

## **THE ART OF GESTURE**

Four places are available for singers and actors to study the Art of Gesture with Helga Hill during 2017. Voice and Drama teachers as well as theatre directors may also make application. The ten-session program is based on the teachings of the late Dene Barnett and the writings of Cicero, Quintilian, Austin (1806), Jelgerhuis (1827) and others. Intending participants must have completed at least one year of tertiary studies or had extensive practical experience elsewhere. Please note that this is an intensive program which follows the course presented by Helga Hill at the University of Melbourne from 1998 to 2008. A prospectus outlining costs and general requirements is available from the Early Arts Guild of Victoria. Dates will be negotiated to suit participants' availability. The program will be presented at the Guild Centre, 52 Nimmo St., Middle Park.

## **BAROQUE DANCE CLASSES**

Selected members of the Rippon Lea Renaissance Dancers can join in Baroque Dance classes conducted at Albert Park throughout the year. In special circumstances those who have gained extensive Historic Dance experience elsewhere may join the group without prior involvement in Renaissance Dance classes. Two performances are given each year. Period costumes are provided.

## **EARLY MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATRE ARCHIVE**

Rippon Lea Dancers and participants in Art of Gesture courses have free access to most publications in the Dance, Gesture and Costume sections of the Guild Library at Middle Park.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

### **Early Arts Guild of Victoria**

Phone: 03 9699 8417

Email: [helgamhill@bigpond.com](mailto:helgamhill@bigpond.com)

Web : <http://earlyartsguild.info>

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# ***RENAISSANCE DANCE BAROQUE DANCE HISTORIC GESTURE***

## ***COURSES 2017***



**HELGA M. HILL OAM**

## **Helga M. Hill**

Helga Hill is the researcher, director and costume designer for the Rippon Lea Dancers and a foundation member of the Early Music Consort of Melbourne. She taught Renaissance and Baroque Dance in Europe annually from 1977 – 1997, with frequent courses in Austria, England and Sweden. For ten years she was in charge of Historic Dance Studies at the Dartington (UK) International Summer School where she also taught historic gesture and stage movements. Her reconstructed dances for 17th – 18th Century masques and operas have been seen at Dartington, in Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), the Festival of Flanders in Bruges, with Schola Cantorum in Basle, and at Victoria University in Wellington (NZ). She gave courses in New Zealand for ten years.

In Australia, she has been responsible for three of the five fully-gestured early operas staged here. In 2006, she directed and gestured *The Judgment of Paris* (Eccles, 1701) for the University of Melbourne. In 2008 she worked on the Scarlatti Project at Sydney Conservatorium and, in 2011, gestured and directed *Venus and Adonis* (Blow, 1681) for St Michael's Grammar School in Melbourne.

The Early Arts Guild of Victoria was formed in 1978 to promote Helga Hill's early music and dance research and performances.

On the passing of noted Australian researcher, Dene Barnett in 1997, she resolved to continue his pioneering work to return the rediscovered Art of Historic Gesture to the stage and concert-hall. She had studied gesture with Dene Barnett at Flinders University in 1989. Today, gesture is a feature of many Early Arts Guild programs.

In 2010 Helga Hill received the Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the performing arts.

## **RENAISSANCE DANCE CLASSES 2017**

### **TERM DATES**

#### ***TERM ONE***

February 15 to April 19 (ten Wednesdays)

#### ***TERM TWO***

April 26 to June 28 (ten Wednesdays)

#### ***TERM THREE***

September 6 to November 29 (ten Wednesdays)  
Omit September 27 and October 4

### **TIMES**

#### **RENAISSANCE DANCE CLASSES**

7 p.m. sharp to 9.30 p.m.

#### **WINTER REVISION SESSIONS ARE FREE**

7 p.m. sharp to 9.30 p.m.

July 19, 26, August 2, 9, 16, 23 - Omit August 30

Please note that Winter Revision sessions will be important for preparation of performances at Ballarat (August 20) and Brighton (August 27)

### **FEES AND PAYMENTS**

One Term	\$ 110
Two Terms	\$ 170
Three Terms	\$ 220

The Three Terms fee can be paid in \$110 installments by February 11 and June 24. Cheques are payable to the Early Arts Guild of Victoria, and can be forwarded to 52 Nimmo Street, Middle Park, 3206. These fees cover tuition, insurance, hall hire and printed materials. Concessions are available for couples (including parent and child) and unemployed applicants.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION** **RIPPON LEA RENAISSANCE DANCERS**

Founded by Helga Hill in 1978, the Rippon Lea Dancers make up Australia's leading early dance ensemble. The group's performances are highlighted by quality dancing and colorful period garments made with original styles and materials. Music is provided on historic instruments by the Early Music Consort of Melbourne. The dancers perform frequently for Early Music in the Very Round in Brighton, occasionally at the National Gallery of Victoria and various regional centers. Jan Turner is the assistant teacher.

### **THE DANCES**

Renaissance Dance is primarily the social dance of the European courts between the 15th and early 17th Centuries. Styles range from stately pavans, ring and line dances to complex choreographies from the Italian court repertoire.

### **DRESS**

Should be casual to permit freedom of movement. Soft shoes with no heels (preferably soft leather ballet shoes) should be worn for classes. Rubber-soled shoes and point ballet shoes are unsuitable.

Dancers who are chosen to join the performing team are provided with costumes by the Early Arts Guild at no cost.

### **VENUE**

The venue for Renaissance dance classes, winter revision sessions and most concert rehearsals is St. Paul's Church Hall, cnr. Windella Ave. and Hale St., East Kew. Concert rehearsals are usually held on some of the Wednesday evenings scheduled above. Advance notice will be given on occasions when rehearsals are held in the concert venues.