

CISSY M. REBICH

Born and raised in the Pittsburgh area, Cissy studied music and dance from a very early age. She attended Duquesne University on a Tamburitzan performing scholarship and graduated with a degree in voice education. Discovering that her performance days were not over, Cissy enjoyed a long and fulfilling career as an actor in New York, performing in many Broadway productions, including *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Rags* with Teresa Stratas, *Mame* with Angela Lansbury, *Evita* with Loni Ackerman, and the original production of *Les Miserables* with Colm Wilkinson.

She traveled the United States and Canada in National Tours including *On the Twentieth Century* with Frank Gorshin and Imogene Coca and opened the Boston production of *Les Miserables* at the Shubert Theater. Off-Broadway audiences saw her as Della in *Gift of the Magi*, and she was critically acclaimed in her favorite role as Agnes Gooch in *Mame* with Sally Kellerman at the Burt Reynolds' Theatre in Jupiter, Florida.

Cissy also appeared in concert at Carnegie Hall with the original cast of Broadway's *Chess*, and in Canada in the original production of *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber*, standing in for Sarah Brightman. In 1989 and 1991, she entertained cabaret audiences in her solo debut, *Don't Laugh*, at Danny's Skylight Room on West 46th Street and Steve McGraw's, to excellent reviews.

She appeared in several films including *Ragtime*, *Heartburn*, and Woody Allen's *Radio Days*, where she was virtually unrecognizable as a 1930's dancer. Television audiences saw Cissy's appearances in several daytime soap operas and episodes of *Law and Order*.

She was elected a national councilor of Actors Equity Association and enjoyed participating in union activities, such as negotiating contracts with the League of Producers, mediating disputes between union members and theatre management, and voting in the Tony Awards. She joined the volunteers to work for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS and spent many rewarding hours delivering food, raising funds, and selling memorabilia in the annual Broadway Cares Flea Market.

While performing on Broadway in *Les Miserables*, she attended classes at Seton Hall University Law School in Newark, New Jersey and obtained her juris doctor in 1995. Backstage, the stage hands began to call her "counselor" and upon graduation, she decided to practice law. Hired as an assistant prosecutor in Morris County, New Jersey, she spent five years performing in front of a somewhat different audience, the jury. Cissy became associated with the Newark law firm of Podvey, Meanor, Catenacci, Hildner, Coccoziello & Chattman in 1999, where she handled cases in commercial litigation and insurance defense in the municipal, state, and federal court systems. She taught Legal Research & Writing to first year law students at Seton Hall University School of Law.

Appointed as a Deputy Attorney General in 2008, she was assigned to the New Jersey Family Division in Essex County, where she assisted the court in matters involving neglected and abused children. She has assisted prominent

New Jersey criminal defense attorney Alan Zegas with several high profile clients and has written and argued many criminal appeals.

Cissy appeared frequently as a guest commentator on the Court TV and MSNBC networks, where she enjoyed describing the play-by-play actions of the courtroom for television audiences.

In 2004, she completed an internship at *The Nation* magazine, reporting on the preparation and modifications made for the 2004 election in Florida. She also researched, assisted, and fact-checked articles for columnists Marc Cooper and Katha Pollitt. She freelanced as a reporter for the City Desk of *The New York Post*, covering legal issues and local news. She enjoys writing about lawsuits and legal trends for newspapers and magazines.

In addition to her Bachelor's degree and juris doctor, she obtained a Master's degree in journalism from Columbia University in 2008.

Cissy received her musical and theatre training at Duquesne and Carnegie-Mellon Universities. She continued her acting studies in New York City with Ed Kovens, Blair Cutting, and Sarah Louise Lazarus, as well as dance with jazz master Luigi. She studied voice with numerous teachers, including Pamela Wolfe, Boston, and Kimberly Steinhauer, Pittsburgh.

Combining her extensive legal experience with theatre and journalism, she has conducted seminars for theatre students, law students, newly-admitted attorneys, bar associations, and American Inns of Court, and has coached groups of business executives, candidates for office, and other public speakers in the art of communication and presentation.