

Alessandra Belloni

Often referred to as “A Mediterranean Volcano,” Tambourine virtuoso singer, dancer, actress and Alessandra Belloni is renowned in her field and travels worldwide to perform group and solo concerts, in theaters, universities, and international percussion festivals. Belloni began her career in her native Rome with the great actress Anna Magnani in "La Lupa," and with legendary film director Federico Fellini in "Casanova."

She is artistic director and leading performer of *I Giullari di Piazza*, an ensemble of musicians, vocalists, and dancers that specializes in authentic southern Italian music and theater events dating back to the 13th century. Belloni is a REMO artist and designer of her signature series of Italian tambourines; she is also the author of the book & DVD *Rhythm is the Cure*, published by Mel Bay.

The only artist in the world who specializes in southern Italian tambourines combined with ritual dances & singing, that she learned from her field research with the old people, Belloni was selected as one of the best percussionists in the world by *DRUM! magazine*, and has been acclaimed in *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, and featured in *Modern Drummer* and *Percussive Notes*.

She is artist in residence at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and has been invited to appear in percussion festivals & acclaimed venues in London, Brazil, Poland, France, Italy, Australia, Rome, and throughout the US including Lincoln Center, The Metropolitan Museum, The Kennedy Center and The Smithsonian Institution. Her CD “*Tarantata: The Dance of Ancient Spider*” won Best World Percussion CD of 2001, also named one of the top CDs of 2002. “*Tarantelle & Canti d’Amore*” was runner-up for Best Percussion CD of the Year.

A speaker of all romance languages & equally fluent in their ancient & ecstatic mediterranean rhythms, Alessandra has spent more than twenty years participating every Summer in the authentic drumming Festivals in remote areas of Southern Italy, held in honor of the Black Madonna and as rituals of purification and researching the origins of the Tarantella dance and music.

Practiced throughout Southern Italy since ancient times, the Tarantella has been adapted by Alessandra to help modern women from around the world free their minds as well as their bodies. A powerful key to facilitate sexual healing, the Tarantella! “Bite of the Spider” dance ritual is incorporated into Alessandra's workshops.

She has created cross-cultural productions dedicated to Mother Earth, featuring the Silver Cloud Singers, and African and Latin American artists.

Her work as teacher and healer brought her to be the main feature of the documentary film about her as artist and healer TARANTELLA TRANCE DANCE; Towards the Origins of South European Shamanism (series Living Shamanism) by French American film maker Manex Ibar, to be soon released. Find out more about her on her website: www.alessandrabelloni.com