



Jennifer Tehani Sarreal

tehani@spiritdancer.org • www.JenniferTehaniSarreal.com

BIO Jennifer Tehani Sarreal M.A. is a former world champion dancer, higher education professional, published writer, ethnographer, applied anthropologist specializing in ethnographic research methods and social emotional arts facilitator dedicated to bringing understanding, humanity and empowerment to the world through her work. She has performed, presented and lectured in over a dozen countries.

Sarreal's presentations, lectures and workshops have been held at museums, institutions, libraries and theaters around the world including: MoLAA (Museum of Latin American Art), the Skirball Museum of Los Angeles, A Window Between Worlds' Survivors Art Circle, rumPUREE world dance studio in Thailand, women's survivor groups in Tamil Nadu (India), and the Covarrubias Theater at UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) in Mexico City. She incorporates her background in Applied Biocultural Anthropology (CSU Long Beach & Oregon State University), Social Emotional Arts (UCLA), continuing study and professional experience in performance and education to facilitate programs that promote an awareness and cultural sensitivity that transform appropriating cultures to honoring them through the education and cross-cultural sharing that foster respectful understanding.

She has taught both world performance arts (CSULB) and cultural anthropology (OSU) at the university level, created and presented full-day professional development workshops for K-12 educators at the Skirball's "Teaching Our World Through the Arts" series, invited to lecture at the B.E.S.T. Arts Conference 2016 and has presented world dance educational programs at Southern Californian libraries in Los Angeles, Inland Empire and Orange Counties over the past decade. Sarreal is the creator of the Spirit Dance Project, a series of evidence-based, trauma-informed/trauma-specific somatic SEPA (social emotional performance arts) programs based on world dance, world music, global restorative movement practices/wellness practices and continuing research. These programs have been facilitated at the world-famous Wayfarer's Chapel in Palos Verdes, the Michelle Obama Library in Long Beach and wellness centers all over Southern California. As of 2019, Spirit Dance programming has been facilitated for community-based organizations, arts institutions and community colleges in the Pacific Northwest. She was accepted into the Somatic Movement Arts Festival as faculty to present her Spirit Dance & Drum program and international experience as a practitioner of sacred world dance. She was ranked as a "Top Pro" on Thumbtack.com as an independent wellness provider in the top 3% of all service providers in the company for three consecutive years 2016-2018.

Tehani's work in world performance art and education has been featured in various publications and broadcast media including The Press Telegram, The Orange County Register, OCWeekly, La Jornada (Mexico) and ABS-CBN (Philippines). Sarreal was nominated by CSULB for the Long Beach Arts Council's Distinguished Artist of the Year Award, danced at the global World March for Peace & Nonviolence (preceding prominent activists Dolores Huerta and Martin Sheen) and highlighted in San Pedro's Random Lengths News "Change Agent Series" for her work as an activist. She was a former Board Member of the Cultural Alliance of Long Beach (CALB), the creator of the Artist's Feast community micro-grant program and the founder/director of the "Artists for Action" showcase & community forum (a fiscally sponsored project of Catalyst Network of Communities, a non-profit organization). She has become a partner and awardee of the Veterans in the Arts California Arts Council grant through the Arts Council of Long Beach to serve the veteran community.

She holds a Master's degree in Applied Anthropology from Oregon State University, with an integrated minor in Ethnographic Writing. Her research focuses on ethnographic methods, the phenomenology of movement-induced trance and revisioning dance annotation through an ethnographic lens. She has created Ethnographic Dance Annotation (2022) as a visual template for ethnographically-sourced data and to provide accommodation for broader definitions of cultural and phenomenological dance. She was a collaborator with the UpLift Lab OSU where here decolonizing research in dance anthropology challenged the ways in which medical anthropologists view and represent the body in motion. She has copyedited for a multidisciplinary refereed journal in biocultural anthropology and intends to complete her MFA in creative nonfiction.

