

## meaningful movement

**PERFORMANCE** It's not easy to describe the work of "storydancer" Zuleikha. Her performances, filled with spirit, humor, and creativity, are a pastiche of dance forms and musical genres, of theatrical expression and storytelling. She's created an art form that's entirely her own, and she's been enchanting audiences in her hometown of Santa Fe and around the world for years.

On October 4, Zuleikha—whose influences range from the Kathak style of dance to Eastern classical song—will appear in *The Rumi Concert* at the Lensic Performing Arts Center in collaboration with poet Coleman Barks, cellist David Darling, and percussionist Glen Velez. The evening ends, as it has for a decade, with Zuleikha—clad in flowing white robes, her arms extended—captivating viewers as she spins, dervish-like, to Barks reading 13th-century Persian poet Rumi's transcendent verses.

Although she's best known for her storydancing, Zuleikha is highly regarded as a teacher and wellness educator. Having studied, taught, or performed music and dance in San Francisco, Afghanistan, Bali, and Japan, she uses the art of movement to foster creativity, adaptability, and healing. Zuleikha is the founder and director of the nonprofit organization The Storydancer Project, which serves children and adults who are recovering from physical and mental illnesses or facing other challenging life circumstances, and she is the creator of Take a Minute for Your Life, a simple exercise program that increases vitality and resilience. In 2005, Zuleikha received the Humanitarian Award from the journal *Pediatric Nursing* for her global work with women and children, and in 2010 she received the Images and Voices of Hope Media Award for outstanding work promoting positive personal and social change.

For Zuleikha, movement is the key to unlocking well-being across cultures for all ages. "My Take a Minute for Your Life core wellness exercises is a foundation for the expression of wellness," she says. "It allows for a new outlook in body, mind, and spirit, opening the doors to self-esteem and insightful leadership, and it's a vehicle for joy and greater well-being in the midst of life's challenges." For tickets to the October 4 performance of *The Rumi Concert*, visit [lensic.org](http://lensic.org) or call 505-988-1234.—Zélie Pollon



Storydancer and wellness educator Zuleikha performs in *The Rumi Concert* with cellist David Darling and percussionist Glen Velez.