

A portrait of Patricia Bruce, a woman with long, wavy brown hair, smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a white, ruffled-collared top. The background is a plain, light color.

BIO

PATRICIA (TRIX) BRUCE

Patricia Bruce, Trix for short, is known nationwide as both a workshop presenter and an American Sign Language performer. Involved in the performing arts since 1980, her work has been warmly received everywhere. Trix loves interacting with lively audiences, sharing her experiences and exploring storytelling, poetry and songs in ASL.

While she is known as the widely popular teacher of ASL storytelling and interpretation, only a few know of the struggles she has endured to get where she is today. Profoundly deaf since she was 6 months old, Trix attended oral and mainstreaming schools. She also attended deaf classes as well as online educational programs. During high school, she played the role of Helen Keller and fell in love with Drama.

After completing her college program, she became involved with interpreter training. Trix's main area of study has been ASL Linguistics with a focus on ASL Storytelling. She is an approved sponsor for the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf Certificate Maintenance Program and has also developed the popular www.TrixBruce.com website.

Whether writing, creating, improvising, or starring in her many productions, Trix's passion for the dramatic arts shines through. All she asks from her audience is to sit back, relax and enjoy as she "welcomes you into her world."





Trix's ASL workshops are provided for anyone especially ASL participants and working interpreters who wish to improve their understanding of ASL and gain in their receptive/expressive skills. Trix holds a Professional Level Certification under ASLTA organization. Trix's ASL Workshop is RID Approved Sponsor.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

"Face-Painting" with Non-Manual Signals in ASL (6 hours)

Non-manual signals (NMS) in American Sign Language enrich and clarify the meaning of manual signs. Come and learn that art of painting your face with a full spectrum of NMS colors and designs.

Non-Manual Signals include: 1) Non-Manual Adverbs 2) Lexical Non-Manual Behaviors 3) Non-Manual Grammatical Markers 4) Emotional States / Evaluative judgments 5) Prosodic Structure 6) Discourse Structure 7) Turn Taking 8) Backchannel Feedback 9) Grammatical "Sound" Markers, and 10) Mouth Movements.

This workshop will focus on developing accurate non-manual signals and markers as used in ASL. Demonstrations of each category of facial behaviors and head movements will be shown in context. Practice exercises will be offered. By the end of this workshop, you'll be an artist!

VISUALIZE THIS: Drawing in Space With ASL Classifiers (6 hours)

As a native English speaker you work within a linear language, but ASL uses space and movement through classifiers to show a visual picture. When using Classifiers, are you able to clearly portray the English message into ASL? Do you know how to clearly show a car accident, a Lasik eye surgery, or a gymnast going through their routines? This workshop provides participants with an overview of using Classifiers, by focusing on what they mean, when to use them and how they are used. Participants will explore various classifiers to express a visual picture breaking away from English words to translate ideas visually. This workshop strongly focuses on ASL storytelling, ASL performing, and ideas on how to use the appropriate handshape to show a clearer picture of the context involved.

This workshop will also provide hands-on experiences & skill building activities needed for appropriate classifier use applied to complex descriptions and images. Complicated & confusing pictures, eye gaze, role shifting, spatial referencing and appropriate use of classifiers in storytelling will also be presented. Emphasis is placed on developing the ability to think in pictures as a way to improve expressive and receptive communication skills.

Creative ASL Cookbook: Recipes for ASL Performances (6 hours)

Come stir up something visually delicious! Learn how to put ASL ingredients together to serve a banquet for the eyes. Let's cook up a story in ASL, using some new ideas to give ASL storytelling more flavor and appeal.

This workshop will focus on ASL storytelling techniques for:

- * Developing story characters
- * Using role shift, eye gaze, and spatial referencing
- * Employing classifiers more effectively
- * Applying grammar, expression, and appropriate signing speed
- * Performing the construction of 3-D structural images
- * Utilizing ASL grammar to indicate "sounds"
- * Comparing ASL storytelling and ASL discourse

Participants will have hands-on practice with the material presented in the workshop, and will receive feedback on their ASL performance exercises.



ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS: Whoa! Train Zoom Gone. Did You See What She Signed? What did she mean by that and how can I say it in English? (6 hours)

English Equivalents help the student take signs that do not have just one translation in English and help the participant become aware of idiomatic English translations along with some technical vocabulary associated with particular signs. English Equivalents in ASL will help you confidently continue the flow of information exchange from ASL to English and from English to ASL.

ASL Role Shifting: "He Said, She Said..." (3 hours)

Role-Shifting is so much more than that being narrator. Become the role of different people to tell the story! It is important for the audience to tell which character is speaking! The workshop will focus on ASL storytelling techniques for: 1) developing story characters, 2) using role shift, eye gaze, and spatial referencing 3) identifying speakers, shifting between speakers, and matching speakers' affect, and 4) understanding the difference between the storytelling and discourse. Participants will have hands-on practice with the material presented in the workshop, and will receive feedback on their ASL performance exercises.

English Idioms: PSST...How Do You Interpret That? (3 hours)

This workshop is a challenge! The idioms are crawling into your ears! Let your hands, gesture, and facial expression fire up! This workshop will give you several demonstrations on how to interpret several idioms. You cannot make up your mind whether or not to attend this workshop. You are straddling the fence! Come On! Tell your brain "YES" - do not get one's wires crossed! See you there!

ASL SEMANTICS: Precision of Expression in ASL (3 hours)

Semantics is defined as the study of meanings expressed by the elements of a language or a combination of the elements. A concept expressed in an ASL sign often cannot be conveyed by a single all-purpose English word. Likewise, English words and phrases may have variations in meaning, which require translations using different ASL signs. This workshop helps the student advance skills in translating the languages of ASL and English.

Trix Upon A Time: An ASL Storytelling Handbook (2-4 hours)

Create your own visual storytelling! Brainstorm the steps needed to put a story together. List all the details of the play that affect the body's senses (vision, sound, smell, taste, and touch). Imagine yourself as a member of the audience (both deaf & hearing). What do they really want to see? Exercises that help you learn how to make clearer body language, gesture, and signs. Finalizing the story and narration in ASL. Participants will learn the following aspects of ASL Storytelling: Role Shifting, Eye Gazing, Characterization, Classifier Usage, Building a story in ASL.

Trix's ASL Toolkit for Number Incorporation (3 hours)

This workshop is provided for anyone who wishes to improve their American Sign Language skills focusing specifically on various number systems found in ASL. Trix's workshop presentation and your interaction with other participants will give you plenty of opportunities to improve your receptive and expressive sign skills. Trix's ASL Toolkit for Number Incorporation workshop will help you sign numbers related to sports and games, eye doctor appointments, mathematics classes, and award conferences, as well as countless other number-related situations. Come and learn!



Close-Up Views: Classifiers Under the Microscope (3 hours)

Get a close-up 3-D view of life under the microscope with classifiers. Clearly translate ideas from English to ASL with real objects and the human body as a focus of description. Zoom in on learning to use classifiers effectively.

ASL POETRY: Visual Art from the Heart (3 hours)

Let's express our joy or sadness in language. Trix takes you on this journey of images, metaphors, wisdom, humor, and joy. Participants will understand the techniques of: Signing Space, Prosodic Movements with Affect (Emotions), Language Play, Poetic use of ASL.

The Whats, Whys, & Hows of the Classifiers in ASL (2-4 hours)

English speaker, you work within a linear language, but ASL uses space and movement through classifiers to show a visual picture. When using Classifiers, are you able to clearly portray the English message into ASL? This workshop provides participants with an overview of using Classifiers, by focusing on what they mean, when to use them and how they are used. This workshop will also provide hands-on experiences & skill building activities needed for appropriate classifier use applied to complex descriptions and images.