Education & Certifications

Master of Arts in Applied Anthropology & Minor in Ethnographic Writing, Oregon State University • 2022
Graduate Certificate in College and University Teaching (GCCUT), Oregon State University • 2019
CITI Certification • 2020
Social Emotional Arts Facilitator Training, UCLArts & Healing • 2016
Trauma Informed Care Certification, Trauma Informed Oregon • 2020
De-Escalation Training for Community-Based Work, Multnomah County Oregon • 2022
Prevention Training Certification, Sexual Assault Task Force Oregon • 2021
Certificate in Cultural Sensitivity, Unite for Sight's Global Health University • 2022
Orange Media Network KBVR 88.7FM DJ & Podcast Media Training • 2021
Beat the Odds Drumming Facilitator Certification, REMO and UCLArts & Healing • 2015
Human Relations Education Facilitator Certification, National Conference for Community and Justice • 2005
Bachelor of Arts in Cultural Anthropology, California State University Long Beach • 2006

Awards & Honors

Top Pro with Thumbtack, Top 3% of All Independent Service Providers in National Company • 2016-2018
Arts Council for Long Beach Veterans in the Arts California Arts Council Grant Partner & Awardee • 2018
Long Beach Arts Council Distinguished Artist of the Year Nomination. Long Beach, CA • 2009
Featured Activist in "Change Agent" Series, Random Lengths News. San Pedro, CA • 2012
Belly Dancer of the Universe Category Champion (& Congeniality Award Winner) • 2008
People's Choice, 1st Runner Up for Alternative Genre Star, "Gathering of the Stars" Texas • 2008
Queen of Miagao at Salakayan Festival (& Humanitarian Award). Miagao, Philippines • 2007
Laurel Scholarship, Department of Anthropology Oregon State University • 2018
CAG Grant Awardee, California Association for the Gifted • 2002

Published Work/Editing Highlights

Copy Editor Work for Birth: Issues in Perinatal Care, a multidisciplinary refereed journal • 2022
Falling Inward: Ecstatic Dance & Recording the Ephemeral, Scholars Archive OSU • 2022
"A Story in Exile," Random Lengths News, San Pedro CA newspaper • 2013
"Sacred Source Origin Dance Series," The Chronicles, world dance magazine • 2007

Teaching Highlights

Oregon State University. Cultural Anthropology Anth210 Courses • 2018-2021
Skirball Museum. Professional Development Workshop for K-12 Educators in LAUSD • 2016
California State University Long Beach. Club Sports Instructor & Dance Team Coach • 2014-2016
rumPUREE World Dance Studio. Thailand. Polynesian Dance Master Workshop • 2010
Marlborough School. Beverly Hills, CA. World Dance and Ballroom Dance Courses • 2014-2017
A Window Between Worlds. Venice, CA. Survivor's Spirit Dance Project Workshops • 2015
The Arc of San Diego. San Diego, CA. IDD Dance & Culture Enrichment Classes • 2005-2007

Performance & Presentation Highlights

"Miguel Covarrubias," Show by Gregorio Luke, CECUT & UNAM, Mexico • 2014 & 2015
"Mayan Jazz Opera," MoLAA Museum of Latin American Art • 2013
"Glimpse of the Pacific," Skirball Museum and Cultural Center Los Angeles • 2007
"Barrio Blind" Written & Performed for the Miles Playhouse in Santa Monica, CA • 2015
"A Hula for Dad," Historic International World March for Peace and Nonviolence • 2009
"Move Your World" Multicultural Dance Program, Los Angeles & Orange County Libraries • 2007-2017

Skills

University-level teaching, ATLAS.ti, Dedoose, LaTeX, R statistics, Ethnographic evaluation, Evidence-based program design/facilitation, Grant writing, Social emotional arts, Professional development, De-escalation, Multicultural programming, Applied biocultural anthropology, Academic copyediting, Writing, Spanish, ASL