

LODA News

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Contents

Page 2

'Dance Moves'
Takes Centre Stage

Page 3

Laban Guild Conference 2013

Page 4

Discovering Dance..

Level 1 BTEC at
Brockenhurst College

Page 5

Stage 1 in Mexico City

Page 6

NDEO Interest in Motif
Notation

The Klig and Gop Books

Page 7

International Council of
Kinetography Laban

Editorial

Lisa Marucci

Welcome to LODA News 39. I hope that everyone has had a fantastic summer, it certainly has been glorious here in London as the sun shone almost continually throughout the school holidays. As we prepare for another action packed year we have taken some time to look back at 2012/2013. Valerie Farrant, Director of Dance Studies travelled to Mexico last summer 2012 to observe a Stage 1 course being delivered by Language of Dance Certification Specialist, Alejandra Ferriero. A huge 'well done' from all of us here to the 15 students who took the course and to Alejandra for its excellent delivery. Lauren Turner reports on the Laban Guild conference 2013 where Ann Hutchinson Guest and Valerie Farrant presented a series of captivating seminars and workshops. The highly successful Dance Moves project 2012-2013 culminated in yet another incredible festival. The children involved in the project worked so hard and the dance pieces they

created went down a storm! Eve Knights explains about her work with Parayhouse Special Needs School and using LOD to deliver a nationally recognised qualification – the Arts Award. If all that makes us sound busy then it is nothing compared to the work of our inspirational director Ann Hutchinson Guest who reports on just a snapshot of the work she is involved in internationally (as I write this Ann is in Las Vegas helping the university stage L'Après Midi d'un Faune, then back for two weeks before jetting off to the NDEO conference)! More details in the Spring LODA! We would really love to hear from you; about what you think of this newsletter, any Notation questions; or just to say a general hello! You can reach us on Facebook or Twitter or get in touch through our website or email.

We wish you a fantastic new (academic) year.

The next issue (40) will be published April 2014.

UK News

'Dance Moves' Takes Centre Stage

Eve Knights

On 3rd July 2013, the Language of Dance Trust hosted its third Dance Moves Festival at Oxford House in Bethnal Green.

The Dance Moves Festival provided an opportunity for 200 primary school pupils from two neighbouring boroughs, Hackney and Tower Hamlets,



who have participated in our Dance Moves School's project from to perform in a professional theatre and showcase their work.

The project aims to inspire; creativity, learning and self-belief. It fosters a healthy



attitude towards working with others and offers a fun outlet for children to express themselves while learning key life skills.

All dance works were choreographed by the children and based on the theme of Magical Toys and childhood games, created using Language of Dance (LOD). LOD is unique in its openness to individual interpretation, style and genre and this allowed the children to produce extremely diverse work.

The festival is a fun finale and celebration of all the hard work the children have put in over the past year. It has provided an opportunity for children to feel that they have been part of something special and that their work is of importance and has real value.

Schools that took part were Gainsborough Primary School, St John's Primary School,

Lawdale Primary School, Osmani Nursery School and Hague Primary School.

I would like to say a huge thank you to our funders Help a Capital Child, Archant Foundation and the Miss E Pemberton Barnes Will Trust who have kindly supported this project and the festival.

Photos by Matthew Farrant



UK News

Laban Guild Conference 2013

Lauren Turner

On the 23rd March this year I had the pleasure of attending the 67th Annual Conference of the Laban Guild where I am happy to say the Language of Dance was well represented.

After the Annual General Meeting business was wrapped up we were treated to a lecture by our very own Ann Hutchinson Guest on her work with L'Après Midi d'un Faune. I have been lucky enough to hear Ann's lecture on bringing Faune from page to stage a few times. Her enthusiasm for the project never fails to keep an audience's attention and inspire them, a view backed up by evaluations from the event participants themselves.

