ASL Presentations & Workshops

with

Trix Bruce

Patricia “Trix” Bruce is a professional entertainer with over 25 years of performing experience. She is dedicated to excellence in presenting performances and workshops. In hiring Trix, you secure a master storyteller who is passionate about her work.

She loves interacting with her audiences, and she has many loyal fans throughout the country. Her wide popularity and large fan base will bring enthusiastic audiences to your event.

Keep ASL Entertainment Alive!

Do you enjoy having a wide variety of American Sign Language entertainment available? Do you like expanding signing and interpreting skills? With your determination and creativity, you can contribute to these worthy goals and give your own organization wider recognition by finding ways to sponsor entertainers and workshop presenters at local venues. Providing fair compensation to performers and presenters is essential. But what if your organization has difficulty covering the costs?

There are creative ways to increase local sponsorship of ASL shows and workshops. Many hosts have won grants or raised funds in other innovative ways to bring ASL entertainment and educational seminars to eager audiences in their communities. Rather than appealing for rate reductions which are unsustainable for performing artists, creative hosts have talked with corporations, organizations, agencies, community members, employers and friends to encourage donation of sponsorship funds and tokens of appreciation.

Performers have extensive preparation time and travel expenses to absorb. If certain projects require volunteer crew members, their lodging and meals, as well as any tokens of appreciation, such as gift cards, must be covered. Out of respect for the entertainers and educators you are bringing to your area, please refrain from trying to get special deals or cut rates. Such discounts can't sustain successful business operations. Let's show mutual respect and keep ASL entertainment alive!

I've been in the American Sign Language entertainment business for many years - and I love it! I want to continue to bring highly entertaining and educational shows and presentations to your area. I am always there for you – I really respect, love, and enjoy working with you all!

Trix

Workshop Presentations

"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 an 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.

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 Performance

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)Performing the construction of 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.

The Whats, Whys, & Hows of the Classifiers in ASL

As an 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 in ASL? This workshop provides participants with an overview of 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.

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, 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.

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 no practice, no preparation, using different ideas from the audience, and using people from audience, 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!

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, too! 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!

Presentation Fees

The cost of your investment will vary depending on your requirements. Trix will work with you every step of the way to help you meet your budget while achieving your educational and entertainment goals. Keep in mind, though, that free performances or performances at extremely cut-rate fees are not available. Please do not make requests of this nature.

PERFORMANCE & WORKSHOP RATES INCLUDE:

1) Booking fees
2) Flights
3) Lodging
4) Airport parking
5) Meals
6) Transportation/rental cars
7) Copies/handouts
8) Voice interpreting*
9) Equipment setup
10) Event preparation
11) Performance

**Note: Interpreting is included in the standard rates, but will be provided only if requested. Interpreting is highly recommended for shows.*

BOOKING FEE: *Our booking fee is $85. This is required in advance to hold a booking date.*

CONTRACT: *To book Trix Bruce, an official contract is required. Please sign the contract and send it, with the performance request form and booking fee, to Trix Bruce's manager.*

PAYMENT: *Please have your check ready before the date of event. Trix prefers to collect payment prior to traveling home. Be sure to get the entire paperwork necessary ready BEFORE the event. This could include a W-9 form, tax paperwork, and other documents required. Please understand that your organization must pay promptly so that Trix can avoid credit card interest related to travel for your event.*

RID CEUs: Workshops and shows are eligible for clock hours in professional studies and general studies. Paperwork is provided at no charge.

Travel Expenses

Your invitation is important to us!

We strive to provide excellent shows and workshops for you and your organization. Please know that in order for Trix to perform, her traveling expenses must be included in her billing. If your organization has any concerns, please let us know.

Your invoice will include the cost of the production and travel expenses, as outlined below.

