

## ABBOTT CHRISMAN, MFA

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Birth	Northampton, Massachusetts, USA 1952
Civil status	Divorced
Children	Madeleine 1987, Lydia 1990
Nationality	USA, Swiss

### EDUCATION

1984-88 DePaul University Theatre School, Chicago (Goodman School of Drama) MFA Directing.  
1980 Silver Medal of the Royal Society of Art for excellence in Fine Arts and Humanities.  
1977-80 Ohio University (Athens) BFA Painting (Summa cum laude) + Philosophy and Literature courses.  
1972-74 University of Massachusetts (Amherst) Dance, Literature and History.  
1970-72 Boston University School of Fine and Applied Arts, Theatre Division, Directing.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2007- Continuing education in Somatic Experiencing  
2007 Non-Violent Communication, International Intensive Training.  
2004-07 Somatic Experiencing® Trauma Healing: Practitioner's Diploma, Zentrum für Innere Ökologie Zürich.  
1983-03 Studied Dalcroze Eurhythmics.

### ACADEMIC AND TEACHING POSITIONS

1992- Adjunct Professor, Webster University, Bellevue GE.

Fundamentals of Composition	Theatre Appreciation
Composition/Research Writing	Literature into Film
Introduction to Media Writing	Film Appreciation
Creative Writing	Applied Media Aesthetics/Basic Design
Critical Thinking	Photojournalism
Public Speaking	Cultural Diversity in the Media
Debate	
Introduction to Literature	

2003-05 Curriculum Planner, American Studies for Kids Overseas, Zürich.  
1996-97 Faculty Developer, Erziehungsdirektion des Kantons Bern, Zentralstelle für Lehrerinnen- und Lehrerfortbildung, upper level EFL teaching linked with pedagogy, Semesterkurs.  
1995 Workshop: Eurhythmics and the Spoken Word, International Dalcroze Congress, Geneva.  
1994-97 Communication and EFL teacher, ASCOM, Systec Division.  
1994-96 Adjunct Professor, City University, Zürich.  
Managerial Presentations  
Efficient and Effective Self-Expression  
1991-92 Full time Instructor; joint appointment with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (English) and the Theatre School, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois.  
College Writing I and II  
Understanding Literature  
Topics in Literature: One-Act Plays: Compressions of Dramatic Form  
History of Dramatic Literature (General, Greek, 20th. Century)  
Methods of Script Analysis  
Introduction to Theatre  
1989-91 Instructional Associate and Part-time Instructor, DePaul University English Department.  
Part-time Instructor, The Theatre School, De Paul University, Chicago, Illinois.

### Statement of Teaching Philosophy:

I am a process-oriented skills teacher. I believe skill learning requires practice, feedback, time to try again, and a safe space where experiments and mistakes are possible. I teach by creating tasks and experiences that help students recognize the skill components they already possess, so then more components can be added, while self-awareness and awareness of the process fosters self-correction that can slowly lead to mastery after the course is over.

## THERAPEUTIC AND COACHING WORK

- 2008- Angstfrei Sprechen courses (group training in public speaking using trauma healing techniques),
- 2007- Private practice as Somatic Experiencing practitioner.
- 1986- Consultant on writing, speaking, communication and communication fear to students, adult students, authors, and managers.

## PROFESSIONAL WRITING EXPERIENCE

- 1998- Editor/writer for corporate internal and external communications projects freelancing through Trimedia AG, Wirz AG, Burson-Marsteller AG, Zürich. Clients include Roche, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Johnson&Johnson, DSM, Straumann Dental.
- 1993-94 Editor, *Conflicting Visions of Reform: German Lay Propaganda Pamphlets, 1519-1530* by Miriam Usher Chrisman, Brill 1995.
- 1988-89 Educational writing for Sense and Nonsense, Inc. Prepared supplementary materials for English Literature texts. Researched eight and wrote three fifth-grade level biographies of notable Hispanic Americans:
  - Hernando de Soto, Raintree Books, Evanston, Illinois, 1988
  - David Farragut, Raintree Books, Evanston, Illinois, 1988
  - Luis Munoz Marin, Raintree Books, Evanston, Illinois, 1988
- 1976-80 Editor, *Lay Culture, Learned Culture: Books and Social Change in Strasbourg, 1480-1599* by Miriam Usher Chrisman, Yale University Press 1982.

## THEATRE EXPERIENCE

- 1987-88 Literary Associate; Goodman Theatre. Production Dramaturg for *A Flea In Her Ear* and Research Dramaturg for *Romeo and Juliet*. Prepared visual and text materials for several other plays.
- 1980-84 Set/Lighting Designer and Production Stage Manager, New York Renaissance Band, at home in Alice Tully Hall (Lincoln Center) and on tour.
- 1980-84 Head Painter, Adirondack Scenic, Toni Businger's *Faust*, Disney/Barnum Ice Show. Freelance Scenic Artist, off-off Broadway and regional theatres. Assistant Scenic Artist, Metropolitan Opera, NBC, ABC. Design Assistant for Jose Verona (drafting and model making). Design Assistant for James Joy (painting, drafting, model making).
- 1980 Technical Director and Lighting Designer; Geneva (New York) Theater Guild.
- 1979 Stage Manager and Lighting/Sound Design; San Jose State University Summer Theatre.
- 1975-77 Lighting Designer; New England Conservatory of Music. Freelance Lighting Designer and Stage Manager in the Boston area.
- 1973-75 Production Stage Manager and Lighting/Sound Designer; New Hampshire Performing Arts Center, Marlboro Theatre Company, Ravencroft Summer Theatre, Rindge, N.H.

## LANGUAGES

Mother-tongue English, good French, functional Swiss-German.

## INTERESTS

Dance, Design, Art, Architecture, Typography, Percussion, Circus, Mountains.