Patricia ("Trix") Bruce, who is Deaf, delightful and dynamic, is an extraordinary performing artist with a spirited audience-participation entertainment style. Drawing on her background in American Sign Language (ASL) Linguistics and a life of travel and adventure, Trix excels in hilarious true-to-life storytelling and impromptu, interactive ASL artistry. Diverse interests from business to stage performance led Trix to entrepreneurial success as an instructional presenter and sought-after entertainer. Trix is also an approved sponsor for the RID Certificate Maintenance Program. Enthusiastic audiences all across America celebrate Trix Bruce!

To learn more about Trix Bruce, check out her website.

Trix's show includes multi-media animation, slides, video, sound effects combined with ASL, stories, poetry, and comedy. Trix brings a laptop, LCD projector, and a sound system and puts on a high-tech, professional show that captivates all comers, both Deaf and Hearing.

# WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

***Excellent for Interpreters, ASL Students***

## *"Face-Painting" with Non-Manual Signals in ASL*

Non-manual signals (NMS) in American Sign Language enrich and clarify the meaning of manual signs. Come and learn the 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*

As a native English speaker, you work within a linear language, but American Sign Language (ASL) uses space, movement, classifiers and layers to show visual pictures. Would you like to learn how to quickly and artistically convey an English message in ASL? Come to this workshop to learn how. Show a car accident, Lasik eye surgery, or a gymnast, using classifiers. Participants will explore how to translate ideas visually. This workshop strongly focuses on ASL storytelling and ASL performing. Hands-on experiences & skill building activities will clarify eye gaze, role shifting, and spatial referencing. Emphasis is placed on developing the ability to think in pictures as a way to improve expressive and receptive communication skills.

## *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?*

English Equivalents is a powerful workshop that will guide participants in finding ways to express idiomatic translations from American Sign Language (ASL) to English, and from English to ASL. Many signs are complex and not easy to translate. This workshop will give you the skill to get your ideas across, no matter how idiomatic or technical the original expression. 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…"*

Role-Shifting is so much more than just narrating! Tell stories by becoming the characters. It is important for the audience to tell which character is speaking, and you can learn to do that in this workshop, which focuses on ASL storytelling techniques for: 1) developing story characters, 2) role shifting, 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?*

Fire up your creativity and learn how to interpret idioms in American Sign Language! This workshop will guide participants in expressing idiomatic concepts across languages. Idioms breathe life into language. Come and join us as we master idioms!

## *ASL SEMANTICS: Precision of Expression in ASL*

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.

## *What's your TAKE on ASL Semantics? TAKE a Look and TAKE Home a Big TAKE*

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 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. This workshop focuses on the word "TAKE".

## *ASL Extreme Makeovers: The Art of Personification*

Learn how to "change yourself" into someone or something else. In literature, the technique of "personification" gives an inanimate object, a plant, or animal characteristics that make it seem "human". The object shows emotions and takes on person-like behaviors. You can use this technique in American Sign Language to "become" a flower, butterfly, or even a book! Trix will demonstrate how to personify characters and shift roles within your story. You'll learn how to "become" a baseball, basketball, beach ball, bowling ball, football, marble, ping pong ball, racquetball, soccer ball, water polo ball, and more!

## *Voice Interpreting with Trix: "Psst…Did I say that right?"*

Whoops! What did I say? Review and re-do in an atmosphere of support and good humor by joining this confidence-building workshop. Boost your professional skills while you have fun rambling through Trix's stories. Get ready for power voice interpreting with Trix's fun workshop!

## *Visible Words: The Art of Storytelling With Classifiers*

Let's create better visual imagery with ASL classifiers! Maybe you've wondered: Are there any new classifiers? Which classifiers best express certain ideas? How can we use classifiers most effectively? ASL classifiers are simply handshapes used to convey action and ideas in concise and visually articulate ways. Let's polish our storytelling by improving visual imagery with classifiers. This workshop will offer hands-on practice in using classifier handshapes with creativity and precision. Move away from thinking in English and stringing signs together. Let handshapes tell the story!

## *A Classifier is Born!*

Some people believe in limiting language creativity, but world-wide and throughout history, languages have emerged and evolved through communication and storytelling. When a unique predicate classifier is created within a story, and ASL users adopt it naturally, a new classifier is born. Come to this workshop to see the process in action.

## *Close-Up Views: Classifiers Under the Microscope*

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.

## *Trix's ASL Toolkit for Number Incorporation*

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!

## *Handshape Clarity: Really? Did I sign that?*

Handshapes are a vital American Sign Language (ASL) parameter. Linguists have identified a large number of discrete handshapes. Trix will demonstrate how to use these particular handshapes most effectively, fine-tuning nuances and associated palm orientations, locations, and movement.

## ***Excellent for ASL Students***

## *Trix Upon A Time: An ASL Storytelling Handbook*

Create your own visual storytelling! Participants in this exciting workshop will brainstorm the steps needed to put a story together, list associated sensory impressions, and use Role Shifting, Eye Gaze, Characterization, and Classifiers to build compelling ASL stories.

