

NEIGHBOURHOOD

Karen Benhamou-Ruimy

Karen Benhamou-Ruimy lived in Morocco, Arizona, Andalucia and Paris before settling in London. Once a successful financial broker, she risked it all to devote time to her biggest passions: music and dance. Benhamou-Ruimy now juggles many titles, including dancer, charity-worker and writer, with her first book, *The Angel's Metamorphosis*, recently published in the UK. She lives with her husband and three children in central London.



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• **WHERE DO YOU LIVE AND WHY?**

I live in Belgravia. It's a beautiful area of London. My husband chose to live in London for the amazing vitality of the financial business and the English way of life. I moved from Paris four years ago and finally feel really at home here.

• **WHAT MAKES LONDON HOME?**

My children go to school here and love living here. My house and my studio are in London, as well as many of my future projects. I really enjoy the spirit and the freedom of the creative people in the UK.

• **AND YOUR HOME FROM HOME?**

Beautiful Paris! I spent most of my life there and I know the city like a taxi driver. It's such a poetic city, but edgy too.

• **YOU ARE HOSTING A DINNER PARTY – WHERE IS YOUR FIRST STOP?**

If it's a party at home, we buy great food at Le Pascalou on the Fulham Road and flowers from Scarlet and Violet in Kensal Rise. If it's a party in a restaurant we usually go for the incredible food at Zuma or Nobu. All of my French friends can't wait to eat there when they're in town.

• **WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO FLAMENCO DANCING?**

I was born in Morocco and spent a long time in Andalucía. Dancing is as familiar to me as breathing and flamenco is in my blood; it is simply a passion you can't explain. It is an integral part of me.

• **WHERE DO YOU PRACTICE?**

At Dance Attics, Pineapple or in my own studio.

• **WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER YOUR GREATEST WORK?**

My book on spirituality. It's a work of many years, and highlights the importance of our spiritual journey. The flamenco shows that I produced and danced in, *Flamenca Nueva* in Paris and *Flamenco Flamen'Ka* in London, are also very special to me.

• **WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST FLAW?**

Procrastination

• **IF YOU ONLY HAD AN HOUR LEFT ON EARTH, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?**

Dance flamenco with live musicians; dance and disappear.

• **TO YOU, WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN LIFE?**

Children, generosity of spirit, and understanding that the greatest gift to give them is letting them be who they really are. 