



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 1, 2003

contact: Christel Libiot
Administrator, East Coast Sage Circle
info@ecsagecircle.org, or 301-372-8718

WILD ANCIENT TRANCE-DANCES OFFER PEACE TO MODERN WOMEN

In the ancient days of Magna Graecia, the wild Bacchantes danced to be healed of emotional anguish, unrequited love, and social repression. Today, their descendants' ritual dances continue to heal modern women's experiences of stress, depression and angst.

And on October 12, at Gaia Healing Center in Mt. Airy, MD, internationally-known actress/ singer/ dancer/ percussionist Alessandra Belloni will lead 30 women through the steps of this ancient Southern Italian ritual of release. The event, hosted by the East Coast Sage Circle, includes two workshops: one on ritual dance (for women only), followed by dinner and an open drumming circle in the Southern Italian tradition. The dinner and drumming circle are open to both women and men.

Born in Rome, Alessandra Belloni is the only woman in the U.S. and Italy who specializes in ritual Southern Italian folk dance and percussion. Trained by the legendary Italian percussionist Alfio Antico, she has spent the last 20 summers participating in traditional drumming festivals honoring the Black Madonna in remote areas of Southern Italy.

She recently released her newest CD "Tarantata: The Dance of Ancient Spider" (on the Soundstrue label). For her achievements in music and theatre, she has received the Award for Italian American Woman of the Year in 1996 and the Community Arts Project Award from Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. She is the Company's director, writer and lead performer of folk operas, including "The Dance of the Ancient Spider" and "La Lupa".

Ms. Belloni has taught worldwide, and this is her first visit to the Mount Airy area. Space is limited, and signup is already underway. Registration for the general public is \$60 per workshop and \$100 for both (women only, dinner included). Students are offered a discounted rate of \$30 per workshop, \$55 for both (women only, dinner included).

For more information, and for the downloadable registration form, contact Christel Libiot (christel1@att.net, or 301-372-8718). For information about Alessandra Belloni, see her website, <http://www.alessandrabelloni.com/>.

- END -