## *Creative ASL Cookbook: Recipes for ASL Performances*

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: 1) Developing story characters 2) Using role shift, eye gaze, and spatial referencing 3) Employing classifiers more effectively 4) Applying grammar, expression, and appropriate signing speed 5) Constructing 3-D structural images 6) Utilizing ASL grammar to indicate "sounds" AND 7) 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.

### *Whats, Whys, & Hows of the Classifiers in ASL*

Could you use some friendly tips in the use of Classifiers? Sure, you could! Join us as we focus on the meaning of Classifiers in context. This workshop will provide hands-on experiences & skill-building activities with complex visual descriptions and images.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

### *SIGNS GONE WRONG: ASL BLOOPERS*

Over the years, interpreters, students and teachers have shared with Trix some of the unintentionally funny things they've signed. We've all had this kind of experience. Let's help each other make it through as we laugh at our ASL bloopers!

### *ASL POETRY: Visual Art from the Heart*

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

***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.

***THE DEAF WOMAN'S SECRET OF SUCCESS: JUST BE YOURSELF!*** It's a Deaf woman's world! Aspiring women who want to increase their awareness and nurture their talents will enjoy this seminar. Deaf businesswoman Trix Bruce brings you a workshop showing you how she put her mind to developing a business that was after her heart. Trix's presentation will get you thinking about how your own ideas can help you build a successful business. Trix discovered a path to her successful career and her tips will help you develop as a Deaf female role model. If you are a Deaf woman with a vision, Trix will encourage you to make that climb and get to the top! Be proud of your talents, your accomplishments, and your forward-looking goals.

### *"Can Do It!" Attitude*

Trix's life experiences and hard-won wisdom fuel her successful business. Energize your drive to success as you learn to advance your career with education, opportunity, and a "Can-Do-It!" attitude. Presenting practical outlines for Deaf and hearing people, enhancing individual achievement as well as teamwork, Trix guides you towards greater success and a more fulfilling life path.

### *Empowerment Through Signing Skills*

Get ready to face your challenges and win! Trix's tips empower you in building superior signing skills. Trix will review regional accents and cultural perspectives. Trix has worked with students, teachers, and cultural perspectives. She's learned about their challenges, and in conversation with Deaf friends, as well as through surveys, Trix has discovered ways to support signing empowerment. Trix helps workshop participants feel "on top of the world". How do you handle it when someone criticizes your skills? Learn to honor yourself and your values, your time, and the skills that you've been building over the years.

### *Trix Bruce Turns Deafness and Disability to Communication and Capability: Workshop for Supervisors, Managers and Human Resources Staff*

This entertaining workshop for supervisors, managers, and HR staff will reduce barriers and enhance communication with deaf and disabled persons in the workplace. Learn updated techniques for interviewing, sourcing candidates, and working as a team. Participants will get tips for better communication, discover relevant cultural information, watch vignettes from real life, and have opportunity for questions and discussion.

### *You Can Learn to "Think Deaf"! Visual Gestural Communication Skills*

No more searching desperately through books or depending on teachers to tell you how to sign something. You can learn to "Think Deaf"! Visual gestural skills will get your point across, with or without traditional sign. Build your confidence in communicating with Deaf communities.

### *Baby Signs in ASL*

Signs are fun for hearing babies! Have you ever wondered about the benefits of teaching American Sign Language (ASL) to the children in your care? Babies and children 7 months to 2 years are able to understand and respond through sign language. Using ASL to communicate with infants and pre-verbal children is helpful and fun. With ASL, you can open up a world of communication with little ones!

# PERFORMANCE SHOWS

## *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, audiences gain insight into the Deaf experience and the ways in which Deaf people view the world around them.

## *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. The Star Spangled Banner, The Silent Music Band Group, The Use of Handshapes in Storytelling, and more adventures will be performed by Trix and YOU! This show is excellent for children.

## *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 the help of audience volunteers, Trix will captivate you with her impromptu "ASL-libbing" and a night of hearty laughter!

## *Trix's ASL Idol!*

Join the fun and show off your talents in "Trix's ASL Idol"! Let the magic happen as you try out your improv signing skills at this creative event. Join in as Trix and event participants compose and present A to Z, number, and handshape stories, and all kinds of ASL entertainment. Deaf judges will determine contest winners. Don't miss this sensational signing extravaganza!

## *Adventuring in ASL: Trix's Travels*

Trix's newest show, Adventuring in ASL: Trix's Travels, features hilarious true tales. Trix has journaled through years of journeying, and now she's ready to share these stories with you. As a Deaf person traveling among hearing people, Trix has experienced incredible ups and downs, adventures, snags, crazy-making moments, and eventual happy landings. Trix draws you in as she encounters misunderstandings, missed flights, embarrassing times, exciting challenges, and a growing sense of travel-savvy. Take a ride with Trix, and see for yourself!