

A Note from the Editor

With this issue of *Dance Research Journal*, we introduce several new features (1). Immediately noticeable, of course, is the new format: smaller size, perfect binding, and certain choices in page design.

Content, too, has undergone some change: I draw your attention to the new Dialogue column, introduced with the intention of stimulating debate on current issues in dance research. Not only do I hope that you, *DRJ* readers, will respond through your letters to this column, but also that you will suggest to me future possible focusses for this column. The Dialogue opens with a theme in dance history, primarily because this particular topic was suggested to me by a *DRJ* reader. It is my intention to shift the focus of each Dialogue column to address a different dance research subdiscipline. The plan is that each Spring issue will feature a new theme in Dialogue, in the fall issue will be published readers' responses to that theme, and—with ongoing discussion welcome on that previous topic—a new Dialogue theme will be introduced in the next Spring issue. I look forward to hearing from you, and to the creation of an active forum for debate in dance research.

Another content change that you will note affects the Reports section of *DRJ*. The number of conferences either focussing entirely or in part on dance has increased even during the few years of my editorship. The effort to report on all of these events was so consuming—and ultimately, so space-intensive in the journal—that the CORD Editorial Board agreed to experiment with a change in this section. Full reports on conferences will cover CORD events and one or two other selected meetings. Other dance research (and related) conferences, symposia, and meetings will be included in *DRJ* in the form of listings that provide readers with the title, date, location, contact information, and—when available—titles and authors of presentations relevant to *DRJ* readers' concerns. The editor will need to depend on readers to send in copies of such conference programs for publication. Your assistance in this matter will be greatly appreciated, and will be noted in the appropriate issue of *DRJ* in which the program information you send is printed. As you travel, give papers, lead panels, and hear presentations with a dance research interest, please send copies of programs to the *DRJ* editor, at the address listed on the front inside cover of this issue, for inclusion in the new Events listings.

The space that we hope to save with the reduction in the number of conference reports can now be devoted to more feature articles. Note that four, rather than the typical three, articles lead off this issue of *Dance Research Journal*. The variety of focusses and methodologies of these articles serves as a good example of the range of dance research concerns covered by CORD in its conferences and publications. To meet this new publication goal for *DRJ*, we will be depending on our readers to continue submitting their papers for publication consideration. Teachers, please also encourage your students to submit their best work as well; a mentoring function is part of the *DRJ* role. All work is given careful review, with detailed feedback provided to authors, whatever the status of the publication decision. I invite you again, as *DRJ* editors have long done, to consider the journal as the premier publication choice

for dance scholars, embracing those emerging in the field as well as established researchers. The articles published in this issue demonstrate this very range.

Also with this issue a new Reviews Editor debuts. I am delighted that my colleague Joellen Meglin has agreed to serve as *DRJ* Reviews Editor. She and I extend our warmest gratitude to Deidre Sklar, outgoing Reviews Editor, for gracing us with her fine work and a smooth transition. Note that a slight change in Reviews policy has also been established: the format for each book is slightly shorter. We are looking toward the grouping of books on related themes into comparative reviews, continuing and even extending a policy established by previous Reviews Editors. Watch for these changes in future *DRJ* issues.

On these changes, and other aspects of *Dance Research Journal*, we welcome your comments. Do let us hear from you.

Lynn Brooks
Editor

1. These changes were initiated by the Editor in response to a year-long study undertaken by a special committee appointed by the CORD Board of Directors. I wish to thank those committee members for their important contributions: Beth Kerr, Larry Lavender, Joellen Meglin, Jan Plastino, and Deidre Sklar. The committee's recommendations were discussed at length and approved by the CORD Editorial Board, then passed on to the full CORD Board of Directors, who voted approval as well. It is our understanding that features of the new content and format of *Dance Research Journal* may well undergo further evolution, based on feedback from our membership, and from our experience in production.