Handshape Common Misuse: Really? Did I sign that? (3 hours)

The Handshape is probably the most apparent parameter of ASL. Linguists have identified a large number of discrete handshapes, which the signs are most look-like. Trix will demonstrate several categories that demonstrate various degrees of similarity for particular Handshapes, which can lead to misunderstandings. She will also show the proper application of palm orientation, location, and movement for the Handshapes.

Lexicalized Fingerspelling (3 hours)

It is a method of communication that is used in ASL for names, places, obscure or unknown signs. It could be useful in many situations during dialogue, conversation, or slang. ASL usually borrows words and signs from the English language and incorporates them in its sign vocabulary. Lex Fingerspelling is "like a word" or "word-like" as an independent unit. It describes the process of fingerspelling because the separate signs do seem become like one. Trix will demonstrate several examples of using fingerspelling during conversation, sentences, stories, etc.

Baby Signs in ASL (2-4 hours)

The purpose of this workshop is to introduce hearing parents, grandparents, day care providers and educators to the theories and benefits of teaching American Sign Language to the children in their care. Children too young aged 7 months to 2 years to speak are able to understand and respond using tactile modes of communication including facial expression, body language and hand gestures. Trix will offer specific techniques for working with ASL participants and suggest appropriate vocabulary. Ideas for using and practicing sign language at home will also be shared.



Trix's show includes multi-media animation, slides, video, sound effects combined with ASL, stories, poetry, comedy, etc. Her show incorporates all these elements using a laptop, LCD projector, and a sound system. Her show arrives with all the equipment and puts on a high-tech, professional show that captivates all comers from Deaf to Hearing.

PERFORMANCE SHOWS AVAILABLE

The Hearing World Around Me

Welcome to the World of Trix, and exciting true tales about life as a deaf person among the hearing. With Trix's stories, Awakening in the Wind, Notes Under The Door, and more, you will see her embarrassing moments, challenges, learning experiences, and a growing sense of pride. People with no clue what deafness is like will come to understand something about it while enjoying these true stories.

Tales of a Mad, Mad, Mad ASL World

Trix performs amazing feats of American Sign Language skill, thrives on audience interaction, and enjoys accepting artistic challenges. With her creative storytelling, she brings into play various handshapes, classifiers, 3-D representations, personification, role shifts, international sign, and more. Let Trix take you on a roller coaster ride through ASL poetry, storytelling, and folk tales.

A Handmade Treasury of Deaf Folktales

The heart and soul of Deaf culture is passed from generation to generation through sign language folktales, stories, jokes, puns, and other forms of cultural expression. As Trix weaves these tales into a performance, the audience will gain insight into the Deaf experience and the ways in which Deaf people view the world around them. These cultural gems help to explain Deaf identity, the beliefs of Deaf people, and often explain the ways in which Deaf people arrange their lives.

A Story Worth A Thousand Signs

As a poet, storyteller, presenter, and teacher, Trix pursues her dreams through performance. She tips her hat to audience members, who are following their own dreams. Trix draws her inspiration from the audience, encouraging people to become involved in the performance, with her. The Star Spangled Banner, The Silent Music Band Group, The Use of Handshape Storytelling, and more adventures will be performed by Trix and YOU! This show is excellent for the children's activities.

A NIGHT of Improv with Trix: WHOSE ASL IS IT?"

You've heard of the TV Show "Whose line is it anyway?" right? Now, it's coming to a stage near you, only this time it's in ASL! With no practice, no preparation, using different ideas from the audience, and using people from audience, Trix will captivate you with her impromptu mode of "ASL-libing" and a night of hearty laughter!

Feelin' The Sounds: Let Your Hands Do The Dance!

Trix brings you a show to remember as she blends her story-poems with sound effects and music. Her songs in sign language will dance their way into your heart. Trix lights up the stage with sign, stories, sound, dance, flash images, captioning, characters and video clips to awaken the poet in you. Along with voiceovers by Jenn Lee and sound effects designed by Kenan Pekoz, Trix will use sign language in ways that will delight your senses and touch your heart.