

# Rebekah West

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## Objective

Project or full time work focused on writing, producing, interviewing, and directing for live or media productions concentrating on arts, community, youth, and creativity.

## Qualifications

Strong set of talents and experience in writing, producing, interviewing, performance and visual arts, grant writing, public-private partnerships, arts-in-education, outreach programs, alliance-building, arts and creativity, and composing public stories from individual lives in live performance and television packages.

Valuable combination of creative and analytical skills: perceptive, organized, respectful, detail-oriented, deadline savvy, efficient, illuminates creativity of others, precise, intuitive, methodical, unconventional, responsive, responsible, visionary, practical, "multi-tasker", passionate, and focused.

## Education

**2006** M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies: Writing & Poetics and Visual Art, Naropa University  
**2005-2006** Fellowship. University of Colorado, Ctr. for Humanities & Arts *Powers of Wonder* Seminar  
**2005** Related internships: Denver Center Media and Eagle Ridge Media (hired on)  
**2001** Photography, Tony O'Brien, Santa Fe

## Experience

### **2001-present Video and Television Production, freelance**

- Converted eighteen interviews/contacts on the sacred in the ordinary into green lights with the Hallmark Channel's *New Morning Show* so far this year. (2006, Contract: Eagle Ridge Media)
- Offered a screening date by the Boulder Public Library Office of Culture and Arts for three original short films included in *queen beat in the honey jive*. Funded by Library & Arts Commission. (2006)
- Contributed central water film to Kirsten Wilson's *Rocks, Karma, Arrows* to engage in public dialogue about Boulder's murky history of privilege, manipulation, and misuse of power. (2006)
- Garnered multi-year funding for *As the Crow Flies*, an elder-youth dance project, with a documentary of their second year's process. (2005)
- Received public and private funds to develop a video artist profile, *A Life Lived in Music*, which aired on Boulder's Channel 54, and to shoot three more. (2004)

Screenwriting, pre-production, budgeting, grant writing, transcription, mini-dv and community studio cameras, post-production (editing/Final Cut, Photoshop), interviewing, lighting, production assistance, adaptation, story development, rewriting, pitching, web content design, graphics, research. (QT clip reel can be posted)

### **1990-2000 Producing Artistic Director, Boulder Dance Alliance/Space for Dance Theatre**

- Served over a million people in ten years through space, services, publications, and events.
- Produced, funded, developed, and sold out hundreds of live performances.
- Managed a \$250,000 budget and part time staff of four while sustaining this non-profit in the black.
- Adeptly transformed five deteriorating urban spaces into vibrant theatres. (profile available)
- Deftly balanced public-private partnership with City of Boulder.
- Activated and cultivated Boulder dance hub by identifying, analyzing, and providing creative solutions to challenges common to dance professionals and the community. (previews available)
- Initiated highly attended public events solo and in collaboration with other groups and institutions, some of which are still going strong six years after the organization's closure.

### 1988-present **Writer/Editor/Publisher** freelance

- Selected as contributing writer to *Embodied Poetics*, Naropa University MFA performance department. *Discourse*. (2006)
- Merited transcription of Chilean poet Cecilia Vicuña public talk in Anne Waldman's upcoming anthology through effective transcription and edit of Allen Ginsburg talk for *Transmissions*. (2006)
- Internationally presented the work of 126 established and emerging writers as co-editor of *Transmissions*, Naropa University Summer Writing Program Magazine. (2005)
- Effectively introduced readers to local dance scene, studios, and retail businesses through article and photograph in the Colorado Daily. (2002, tear sheet available)
- Connected disparate dance community through "dance activism" in dance newspaper. (1991-1994)
- Established bassist Dean Peer as a writing expert on bass harmonics by ghost writing an article for Bass Player Magazine (1990) and creating a handsome and informative bass harmonics book produced and edited at self-started High House Publishing, which later attracted Warner Brothers to retool and distribute it internationally. (1988)

### 2001-present **Photographer** freelance

- Professional theatrical, dance, headshots, portraiture, and commercial. (2001-present, see web portfolio)
- Hired to photograph Mayor (and son) and Boulder Public Library Commissioners for tens of thousands of READ program posters, bus signs, calendars, and newspaper inserts. (2006, tear sheets available)
- Established use of new black and white dark room at Naropa University. (2004-2006)
- Won placement in juried and solo photography exhibits in New Mexico, New York City, Washington DC, and several in Colorado. (2002-2006, review available)
- Awarded funding for fine art photography from public and private granting agencies. (2001-2005)
- Earned mentorship from Time/Life photographer Tony O'Brien. (2001)

### 1980's-present **Director** freelance

- Professional and grant-funded freelance career as choreographer: self-producing, commissions, musical theatre, fashion, rock, and guest choreographer. (1980's-present, reviews available)
- Translated theatrical directing and photography to cinema shorts (narrative, dance, art, profile, and adaptation), three of which will premiere in December. (2001-2006)
- As guest artist, served dozens of schools and pre-professional programs including National Dance Institute-NM, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Youth Ballet Colorado by directing, inspiring, and introducing students to their creative resources through a number of artistic genres. (1995-2005)
- Chosen to direct the premiere of a new play at the University of Colorado at Denver. *Oriel 55* by Kristina Pitt. (2004, review available)
- Initiated Core Acting workshops for youth with Colorado Shakespeare Festival's Melinda J. Scott. (2003)
- Revitalized Boulder Conservatory Theatre company: tripled youth involvement, which stimulated community interaction, audience building, and funding. (2000-2002)
- Created and cultivated Youth Arts Institute for the Colorado Dance Festival effectively combining the talents of international and local teachers with aspiring teen performers. (1999-2000, previews & testimonials available)

## Honors

Received numerous local, county, and state grants for quality art. (1984-present)  
Graduate honors scholarship (Naropa University) and fellowship (University of Colorado). (2005-2006)  
Nominated for a Colorado Governor's Award for Excellence in the Arts. (1999)  
Awarded Best of Boulder awards. *Boulder Daily Camera*. (1992, 1993, 1996)

## References

Jon Clark	Eagle Ridge Media	303.722.9000
Chad Herschberger	Denver Center Media	303.572.4477
Laura Cuetara	University of Colorado at Denver	720-560-1547
Donna Gartenmann	Boulder Public Library Office of Culture and Arts	303.441.4113
Alison Moore	Boulder County Arts Alliance	303.447.2422
Melinda J. Scott	Colorado Shakespeare Festival	303.492.1973
Kirsten Wilson	Performance Artist	917.575.7609

**Full CV available. Website is under reconstruction; please visit [www.rebekahwest.com/](http://www.rebekahwest.com/)**