & USA

**Founder of *Omana’ya Center for Hebrew Healing Arts***, Glorieta, NM 2005-present

- Facilitating holy day and/or healing rituals
- Designing and leading courses and workshops in Hebrew language & ancient culture, Torah & Hebraic study, and Embodied Kabala

**Co-Founder and Co-Director, *Rujeko Performance Collaboration*** 1996-2002

- Created interdisciplinary live art with ritual sensibility
- Specialized in spontaneous choreography, improvisation and contemplative modalities

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE – ORGANIZATION-BASED

**Maui Studios, Guest Teacher**, Maui, HI, January 2008

- Lead courses in Authentic Movement, Sacred Space Jam & Contact Improvisation

**“Haibirus School” of Kabalistic Arts, Instructor**, Santa Fe, NM 2007

- Designed and taught courses in Hebrew Devotional Poetry

**“Sacred Art of Living Institute,” Instructor** Bend, Oregon 2006

- Created and implemented workshops in Ritual Artistry on the topic of forgiveness and release rituals for healing or dying

**7-Bowls School, Instructor**, Lyons, CO, June-August 2005

- Designed and instructed curriculum for Ceremonial Arts course and Authentic Movement course

**Reb Nadya Gross Mystery School, Instructor**, Erie, Colorado 2007

- Taught workshop on Authentic Movement and Kabala

**Wingate College, Guest Instructor**, Israel 2004

- Facilitated three-class series in Contact Improvisation

**Seminar Kibbutzim Arts College, Guest Instructor**, Israel 2004 & 2005

- Lead contact improvisation class

**Israel CI festival, Instructor**, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2004

- Developed and lead courses in Contact Improvisation and the Alexander Technique

**Naropa University, Instructor**, Boulder, CO 2003

- Designed and instructed curriculum in Post-Modern Dance forms class

**San Francisco State University, Instructor**, San Francisco, CA 1999

- Designed and instructed curriculum for half-semester course in improvisational dance for modern dancers

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE – INDEPENDENTLY PRODUCED

**Two Rivers Tour, Creator, Producer & Teacher**, the meeting of the Native American and Native Hebrew spirituality and healing modalities, Israel March 2009-present

- Designing, producing and leading workshops, ceremonies and performances in collaboration with Pueblo Indian Traditional Advisor, Jo’el Jojola

**The “Sacred Space Jam”, Founder and Instructor**, Boulder, CO, Santa Fe, Maui & Israel 2002-present

- Creating and implementing a group devotional practice for entering collective-mind and for becoming instruments of the creation of live art - including music, voice and movement/dance

**The Movement of Prayer, Creator & Instructor**, Israel 2004-2005

- Developed and lead private courses for Tzefat Community Center & Zikhron Jewish Community

**“Public Space Performance” course, Creator & Instructor**, Naropa University and University of Colorado, Boulder, CO 2002-2003

- Developed curriculum and taught course for independent study students
- Included practice, readings, discussion and weekly performance for six weeks

**Authentic Movement Classes, Creator and Instructor**, Boulder, Wisconsin, Santa Fe, Israel, 2003-present

- Created, designed and taught workshops and classes in Authentic Movement along with self-created titles: “Ritual Craft” or “Mystical Dance”

**Contact Improvisation, Instructor**, Boulder, Israel, Maui, Santa Fe, San Francisco, 2000-present

- Designed and lead workshops & classes in contact improvisation

### RECENT PRIMARY PERFORMANCES

**“Circle of Forgiveness” Movement Medicine Ritual, Creator & Lead Dancer**

- **“the Women’s Tent”**, gathering of 250 Palestinian, Jewish, Bedouin and Druze women, Israel March 2005
- **Deva Lands Sanctuary** community September 2007

**“night blossoms,”** Boulder Fringe Festival, August 2005

- Self directed, solo, 50-minute performance of live art with ritual sensibility

**“Free Movement” & Ceremonial Arts** collaborative practice, teaching and performance with Suprpto Suryodarma, Java, Indonesia November 2004

### COLLABORATIONS

**Rabbi Gershon Winkler**, scholarly dialogue and periodic workshop teaching, USA & Israel, 2008-present

**Jo’el Jojola**, Pueblo Traditional Advisor, ceremonies and teaching, USA & Israel, 2007-present

**Arye Burstyn**, Dance Master, periodic teaching, practice and performance, Israel 1998, 2004, & 2005

**Suprpto Suryodarma**, Javanise free-movement (*amerta* movement) master, collaborative practice and performance, Java 2004

**Yair Dalal**, Master Ethnic Musician, performance collaborations, San Francisco 1997, Israel 1998 & Boulder 2004

### AFFILIATIONS

**Member of the “Blessings Counsel” of Inter-faith Ministers**, Santa Fe, NM 2008-present

- Creating and offering inter-faith ceremonies.

**Resident member of Deva Lands Sanctuary**, Glorieta, NM 2006-present

- Providing leadership role as one of three core-group members in retreat center and intentional community for inner work and spiritual healing
- Programming retreats, ceremonies and workshops with publicity responsibilities

### PUBLICATIONS

**Abrams, Keren, “I have grief for those still grieving,”** Published on [www.ritualartist.net](http://www.ritualartist.net), 2007

- Poetic prose for the healing of ancient Jewish collective trauma

**Abrams, Keren, “Bring this Essence,”** Self published and distributed independently, 2006

- Essay revealing the ancient Hebrew tribal essences of worship and divine experience that can be revitalized in contemporary Jewish practice

**Abrams, Keren, “Compassion for Injured Jews,”** *New Mexico Jewish Link* and [www.ritualartist.net](http://www.ritualartist.net), 2006

### BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Launer, Pat, “The Spirit is Willing,”** *San Diego Jewish Journal*, June 2009

- Article about Keren’s unique work in Hebrew heritage spirituality and recent tour in Israel with Pueblo Indian Traditional Advisor, Jo’el Jojola