

ROCHELLE CHRISTOPHER
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HISTORIC PROGRAM DEVELOPER/PERIOD COSTUMER
Authenticity is in the Quality of the Details

Dynamic, energetic and highly motivated Program Developer and Costumer, seeks position with organization that requires a Victorian and Colonial Specialist. **Detail-driven researcher and creator of exciting, informative and interactive program concepts** can devise characters and scripts, appropriate for the period. **Practiced in accession, repair and preservation** of period clothing, brings a wide range of experience with museums, historical sites and historical societies. **Committed to continuous learning and acquisition of new techniques**—always striving to expand knowledge and broaden skill base. An **accomplished teacher/trainer** and a **consummate team leader**, who is able to **transfer skills and knowledge** to any level of students/colleagues/general public.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

PROVEN METHODOLOGY

- Quality record of conceiving and staging, appealing and informative, interactive period recreations (1600-1900s).
- Research—design--create--adjust--deliver
- Attention to detail coupled with high quality work

DEMONSTRATED RESULTS

- Business Owner, Victorian Vanities. Technology savvy: created own website and newsletter to advertise it and to communicate historical and costume information to wide-ranging audience, both specialists and general public.
 - Goal-oriented self-starter with highest levels of personal initiative, integrity, and work ethic.
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KEY STRENGTHS

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| ● Living History | ● Presentations | ● Preservation |
| ● Costume Production | ● Historical Accuracy | ● Team Leadership |
| ● Research | ● Accessible Information | ● Teaching |
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EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

CERTIFICATE IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION
Bucks County Community College, Newtown, PA

Currently Attending

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 12-2005—4-2007
Maxwell Mansion, Philadelphia, PA “Philadelphia's only Victorian House Museum”
2005 PLANING COMMITTEE—Gravedigger's Ball, Laurel Hill Cemetery, Philadelphia, PA

CERTIFICATE IN INDUSTRIAL FASHION METHODS
Philadelphia University, Philadelphia, PA

2006

Certified to make 18th century corsets through **Costume Gallery**

CHARTERED FINANCIAL CONSULTANT, CHARTERED LIFE UNDERWRITER American College,
Bryn Mawr, PA

B.Sc.--DESIGN AND MERCHANDISING
Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA

Member, Philadelphia Dickens Fellowship—Recipient of H.O.L.D.. Award
Member, Victorian Society of Philadelphia's

CAREER PATH

HISTORIC PROGRAM DEVELOPER/COSTUMER
Business Owner/

Victorian Vanities

2000-Present

Major Functions: Painstaking research, design, preparation and performance of Living History presentations for local Historical Societies. Expert portrayal of unique character, Constance Adams, who has lived on th Street in Philadelphia from 1690-1900 and will discourse on an any and all pertinent topics, in period appropriate costume. Able to teach advanced sewing. Successfully markets and sells high-quality clothing and accessories via website and craft fairs.

Distinguished Program Developer and Director, from conception to performance, of interactive historical recreations. These projects required exhaustive research through source materials and Internet, and the creation of period costumes worn by all participants:

- **Women's Rights in the 1850s**, for the Ebenezer Maxwell Mansion—the only authentically restored Victorian house museum and gardens in Philadelphia
- **Hard Times for these American Times** – 1876 Philadelphia based on Dickens' *Hard Times*
- **Mourning Practices of the late 1890s**, for the Maxwell Mansion, Laurel Hill Cemetery and Morris Arboretum.
- Contributed expertise to the costume collection of the Atwater Kent Museum, Philadelphia's City Museum, by accessioning, restoring, and preserving costumes
- Professionally assisted the Bronx Historical Society and Friends of Dickens, New York.
 - The Bronx Historical Society stated, "i would like to thank you for making the Dickens event...both possible and a success!"
 - The Friends of Dickens, New York said, "It was truly wonderful to have you with us for the 95th Conference of the Dickens Fellowship. Your appearance, each day, in a different 19th century outfit...enhanced the entire program."
- Superbly outfitted several Bed and Breakfast owners in Cape May, NJ
- Effectively taught well-attended classes on Basic Period Pattern Design at Craft Fashion Institute

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Philadelphia, PA

Maxwell Mansion

2004-2007

Created short-term plan to secure annual operating budget
Created and produced bulk mailings to membership
Created budget for 2007 fiscal year
Created initial job description for Executive Director
Coordinated PR with local newspapers
Directed several events throughout the year
Participated in building the Board of Trustees
Vice-President—Board of Trustees, President—Education Committee, Volunteer Coordinator, Member of Magaziner, Development and Finance Committees

SITE MANAGER/CURATOR
Philadelphia, PA

Strawbridge's Department Store

2004-2005
Christmas Seasons

Major Functions: Recruited, hired, trained and managed a staff of 23 sales associates, an Assistant manager and Lead Associate to run all aspects of this exhibit through the Christmas season. Anticipated, detected, and resolved all problems relating to publicity, housekeeping, security and crowd control with appropriate members of store staff. Opened and closed exhibit every day, scheduled groups through the exhibit and took care of all customer and personnel issues related to the exhibit and then closed the exhibit for the season.

EXCEPTIONAL TESTIMONIALS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
