



ABRIL PASO

FLAMENCO



Based in
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

CONTACT



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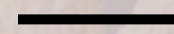
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MISSION

SE ABRE PASO - MAKING WAY

Abrepaso Flamenco is a 501(c)3 nonprofit arts & culture organization whose mission is to create new pathways within, and new entry points into, the flamenco art form. We share flamenco music, dance, history, and culture through workshops, year-round classes, K-12 Arts Education, apprenticeship programs, arts therapy, traditional *tablao* performances, and boundary-pushing collaborative performances.



We aim to build community, encourage presence, offer tools for resilience, create bridges across cultures, make space for individuals to share their stories, and spark creativity and passion.

LEADERSHIP

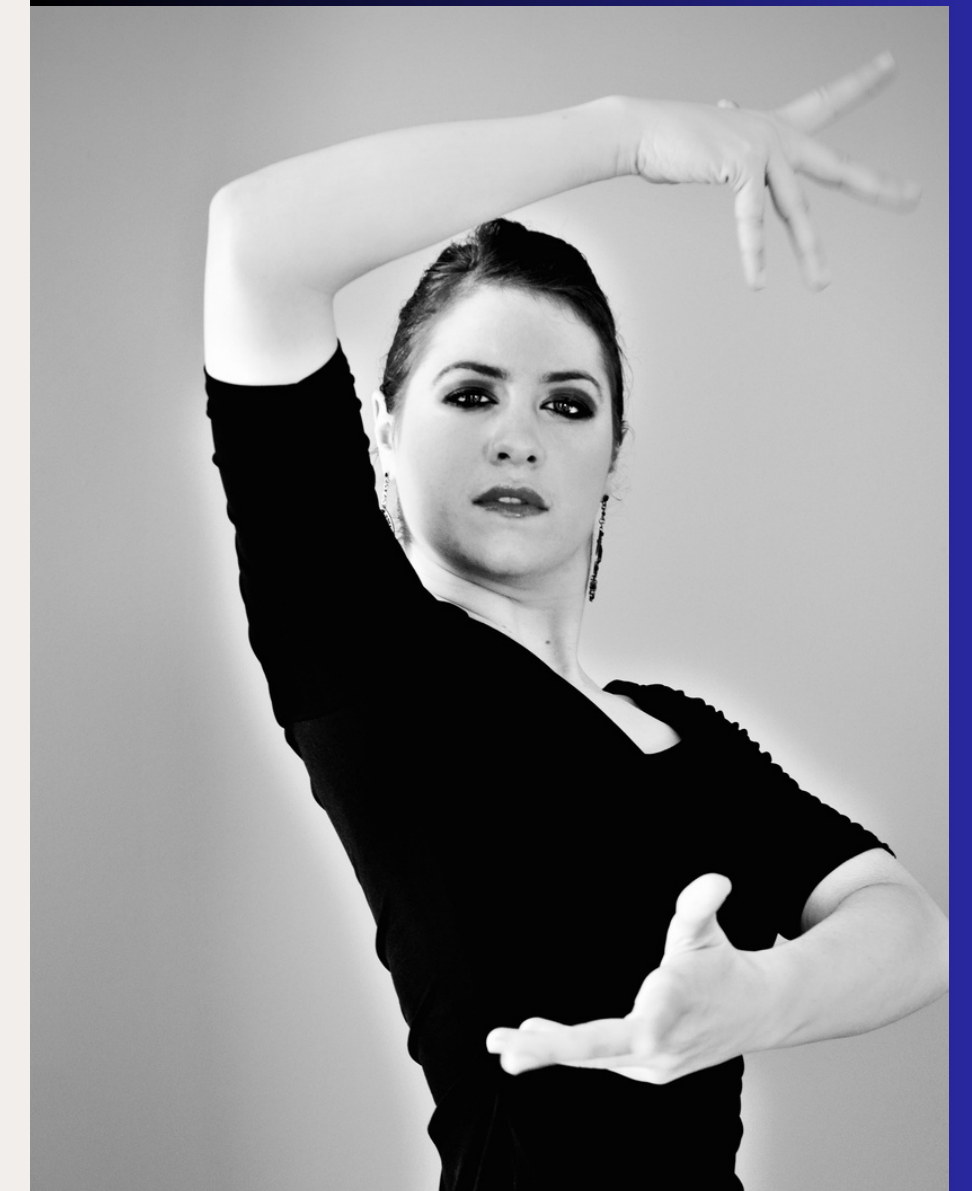
EXPERTISE & VISION

Alice Blumenfeld is known for her unique and “fierce presence (her movements seem to arise from several feet beneath the ground)” (Thinking Dance) and her “sharp and exhilarating” energy onstage (Philadelphia Inquirer). Blumenfeld is a well-rounded artist bridging her work as scholar, choreographer, educator, and performer. Her recognitions include: being a Fulbright Grant recipient in dance (Spain, 2012), a U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts (2008), and a two-time Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award recipient in choreography (FY 20 & 22). She toured nationally with Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana for five seasons, and has been a guest artist with Nélida Tirado, the American Bolero Dance Company, Antonio Granjero, Jácome Flamenco, among other companies and she has performed in Berlin and Spain. She premiered an original evening of flamenco at the Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage in 2014 and has been a featured TedX Speaker. Her work has been featured on BuzzFeed, in Dance Magazine, and on television via PBS’ Ideastream. Most recently she was a featured guest artist with Dominick Farinacci’s jazz group, Triad.

Blumenfeld holds an MFA in Dance from Hollins University and a BA in Comparative Literature from New York University where she graduated summa cum laude, with highest departmental honors, and Phi Beta Kappa. She began her flamenco training with Benigna Sánchez and then at the National Institute of Flamenco in her hometown of Albuquerque, NM. She was then mentored by Nélida Tirado in NYC and by Rosario Toledo, Andrés Marín, Manuela Ríos, and Cristina Hall in Spain. Blumenfeld is also currently an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Akron, an adjunct professor at Cuyahoga Community College, and a teaching artist for the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning.

Alice
Blumenfeld

FOUNDER
ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR





Founded in 2016 in Albuquerque, NM, Abrepaso began as a project-based performance group presenting groundbreaking flamenco at the National Hispanic Cultural Center from 2016–2018. In 2019, relocating to Ohio, the company expanded its offerings to include an apprenticeship program, traditional flamenco performances, a school, and outreach. From elementary school auditoriums to Playhouse Square, our core values remain the same: helping people reach their potential by sharing flamenco and bringing authentic cultural and artistic expression to audiences across the U.S.

OUR STORY



traditional

Flamenco tablaos highlight the raw emotion of improvisation just like clubs in Spain. These are best suited for music venues or cabaret seating and can feature one musician and one dancer or several dancers and musicians to capture the full spectrum of expression in flamenco.

PERFORMANCES

boundary breaking

We push flamenco through collaborative performances that exemplify our core value that flamenco has no limits in its expressive capacity & its ability to unite people across differences. Whether working with jazz or bluegrass musicians, creating dance films, or using spoken word and visual art live onstage, we let the concept of a show and an open collaborative environment shape our work. We aim to create total works of art that take audiences on a journey and remind people of their shared humanity.



PRESS & AUDIENCE

"A. Periplum was a gift to our city. Ms. Blumenfeld's dance performance, the music provided by Mr. Farinacci and his group, and the choreography and direction by Ms. Bagley were all truly brilliant. Not even in New York City did an audience have a better cultural experience that night." - Howard Freedman (former chair of the Cleveland Arts Prize, arts philanthropist)

"Alice Blumenfeld's Chrysalis (2016) ...simply to be enjoyed—a solo that exhibits the performer's unique presence and undeniable skill—Blumenfeld pounds her flamenco heels like the heart beating when the mind ruminates upon some torment late at night." -Irene Hsiao (independent dance reviewer)

"Friday night was such an original and overwhelming artistic event that I was spoiled by the energy and dedication, passion and strength that you showed in the eight chapters of the show, each part being different from the others, but like a perfectly constructed body they were organically linked forming an indestructible whole." - Eugeniu Lupu (cinematographer)

"I noted especially Alice Blumenfeld's fierce presence (her movements seem to arise from several feet beneath the ground)"
-Carolyn Merritt (*Thinking Dance*)



José Moreno – musician

We work in a flexible, community-based model. Specific collaborators and specialists are brought in for different projects to best explore and express the themes of a work. This allows for fresh ideas and we build rapport by working repeatedly with the same artists, developing cohesion, artistry, and relationships.