- **TO/FROM AIRPORT:** *If traveling via air, we charge $58 to cover the cost of travel to and from the airport.*
- **ON-SITE LODGING:** *It is necessary for Trix to have lodging near the airport before early flights. Please send a list of hotels near the airport for her return trip.*
- **FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS:** *We book either through Expedia or directly through the airlines, always Business Class.*
- **HOTEL ARRANGEMENTS:** *Trix prefers the Hilton, Marriott, and Sheraton hotel families due to their excellence in accommodations and high speed internet accessibility. Please send a list of hotels close to your venues. The hosting organization is responsible to cover lodging and associated high-speed internet expenses.*
- **AIRPORT PARKING:** *$28 per day*
- **MEALS:** *Per diem for meals is $55/day.*
- **RENTAL CARS, SHUTTLES & GROUND TRANSPORATION:** *The host/organization must cover ground transportation, subject to Trix's prior approval for specific arrangements.*
- **CANCELLATIONS:** *In the event of a cancellation, the organization must cover the booking fee and payment for any previously scheduled flights. If an event is cancelled and rescheduled, payment must be made for the original booking and airfare, as well as the additional airfare for the newly scheduled date. The rescheduling fee is $85.*

Receipts are not available to submit. If your organization requires receipts, you may make airfare and hotel arrangements in line with Trix Bruce's scheduling requirements.

Sponsorship and Additional Funding

COMMUNITY COOPERATION:

You can work together with other local organizations or schools to share part of the expenses for bringing Trix to your area. Just help arrange for several appearances in various venues. Trix loves to provide several presentations over a long weekend. Your organization may want to chip in together with others to cover Trix's travel, hotel, and associated general expenses. Or each organization can set up a separate contract with Trix, and the dates of the shows/workshops can be confirmed after all cooperating venues sign contracts.

CORPORATE FUNDING:

The Arts and Arts Education are often supported by funding from generous donors, such as local distributors, teacher-trust funds, the United Way, Target community grants, Wal-Mart Community grants, Sam's Club community grants, state Arts councils, The Foundation Center, and many others. Please check with these funding sources to see if your event will qualify for funding.

CREATIVE FUNDING:

You can come up with creative ways to increase local sponsorship of ASL shows and workshops. Many hosts have won grants or raised funds in other innovative ways to bring ASL entertainment and educational seminars to eager audiences in their communities. Rather than appealing for rate reductions which are unsustainable for performing artists, creative hosts have talked with corporations, organizations, agencies, community members, employers and friends to encourage donation of sponsorship funds and tokens of appreciation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scheduling Details

BOOKING CONFIRMATIONS:

Please keep in mind that discussion of a date does not constitute a confirmation. Send an email requesting a date and you will be contacted to finalize arrangements. A confirmation email with the booking information and proposed arrangements will be sent.

ADDITIONAL WORK OPPORTUNITIES:

Please understand that if, after booking for your event, Trix finds an additional work opportunity, it may not be possible for your organization to "split" expenses with the other organization. Sometimes, Trix is able to obtain only a small honorarium for working at an additional venue, presenting a short workshop. Trix will make sure that whichever organization invites her first will not need to cover any additional traveling expenses related to the second venue, but it may not be possible for the original booking costs to be shared with a secondary venue.

UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES:

The organization is responsible to provide transportation home for Trix Bruce in a timely manner, even if there are unexpected circumstances that require changing the originally-scheduled return flight. Organizations should set aside emergency funds to purchase (or reimburse) a new airfare ticket for Trix's return flight in the event of unexpected and unavoidable flight delays or cancellations. If the rescheduled flight has moved to a different town, the organization must cover lodging, car rental, and parking.

The ASL Career

Trix has been asked “Is this business a full time job?” and her answer is Yes! - Giving presentations around America is her full-time job and she loves it.

