

## **Richard Bauman**

*Distinguished Professor of Folklore and Ethnomusicology; of Communication and Culture; and of Anthropology*

Richard (Dick) Bauman retires after 40 lustrous years in academe. He began his graduate studies at Indiana University and returned to Bloomington to put the finishing touches on a remarkable career. Dick is a leading folklorist of his generation, and beyond that, one of the most quoted and respected scholars working in a domain where folkloristics, anthropology, sociolinguistics, critical theory, and language philosophy intersect.

Dick grew up in Manhattan on the very street where Richard Dorson, founder of the IU folklore department, had resided as a kid, surely a portent of things to come. There he picked up a street Spanish that developed into a language proficiency that served him well in later projects, especially his research into religious folk dramas in Mexico. He attended the Bronx High School of Science, and discovered the appeal of folk music in summer camps as a teenager. Dick took his B.A. from the University of Michigan in 1961, with honors and distinction in English; from there he came to IU to complete the M.A. in folklore in 1962, working closely with Edson Richmond and the visiting folklorist MacEdward Leach. He then went to the University of Pennsylvania, where he received both the M.S. in Anthropology and the Ph.D. in American civilization in 1968, studying with anthropologists Dell Hymes and Anthony Wallace and the historian Lee Benson.

Dick has held academic appointments at the University of Texas and Indiana University, and he excelled as a builder of academic programs in both places. As director of the Center for Intercultural Studies in Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Texas (1970–1986), he created one of the nation's premiere programs in folklore studies, a program that helped shape a discipline and produced graduates who have gone on to become outstanding scholars in their own right. With his wife, folklorist and anthropologist Beverly Stoeltje, he returned to Bloomington in 1986 to assume the chairmanship of the folklore department. Dick helped ensure its continuing prominence by setting high standards of intellectual attainment and institutional integrity; he was called back by popular demand for a second successful stint as department chair, from 2002 to 2006.

Dick's contributions to institutional life at IU include directing the Research Center for Language and Semiotic Studies (1992–1998), helping create and administer the Department of Communication and Culture, and playing an active role in the Department of Anthropology. In 1991 he was named Distinguished Professor in Folklore, Anthropology, and Communication and Culture. He has also been affiliated at IU with American studies, cultural studies, Latin American and Caribbean studies, and Latino studies.

Dick has on his resume as well major contributions to professional societies. Among other notable appointments, he has served as president of the Society for Linguistic

Anthropology (1991–1993), editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* (1981–1985), president of the Society of Fellows of the American Folklore Society (1990–1992), and member of the American Anthropological Association's board of directors (1991–1993).

There is space here to trace only the outlines of Dick's accomplishments as a scholar. His publication record is impressive for its quantity and quality — 7 monographs, 6 edited books and compilations, 43 book chapters, and 54 articles in scholarly journals, all spread across a half-dozen academic disciplines, many of these seminal contributions. It is noteworthy that his vita lists no fewer than 24 reprinted articles and chapters, an indication of how foundational his work has become. He has given invited lectures in a dozen countries on five continents.

Dick Bauman's oeuvre to date features grounded ethnographies of expressive culture in Scotland, Nova Scotia, Mexico, Texas, and other settings, but his special talent, in the opinion of many, is his ability to theorize expressive culture as a mode of action and behavior. Drawing on his own ethnographic research and culling through the work of others, Bauman has formulated explanatory models and conceptual paradigms that are guiding contemporary research in the broad area of social aesthetics. He initially achieved recognition for his formulation of performance as a marked behavioral frame, presented in his book, *Verbal Art as Performance*, published in 1977 and reprinted in 1984. His *Story, Performance, and Event: Contextual Studies of Oral Narrative* (Cambridge, 1986) offered applications of the performance-studies paradigm to a corpus of storytelling he documented in Texas, notably among men who trade in hound dogs.

More recently, Bauman has elaborated a nuanced account of intertextuality as it figures in the production of text in vernacular and popular culture. His most recent book, *A World of Others' Words: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Intertextuality*, published with Blackwell in 2004, lays out a rigorous construction of intertextuality and presents a series of demonstrations drawn from Dick's earlier research on expressive forms, both current and historical, in a variety of world locations.

The intellectual strength of Bauman's work has gained him many grants, awards, and prizes. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship as well as support from the NEH, NEA, American Council of Learned Societies, and other prestigious sources. The book that he co-authored with Charles Briggs, titled *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Production of Social Inequality* (Cambridge, 2003), garnered for the co-authors the prestigious Edward Sapir Prize, awarded by the Society for Linguistic Anthropology. The book offers an ambitious re-reading of the march of modernity and the emergence of vernacular culture.

Dick retires from Indiana University leaving an impressive legacy. His portfolio of original scholarship is widely influential, and one can hope that he will continue to add to it in the coming years. In a distinguished career as teacher and mentor, Bauman has helped

shape dozens of professionals who are active and productive and achieving distinction, both in the academy and in the realm of public arts and culture. And his lasting contributions as a savvy administrator—to universities, professional societies, and other institutions—will not soon be forgotten.

A word of warning to the trout of the world's rivers: Dick Bauman is on the loose, with his fishing rod in his hand.

*John McDowell*