

ContributorsHolly Fairbank

Born 1953, Boston, Massachusetts, B.A. (Sarah Lawrence College), completing M.A. degree in dance education at New York University. Director and choreographer of Holly Fairbank & Dancers, a New York based experimental dance/theater company, founded in 1979. Has been a member of several contemporary dance companies including Mel Wong & Dance Co., and has toured the U.S.S.R. with the New York Dance Quartet. She has been invited by the Chinese Minister of Culture in the fall of 1983 to study at the Peking Dance Academy and to conduct research on the preservation of the Minority dances in the People's Republic of China.

Nancy Frishberg

Born November, 1948, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Received her A.B. (with honors) in linguistics from the University of California (Berkeley), M.A. and Ph.D. in linguistics from the University of California (San Diego). She holds the Comprehensive Skills Certificate in interpreting from the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf, and the Comprehensive Permanent Certificate in sign language teaching from the Sign Instructors Guidance Network (SIGN) of the National Association of the Deaf. She serves as a member of the National Evaluation team for SIGN as well. Dr. Frishberg has been a member of the faculty at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (1973-75), Hampshire College (1975-79), and New York University (1978-80). She has done field work on Navajo, and on sign languages in the U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Ghana, and Brazil. Dr. Frishberg currently is a consultant in sign language and interpreting. Publications: Chapter Three IN Klima and Bellugi, Signs of Language, 1979, Harvard U. Press, Cambridge, Ma.; "Culture and Code" IN Peng, Sign Language in Man and Ape, Westview; currently preparing articles on the topics "Interpreting", "Home Signs", "Puerto Rican Sign Language", and "Ghanaian Sign Language" for the Encyclopedia of Deafness and Deaf People.

Diana Hart-Johnson

Born 1952, Lansing, Michigan. B.F.A. (Juilliard), recently completing M.A. degree in anthropology of human movement at New York University. Has been soloist with Martha Graham Dance Company (1973-1978) and Assistant Professor of Dance at University of Massachusetts, Amherst (1978-79). Has also been guest artist in residence at several colleges and Universities, including University of Wisconsin (Madison), Ithaca College (New York) and Interlochen Arts Academy. She has completed interpreter training program at Stony Brook (Long Island) with Dr. Nancy Frishberg and is proficient (4th level NYSD) in American Sign Language. Major focus of interest is in comparisons of ASL with American dance idioms.

Rajika Puri

Born 1945 in Tanzania, educated in India; B.A. (New Delhi University), has completed Master's Thesis in anthropology of human movement at New York University. Rajika is an internationally known performer and teacher of three idioms of Indian Classical Dance: Bharata Natyam, Odissi and Kuchipudi and she is a reviewer for India Today. She is particularly interested in the making of meaning and the use of gesture from a semantic anthropological point of view. Among others, a major article dealing with this subject is 'Polysemy and Homonymy and the Mudra 'Shikhara': Multiple Meaning and the Use of Gesture', JASHM, 1(4), 1981.