

ContributorsBrenda Farnell

Born September, 1948, Kingston-Upon-Hull, United Kingdom. Teaching Diploma from I.M. Marsh College of Physical Education (Liverpool University); Advanced Diploma in Dance Education, Goldsmith's College (London University); M.A. in anthropology of human movement at New York University. Currently Ph.D. fellow in social and cultural anthropology at Indiana University (Bloomington), and teacher of Labanotation. Recently published 'Anthropology and Notation: Some theoretical considerations' (with D. Durr), paper presented at First International Congress on Movement Notation (Israel, 1984), and 'Two Sign Languages. A report on work in progress' in JASEM 3(1). Her major interests concern literacy and movement, and cross-cultural comparisons of signing systems, especially North American Indian sign languages.

Rajika Puri

Born September, 1945, educated in India. B.A. (Honours) in English Literature, Delhi University; M.A. in anthropology of human movement, New York University. Currently enrolled in Ph.D. program in social and cultural anthropology at the Department of Anthropology, New York University. Rajika is an internationally known performer and teacher of three idioms of Indian classical dance: Bharatanatyam, Odissi, and Kuchipudi, and has written many articles on Indian dance and theatre for magazines and journals in India, Europe and the U.S.A. She is particularly interested in the process of meaning making in the medium of movement, and in the relationship between the semantic content of body languages and the overall conceptual structures of the socio-cultural systems to which they belong. Recent articles include, 'The elementary units of an action sign system: the hasta or hand positions of Indian classical dance' in Semiotica (forthcoming), and 'The Interpretation of Abhinaya (mime) in Indian Dance: the communication of meaning in the medium of movement', paper presented to the Dance of India Conference, Centre for South Asian Studies, University of Toronto, April, 1985.

Drid Williams

Born October, 1928, Baker, Oregon. Completed three graduate degrees in Social Anthropology (Dip., B.Litt. and D. Phil.) from St. Hugh's College, Oxford between 1970 and 1976. Associate Professor and Director of a graduate program in the anthropology of human movement at New York University, and faculty editor for JASHM from 1979 to 1984. She is also the architect of a theory of human actions and movement called 'semasiology', and has just completed a book, Theories of the Dance: A Social Anthropologist's View. She is the author of numerous articles on the dance, liturgies, martial arts, etc., among which are 'The Arms and Hands, With Special Reference to an Anglo-Saxon Sign System', Semiotica, 21(1/2), 1977, and 'Semasiology: A Semantic Anthropological View of Human Actions and Movement', in Semantic Anthropology, (ASA 22), D. Parkin (ed.), Academic Press, London and New York. At present she is completing a masters in library science at Indiana University (Bloomington), lecturing for the ISISSS conference, 1985, and teaching introductory courses in social anthropology at Indiana University,