



Penelope Snowden-Lait. B.A. Hons. Acting Dipl. London, Speech and Drama Dipl. and Speech Therapy Dipl. Goetheanum, Switzerland, Reg. Teacher (G.B.), Reg. Teacher, Speech Communication Ass. NZ.

Born in India December 1943; educated at Michael Hall School Forest Row England. Attended Emerson College, after Acting School, doing the Foundation Year, then Painting and Speech. Part of "The English Drama Group", formed in 1972,

began studying in Dornach as an independent group, recognised by the Vortstand and the Performing Arts Sektion. Penelope was one of the two members of the original group, who completed their training in the Goetheanum School for Speech and Drama. After the training, she studied further with some of Marie Steiner's original students, alongside being part of the Youth Drama Group with Michael Knapp and joining in stage performances with the Goetheanum ensemble.

She taught in Virginia Brett's English Speech School at the Goetheanum and throughout her years in Dornach she recited for Eurythmy performances and classes.

In 1979 she was called to Spring Valley, NY to teach in the Foundation Year and in the Eurythmy School, recite for the Eurythmy Stage Group and to play Maria in Peter Meneka's production of R Steiner's Portal of Initiation.

Penelope returned to Dornach to continue teaching for Virginia Brett, amongst other activities. She studied for a term in the 3rd year of the Zuccoli Eurythmy training. In 1981 she was invited to teach in the newly founded Teacher Training Course, and the Eurythmy School in Cape Town, South Africa.. She took the teachers not only for speech but also Bothmar Gymnastics and The Philosophy of Freedom.

In September 1982 she emigrated to Australia to teach in The Harkness Studio for Creative Speech and Drama and at Warrah Curative home as a speech therapist. In 1983 Penelope moved to live permanently in New Zealand..

She had already been coming over to run workshops and work on Faust Part 1, which was staged in Christchurch in April 1983 and then again as part of an Idriart Festival in January 1985. The first of my 3 sons was born in 1985.

Since then she has continued her work in Creative Speech and Drama and basic courses in Anthroposophy. As well as within our circles, she has also worked in mainstream theatre.

In 2014 'the Spirit of the Word School' for Creative Speech and Drama in New Zealand, was founded by Astrid, Norbert and Penelope.

In the last 7 years she has also been involved with the New Mystery Drama project, originating in the US and involving an international group of artists.

Penelope's core interest with the theatre and training work is to renew drama out of mystery knowledge.



Karin Croll – born in Switzerland, I attended the Rudolf Steiner School in Basel for 12 years. My interests were always languages, art and crafts. After a seamstress training, I attended the School for Speech formation and Drama at the Goetheanum in Dornach. After 5 years fulltime training I graduated with Diploma in 1990, this was followed by a one-year Practicum in Speech therapy in Bern with Dietrich von

Bonin. In the following years I was living and working with my

(New Zealand) husband in Homes for people with Special needs in Switzerland and New Zealand. In these times I directed and played in numerous Plays with Community members, the focus being: bringing a spiritual dimension to life. After returning to Switzerland, I attended the course in Speech therapy at the Dora Gutbrod School in Dornach; and after my Diploma in 2002 I worked with Speech therapy part-time in the Lucas Klinik in Arlesheim, in a Rudolf Steiner School and a School for Children with ADD near Aarau Switzerland and in private practice. I continued to direct and play in the Christmas plays and assisted in a very special Midsummer play for Children aged 9 to 11.

From 2008 until my recent return to New Zealand, I was working part-time in a Home for people with special needs and was the speaker and costume designer for the Licht Eurythmy Ensemble of Arlesheim. We toured widely in Europe: Germany, Switzerland, Poland, Ukraine, France, UK, also USA, Egypt, India, China and Japan; and in 2019 throughout New Zealand. Since last year, my base is in Motueka.



Astrid Anderson, performer and teacher in speech and drama, studied in England, Switzerland and Germany, graduated in 1976, having had the privilege of still working directly with Marie Steiner's pupils in Europe. she has done further training in speech in education and speech therapy, as well as private post-graduate work in drama.

For 50 year, Astrid has been working professionally in speech and drama in schools and tertiary education, and giving workshops, directing and performing, and has twice run a speech and drama training course, first in Germany and later in New Zealand, which has been her home since 1984. Astrid also works with story-telling and runs workshops in self-development through creative speech and the art of drama.

In 2014, she started the 'Spirit of the Word' School for Speech and Drama in New Zealand, with colleagues, Penelope and Norbert.