

**MELISSA PILGRIM**  
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**(603) 259-3303**

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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**Author**

**April 2013 - Present**

**Littleton, NH**

**BOOKS & APPS PUBLISHED:**

**Sergeant Stubby in the Great War:** Historical Fiction Novel/App (4<sup>th</sup> grade & up), Published by Zoozil Media (May 2016)

- Engaging story about a real stray little dog who was smuggled across the pond by a soldier to help the U.S. Army fight in World War I. Contains 3 “choose the ending” sections for the reader to pick from concerning what the dog does next at key moments to help foster greater involvement in the story and discover what really happened in history. Does Author Visits at schools and libraries to discuss the book and the War’s basis in history.

**Animal Motions:** Children’s Picture Book Published by Indigo River Publishing (April 2013), App Published by Authorly (April 2014)

- Created this interactive story to help children aged 3–6 learn how to use their imaginations while they get active. Story is based on fundamental drama games author played with her youngest actors while working with children in various children’s theatres. Does Author Visits at schools and libraries where children act out the book, participate in simple drama games, and do a simple art coloring project. Visit AnimalMotions.com for 6 lessons plans created to go along with the book.

**Note:** Have on-going publishing deals with these companies to continue to create more children’s books.

**Your Writing Muse: Freelance Writer, Editor, & Script Consultant**

**Jan. 99 - Present**

**Littleton, NH since 2010 (Formally in Los Angeles, CA from 1999 - 2010)**

Responsible for various writing, editing, researching, and PR assignments in all forms of entertainment including film, TV, theatre, and book publishing. Have ghostwritten, edited, and helped launch/market over 12 books for clients from LA. to N.Y.C in both fiction & non-fiction. Do business-related assignments for many small businesses, including writing all website page content, bios, articles, blogs, newsletters, and conduct research. Known for working efficiently, being a self-starter who’s very knowledgeable and reliable, and able to meet all deadlines.

**Creative Assistant to Timothy Karsten & Karinna Kittles, Producers**

**May 05 – Oct. 09**

**Pacific Palisades, CA**

Wrote pitch proposals & treatments for both TV & film projects (including adult & children’s programming). Edited business website’s weekly newsletters and 6 book manuscripts including *Intimate Wisdom*, *The Sacred Art of Love*, which won both the Editor’s Choice & Publisher’s Choice Awards from its publisher, iUniverse.

**ESP Productions (Martin Sheen’s Company), Ramon Estevez, President**

**Aug. 03 - Dec. 03**

**Burbank, CA (Warner Brothers Studios)**

Wrote pitch proposals dealing with both television series ideas & film projects.

**The Sheil Park Theatre: Artistic Director, Playwright**

**Sept. 93 - Oct. 98**

**Chicago, IL (Chicago Park District’s Community Theatre Program for Wrigleyville, Home of the Chicago Cubs)**

Ran all aspects of adult, teen, and children’s theatrical productions from writing to publicizing each of the 7 original shows produced a year. Taught classes on playwrighting for adults and teens (including doing writing workshops for each group), acting for children and teens aged 3–18 (including doing separate improvisation classes), puppetry for children 6–8 (including producing a showcase of original puppet shows), and held weekly storytelling classes for preschoolers aged 3-5. Produced annual Wrigleyville “Haunted House & Hallway Graveyard” for the public every Halloween for all ages 3 & up (including designing, building, and organizing volunteers) as well as the annual “Daughter-Daddy Dance” every Valentine’s Day for ages 3-12. Also worked with children 3–6 during the 6 week Preschool Summer Daycamp every summer running arts-n-crafts, weekly storytelling sessions, drama classes, and various other activities as needed for the camp’s director.

**The Lincoln Park Children’s Theatre: Founder, Artistic Director, Playwright**

**Sept. 92 – Aug. 93**

**Chicago, IL (In Lincoln Park Zoo)**

Founded theatre in a historic building at the zoo for children aged 9–12. Wrote, directed, and produced 6 original staged plays for children while also teaching acting classes.

**The Port Orange Children's Theatre: Assistant Director, Playwright**  
**Port Orange, FL (Port Orange Elementary School)**

**Aug. 91 – June 92**

Wrote 5 plays and assisted director in all productions. Taught acting classes for children aged 9-11.

**Daytona Beach Community College: Professor of English**  
**Daytona Beach, FL & Deland, FL Campuses**

**Sept. 91 – June 92**

Taught English composition classes consisting of basic punctuation and grammar, sentence structure, paragraph writing, essay writing, journaling, and creative writing.

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## **OTHER WRITING EXPERIENCE**

### **VARIOUS ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN:**

**Publications Including:** *Script* magazine, *InkTip.com's* newsletter, *Scriptapalooza's* newsletter

**Websites Including:** RuralMom.com, GoLittleton.com, MyFamilyCaregiver.com, ThePlanCollection.com, TownAdvisor.com

### **SCREENPLAYS & TV SHOWS OPTIONED:**

*The Right One*, romantic comedy (optioned twice): Swingin' Productions (pac with Millennium Films), Urban Culture Films

*Countdown*, who-done-it thriller: Toolshed Films

*Valentine's Day*, romantic comedy: Independent Producer (director attached from The William Morris Agency)

*Giving*, new/doc. TV series: 8 of Hearts Entertainment (former producer from Merv Griffin Entertainment)

### **PRODUCED PLAYS:**

**Chicago:** Sheil Park Players, 8 scripts; Lincoln Park Children's Theatre, 3 scripts

**Florida:** Sugar Mill Players, 7 scripts; Storybook Theatre Co., 1 script; Fort Lauderdale Children's Theatre, 1 script

**Note:** Self-published *Our Holiday Show! A One Act Play & Holiday Concert Combined* on Amazon (May 2016). For performers aged 8–11 (grades 3-6).

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## **WRITING CONTEST EXPERIENCE**

*The Right One* (screenplay) placed as a quarter-finalist in both the *Nicholl's Fellowships* and the *Writer's Network Screenwriting Competition* as well as a semi-finalist in the *Illinois/Chicago Screenwriting Competition*.

**Participated as a Judge in 2 Screenwriting Contests:**

- *CineStory's Screenwriting Competition* in Chicago (for 2 years)
- *The Kingman Films International Screenwriting Competition* in L.A. (for 1 year)

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## **EDUCATION**

**B.A. English/Minor Theatre, *University of New Hampshire***  
**Durham, NH**

**1986 - 1990**

**Graduate of *The Institute of Children's Literature***  
**West Redding, CT**

**1991 - 1993**

Program of Study Completed: *Writing for Children & Teenagers*

**Certified to do Script Coverage by *The American Film Institute***  
**Chicago, IL (*CineStory* at Columbia College)**

**1998**

Program of Study Completed: *Donna Cooper's Coverage Workshop for Film & TV*

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**Interests:** hiking, snowshoeing, & yoga