



Valerie Sutton

a. Inventor, Sutton Movement Writing

including SignWriting, DanceWriting, MimeWriting, SportsWriting, and MovementWriting.

Sutton's invention of SignWriting is creating social change. For the first time, there are signers around the world, including young children, reading and writing their primary language, a signed language, on a daily basis. Novels, newspapers, children's literature, the complete New Testament of the Bible, and sections of the Old Testament, are now written in the facial expressions, movements and handshapes of sign languages. Signers are writing their own Wikipedia-style encyclopedia articles in sign languages, email and sign language literature, in SignWriting, directly on the web. On October 10, 2006, SignWriting was officially recognized as a world script by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO-15924, Sgnw, 095).

b. Founder, President & Executive Director

of the Center for Sutton Movement Writing, Inc., an educational 501c3 non-profit organization founded in Southern California in 1974. The Center publishes SignWriting books and web sites, develops software, trains SignWriting specialists, and sponsors the Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting, hiring skilled Deaf signers to write their native signed languages.

c. Early Years

Born in New York City	Feb 22, 1951
Moved to Newport Beach, California, age 8	1959
Professional Ballet Training, Southern California	1961-1970
Sutton DanceWriting was first invented and developed	1966-1970

d. Beginning of Sutton Movement Writing

Preserved Historic Danish Dances in DanceWriting in Copenhagen	1970-1972
Wrote first textbook on Sutton DanceWriting in California	1973-1974
Founded non-profit educational organization, Southern California	1974-present

In Copenhagen, Denmark:

Taught DanceWriting to the Tivoli Gardens Ballet company	1974, Summer
Taught DanceWriting to the Royal Danish Ballet for 8 weeks	1974, Fall
Invented SignWriting, for writing sign languages	1974-present
Invented MimeWriting, for writing classic pantomime	1974-present
Invented MovementWriting for gesture analysis	1974-present

e. Early Employment

1. University of Copenhagen, Audiologopædisk Forskningsgruppe. 1974-1975
Transcribed the movements of Danish Sign Language and Hearing Person's Gestures from video, for research by Jan Enggaard.
2. Boston Conservatory of Music, Faculty Member, Dance Department 1976-1980
Taught Sutton DanceWriting, which was a requirement for graduation as a Dance Major at the Boston Conservatory of Music, from 1976-1986.
Trained 86 teachers to teach Sutton DanceWriting around the world.
3. Walnut Hill School of Performing Arts, Faculty Member, Mass 1976-1980
Taught Sutton DanceWriting & the Danish Bournonville Ballet Training
4. National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID), Consultant 1979-1980
Worked with Dr. Frank Caccamise, Communication Research Dept, to develop the Technical Signs Manuals, still published by NTID. The manuals use SignWriting movement symbols combined with life-like illustrations of signs.

More coming...