The afternoon's proceedings were disrupted slightly due to snow preventing Dr Clare Lidbury and Dorothy Ledgard attending. The Dancing Together session that was delivered by Sadie Hunt was a lovely way to awaken the body and have some physical interaction with the other participants. This was then followed by the Language of Dance's Director of Dance Studies, Val Farrant delivering a session using LOD to explore 'Movement Patterns in Time'. This session involves the most basic of LOD symbols, 'Any Action' and 'Stillness', but



concentrates on the timing and dynamics of the work. With everyone allowed complete creativity on the actions, but performing them with the same timing, it is a simple way of creating choreography in small groups which can then be performed together with an automatic feeling of symbiosis.

The session was very well received and the participants felt they went away with a tool they could use in their own teaching.

The next session saw Ann step in to deliver a physical exploration of L'Après Midi d'un Faune. Again, this was enjoyed by all and I think we all have a new found appreciation for the apparently simple task of walking and running, there are about seven types in Faune!! A lesson in the amazing subtleties that the study of dance notation can provide.

We would like to thank the Laban Guild for inviting Ann and Val to teach at the conference and we hope to return next year.

Develop Language of Dance Principles (Stage 2)

7th - 19th April 2014
London

www.lodc.org/courses



UK News

Discovering Dance..

Eve Knights

2012-13 has seen a development of our work in the Special Educational Needs sector. Funded by the John Lyon Charity we ran a year long project with Parayhouse School to offer weekly dance sessions for students. Parayhouse is a specialist school based in Fulham and provides for students with speech, language and communication needs and moderate learning difficulties. Many of the students leave without any form of qualification, so it was our aim to assist students in achieving the Discover level of the Arts Award qualification. The Language of Dance Trust provided two sessions per week



for approximately 39 students and 20 students were able to complete the Award.

A celebration of all the children's hard work took the form of the schools annual fashion show and concert which explored the theme of Eco-Warriors. We hope to continue working in partnership with Parayhouse School.



Level 1 BTEC at Brockenhurst College

Lucy Lush has now returned from maternity leave and has resumed teaching SEN students the Level 1 BTEC in Language of Dance Motif Notation course.

MEXICO News

Stage 1 in Mexico City

Valerie Farrant

July 30th - August 11th 2012
It is now twelve years since Alejandra Ferriero and Josefina Lavallo first came to London to take the Language of Dance (LOD) Fundamentals course at the studios of the British Ballet Organization in Barnes. Ann Hutchinson Guest, Jane Dulieu and Valerie Farrant taught the course. The following year Alejandra and Josefina went on to take Stage 2 with Tina Curran in Dallas and in 2002 the first LOD Fundamentals course was held at CENIDI-Danza "José Limón" in Mexico City. Fifteen participants gained their Stage 1 certificates while Alejandra and Josefina completed Stage 3 and became Language of Dance Specialists. By 2006 there were another ten Language of Dance Specialists actively using LOD in their teaching in a number of contexts. Valerie Farrant observed amongst others Karime Ruiz Díaz using the symbols when teaching children, Itzel Valle exploring travelling in a folk dance class, Paloma Macías Guzmán analysing flexion and



extension with her students in a Spanish dance class and José Guadalupe Rodríguez encouraging ballet students to explore pathways in a creative session. Particularly exciting was the fact that Emma Delgado and Dora Aldama Romano were finding innovative ways to use LOD with their drama students. The Director of The National School of Dance Nellie y Gloria Campobello, Fernando Aragón Monroy having seen the results of the use of LOD was interested in having a Stage 1 course for teachers and students at the school last year. Alejandra Ferreiro taught the course, Karime Ruiz Díaz apprenticed, Valerie Farrant observed and examined. Fourteen participants were successful and are now LOD associates. Due to the foresight of Fernando Aragón Monroy in wanting to run the course and the enthusiasm of Alejandra Ferreiro a new generation of teachers are on the journey towards becoming Language of Dance Specialists in Mexico City.

Congratulations to the following participants from the 2012 course in Mexico on achieving Language of Dance Fundamentals certification

Marisol Limón Silicéo

Lidia Luis González

Cecilio Pineda Henestrosa

María Regina de los Angeles Haas Rivero

María Eugenia Heredia Altamirano

Juan Carlos Palma Velasco

Víctor Israel Lozano Nogales

Ana Elizabeth Martínez González

María Alicia Monroy Pérez

Fernando Aragón Monroy

Luis Fernando Herrera Carrasco

Juan Tomás Piedras Ortiz

Vianney Yaidania Sánchez Sarmiento

Evangelina Villalón Rodríguez



USA News

NDEO Interest in Motif Notation

Ann Hutchinson Guest

The idea of using books as a teaching aid in the dance class with young children is seen now as a useful and positive inclusion.