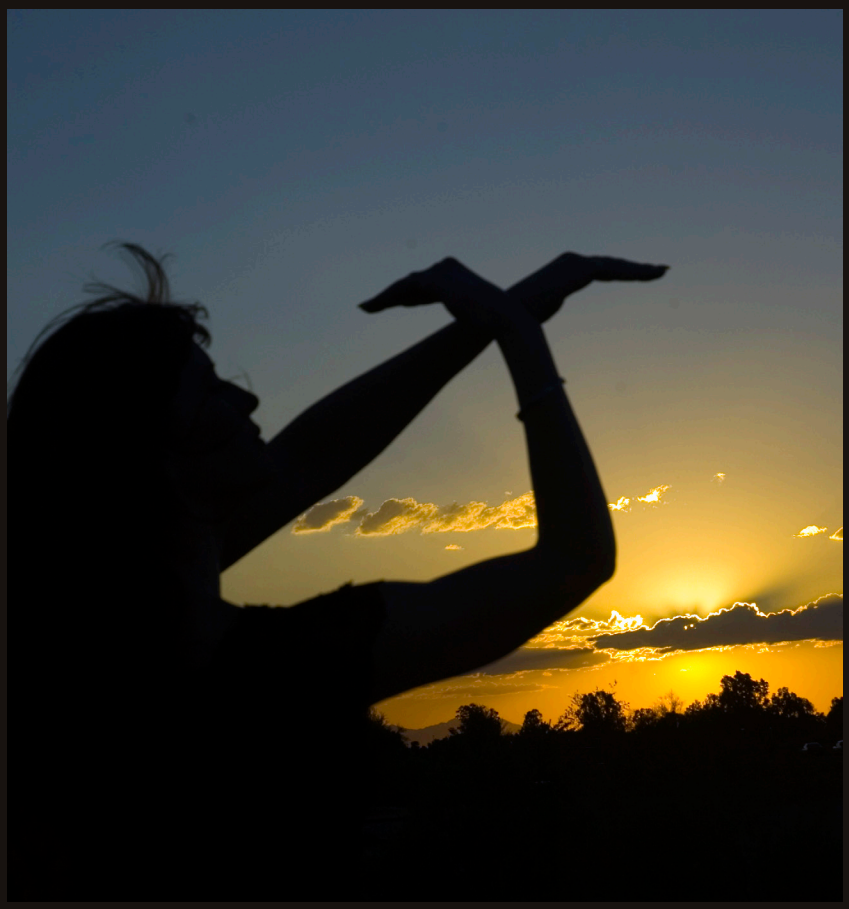
As a professional presenter and entertainer with over 25 years of experience, Trix loves interacting with her workshop participants and audiences. She personally handles bookings from her home office and pays behind–the-scenes crew members, business consultants, mentors, and her editor as private contractors.

Certainly, her career brings challenges. She deals with flight delays, last-minute schedule changes, economic ups and downs, negotiation stagnation points, delayed payments and other issues. This type of work requires extensive hours spent preparing for events, and traveling to and from shows – usually 8 to 10 hours a day – in order to set up equipment before the presentations. It may be difficult to visualize how much time goes into creating a professional ASL production.

Her show includes multi-media animation, slides, video, and sound effects combined with ASL, stories, poetry, comedy, and other features. She incorporates all of these elements using a laptop, LCD projector, and sound system. As part of her business, she provides the equipment needed to put on a high-tech, professional show that captivates all comers from Deaf to Hearing.

She also loves training interpreters and sharing updated resources. She has designed several specialized presentations for interpreters who wish to expand their skills in visual education, the art of sign language, and storytelling. She also enjoys presenting shows related to Deaf Culture, ASL Improv, and stand-up comedy through stories told to communities. She enhances her stories with drama skills that she has developed over the years.

It is a full and rewarding career. Could there be any better way to make a living?



There are words, and then there is Trix Bruce.

She can tell you the story of her life, without uttering a word. Trix is a storyteller, a poet, an actress, and a one deaf-woman show.

You will be captivated by her electrifying energy, irresistible sense of humor, open-hearted honesty, and rich experience.

Thank you for your interest in booking one of her stunning performances for your next event.

www.TrixBruce.com