Marija Temo – composer & musician

COLLABORATORS & PARTNERS



Felise Bagley – dramaturg & choreographer

In order to best serve the community, we partner with the Julia de Burgos Cultural Arts Center, the Center for Arts Inspired Learning, Music Box Cleveland, the Beachland Ballroom, and the Akron Civic Theatre to share flamenco with audiences in NE Ohio. We collaborate with many high-caliber artists from Ohio and across the U.S.

Dominick Farinacci – composer & musician





We offer a broad array of customizable community engagement activities led by the Artistic Director or company members & collaborators. Engagement activities deepen audience relationships to flamenco and our work.

masterclasses

These introduce audiences and students to flamenco music and dance. Classes can be suited to any level of dancer, from novice to professional and/or tailored to connect dancers/musicians of other genres to flamenco.

workshops

Workshops dig deeper into flamenco. We have experience working with diverse groups; including at-risk youth, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and students ranging from elementary to college-aged and we can tailor workshops to fit a community's needs.

lecture-demonstrations

These lively, narrated programs offer audiences of all ages an in-depth cultural experience, learning flamenco's history and the various cultures and musical elements present in the form. The dancers and musicians illustrate the nuances of the flamenco styles to help viewers appreciate the form. Audience participation occurs throughout the performance and audience members are invited onstage to learn and perform a short flamenco sequence.

pre- & post show talks

These offer audiences context and in-depth knowledge of flamenco, and a glimpse into our creative process.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONGOING PROGRAMS

Our on going community programs and annual events include our apprentice performing company, En Camino; our school for kids & adults in Cleveland; arts education for K-12 & universities; our multi-disciplinary arts therapy workshops titled the Soleá Project; an annual community flashmob; annual student recital; and our annual free community celebration – Feria de Cleveland.



En Camino



Arts Education



The Soleá Project



Flamenco school

FROM STUDENTS

"Thank you SO very, very much for bringing your artistry to our students in the wonderful presentation and class. The students truly enjoyed participating and it was thrilling to see them so excited. I loved seeing their energy and the smiles on their faces and the many olé's!" — Karen Potter (Chair of the Dance Department, Case Western Reserve University)

"I get so much more out of listening to flamenco now, I never appreciated the full range of flamenco repertory before."
— Zoom flamenco studies student

"That was a fantastic workshop today. Weaving a taste of technique with personal excavation, all informed by tradition, cultural history, and flamenco as an agent of social change."
— Alex MacDonald (professional tap dancer & Fulbright Scholar)

"You've inspired me! I really like your style of teaching, demonstrating, talking through, a little practice, more words, repetition, lots of opportunities to ask questions...It's so clear that you love the art form and want to share your knowledge and love of it."
— Zoom flamenco student

"WOW! There are no words to express our gratitude for your teaching these past two days. It truly was an amazing experience for the students and the teachers! There were so many students who said they really enjoyed your class and dancing...this is a VERY high compliment from high school students. Thank you for being willing to work with us and to provide us with an experience that I know the students will keep with them forever."
— Amy (Spanish teacher at Shaker Heights High School)

IMPACT

Every year, we reach thousands of students through our arts education programs in K-12 schools, helping schools reach Ohio State Learning Standards in subjects as diverse as mathematics and social-emotional learning.

Our performances in theaters have won multiple awards and continue to be at the forefront of flamenco in the United States.

Free performances at local festivals and events bring flamenco to underprivileged communities across NE Ohio, serving thousands of Ohioans.

In Higher Education, we reach hundreds of students every year in Ohio Universities, bringing first-hand cultural experiences to their studies.



BOARD MEMBERS



Dmitriy Berkovich



La Romera



Robert Cabrera



Alice Blumenfeld

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