Members of the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) have been conferring openly on teaching ideas with each other via e-mail. Recently the focus has been on very young children. One member posted to the general membership her thoughts about introducing Motif Notation to the little ones, wondering how to begin. I responded to all asking if they knew of the Klig and Gop books which are so suitable for first explorations into the world of movement. The result of my letter was quite a spate from people who have used those books, some with information on how they had used them. The gist of what teachers are reporting is that the children love the symbols, they latch on to them rapidly and understand their meaning. Collecting experiences and ideas from experienced teachers will be of value to all.

When the books first came out teachers did not know how to use them. The lack of sufficient guidelines meant that they were not as popular as expected. But clearly there has been a change in teaching

attitudes and ideas. We plan to collect these ideas for the benefit of every one.

The Klig and Gop Books

Ann Hutchinson Guest

For those not familiar with them, this series follows two creatures from outer space who land on earth and encounter various forms of movement, being instructed by the animals, birds, etc. who do those movements naturally. Of course these animals have a secret language – Motif symbols - which they show

to Klig and Gop. The series of six books (three more in the planning stage) follow our two friends as they discover different Lands: Travel-Land, Balance-Land, Flex-extend-Land, Rotation-Land, Spring-Up-Land and Support-Land. To accompany each set of three there is a Parent-Teacher Guide. The three books in preparation introduce Direction-Land, Dynamic-Land and Rhythm-Land. Right now there are 40 copies of Set One, but none of Set Two. With interest growing, these will be re-printed, and, who knows? The three books in preparation will be finished and made available.

New Journal – Call for Papers!



The *Journal of Movement Arts Literacy* (ISSN: 2328-3602) is welcoming article submissions. Please submit your manuscript to our Editorial team at <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/jmal/>.

The *Journal of Movement Arts Literacy* (JMAL) is an international, peer reviewed, open-access academic publication that serves to promote the scholarly study of movement arts literacy for the purposes of supporting development of pedagogy, theory, application, practice, and research of human movement. Focus on movement is especially aimed toward, but not limited to, inquiry into aesthetic, scientific, and cultural understanding of movement arts using movement-based literacy as a tool to generate, investigate, analyze, and frame understanding.

JMAL welcomes submissions of articles that focus on movement notation, movement analysis, body-mind cognition, pedagogy, movement theory, and research integrating these subjects. These areas of inquiry may relate to the art and science of performance practice, cognition, creative practice, pedagogy, movement arts, movement skills, movement as aesthetic and cultural expression, performance documentation and analysis, and dance studies. Movement literacy is at the heart of this journal. The literacy of movement can be understood in two ways: (1) the meaning making and construction of knowledge in, about, and through movement, and (2) movement being represented by a symbolic system, which can then be translated back to movement from the symbolic depiction. For purposes of this journal, the term movement literacy has a broad multi-dimensional meaning that supports the exchange of text/symbolic-based information about movement.

This journal rests on the foundation of research presented in journals such as *Dance Notation Journal* and *Choreography and Dance: An International Journal*, and work by practitioners of the Laban Institute of Movement Studies, the Laban Guild, Integrated Movement Studies, Eurolab, and Choreological Studies. The editors of this journal pay homage to prior research and invite submissions to build a repository that will share new research and reprints of seminal articles from past journals in an open-access academic publication.

- **FEATURE ARTICLES** – These papers must be original research of international relevance and include a clear research methodology and/or application and analysis of movement arts literacy. Papers should be aimed to not exceed 3000 words, including References.
- **FORUM ARTICLES** – Forum articles stimulate debate in the movement arts literacy community. They should be short contributions up to 4000 words offering conceptual advice, opinion, or response to previous articles, or identifying gaps in knowledge. We welcome items that develop dialogue between theory and practice. The Journal encourages forum contributions organized around a cogent theme.
- **PRACTITIONER'S PERSPECTIVE** – These articles aim to bridge the gap between research and the actual practice of movement arts literacy. They provide a platform for individuals to present their personal views on the direction of movement arts literacy. Contributions should be less than 4000 words.
- **UNDERGRADUATE ARTICLES** – These high quality papers are similar to Feature Articles, but the editors encourage undergraduates to submit work that reflects inquiry into research and reflective practices being explored by developing scholars in the nascent stages of their writing endeavors.

Author Guidelines

Because JMAL is published electronically via bepress, a wider array of representational forms and formats are possible than in print. These include video, music, and pictorial as well as text. Detailed guidelines about the journal's own style guide can be found on the website under **Policies** at: <http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/jmal/policies.html>.

Submission deadline: Articles will be published immediately upon final approval.

INTERNATIONAL News

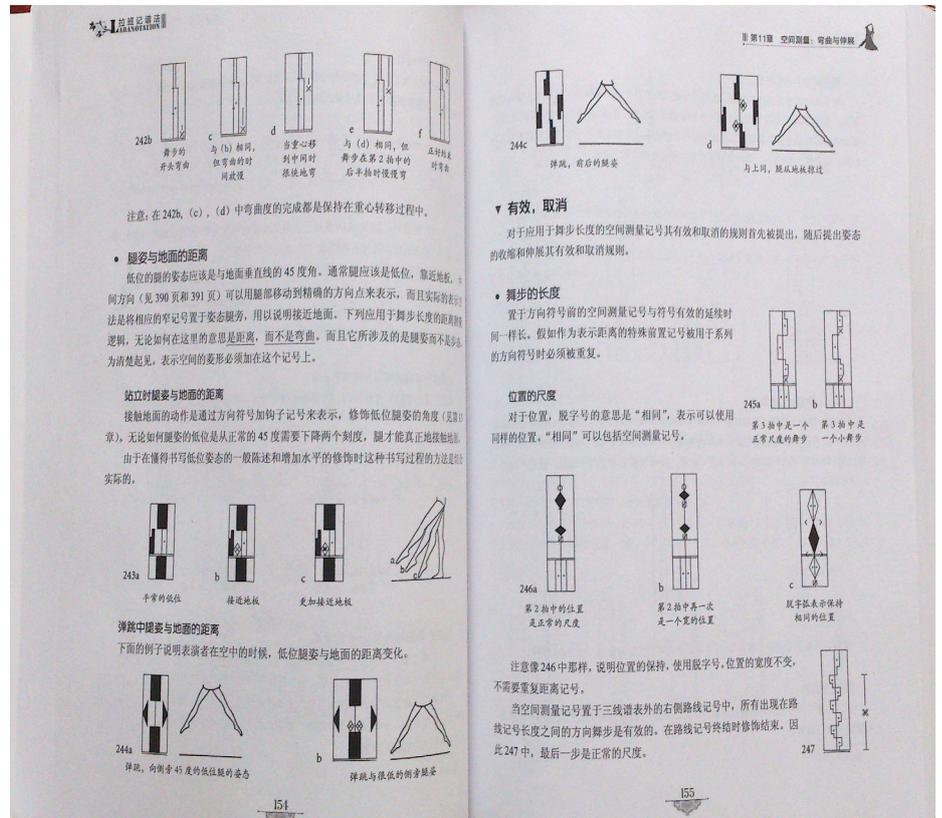
International Council of Kinetography Laban

Ann Hutchinson Guest

All ICKL sessions this year were devoted to Labanotation; Motif and LOD did not enter into any of the sessions.

However - LUO Bingyu (known to us as Martha) from Beijing presented Ann with a copy of her translation into Chinese of the 2005 edition of Labanotation.

It was an exciting moment for everyone present. Even more exciting is that Martha is now planning to translate the 2008 edition of the book *Your Move* into Chinese and is negotiating with the two authors, Tina Curran and Ann Hutchinson Guest, for the rights to translate and publish this important book.



Visit our website for more information, resources and our LOD Shop!

