

David Boles

Author · Dramatist · Publisher · Educator · AI Researcher

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ScriptProfessor.com · Boles.ai · HardcoreASL.com · ASL-Opera.com · BolesBrits.com

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY

For over four decades, I have worked at the intersection of dramatic literature, publishing, and education. My practice centers on recovering forgotten voices and values through small press publishing, script analysis, and literary writing. I hold an MFA from Columbia University, where I trained at the Oscar Hammerstein II Center for Graduate Theatre Studies. I am a member of the Dramatists Guild, Authors Guild, and PEN America. Since 2023, I have expanded my research into artificial intelligence applications for translation, teaching, and creative production.

RECENT BOOKS

UNDERWRITTEN

The American Experiment in Public Broadcasting, 1967 to 2026 · Technology · 2026

The first full institutional history of federated American public broadcasting, from the November 7, 1967 signing of the Public Broadcasting Act in the East Room of the Johnson White House through the January 30, 2026 filing of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's Articles of Dissolution with the District of Columbia. Fifteen chapters across the coastal flagships at WGBH and WNET, the regional production centers including Nebraska Educational Television in Lincoln, the independent producers at Florentine Films and ITVS and Sesame Workshop, the canonical programs that defined American cultural memory (Sesame Street, NOVA, Frontline, MacNeil/Lehrer, American Experience, Ken Burns's documentary cycle), and the five political campaigns from Nixon through the second Trump term that tested the federation before the sixth ended it. Drawing on Library of Congress holdings, the American Archive of Public Broadcasting at WGBH, congressional records, FCC filings, station-level archives, and oral histories with producers, executives, and on-air talent, the book documents how a fragile federated arrangement built liberty into its institutional design and how that design produced both its greatest cultural achievements and its terminal vulnerability. Volume Three of the Institutional Autopsy trilogy. The federation is not coming back.

The Apothecary of Mantua

A Musical Drama in Two Acts · 2026

Shakespeare wrote the apothecary twenty lines in Act Five of Romeo and Juliet and then disappeared him from the text. The shop stayed open. The forty ducats stayed on the counter. The law of the city punishes the sale of mortal drugs with death. This musical is what happens the morning after Romeo leaves, imagined as Tommaso Vesperi, a Paduan-trained physician stripped of his guild license for Paracelsian sympathies, running a clandestine clinic for the poor behind the public face of his apothecary shop. His dead wife Fiammetta, a folk healer who died in the plague of 1527, returns in the second scene as an orchestral theme. His young apprentice Nerezza keeps the back door open after dark. The Watch Captain is on his way to the piazza. Book and lyrics by Boles, ready for any composer who wants to set the score. The reading edition runs 338 pages and contains the full libretto across two acts and twenty scenes, a production bible, a composer's reference with meter assignments per character and a rhyme family inventory, scene-by-scene musical specifications, a production and staging section, and four scholarly essays on Mantua in 1537, on the apothecary trade and Paracelsian medicine, on the Mantuan Jewish community in the early Cinquecento, and on Shakespeare's source text.

The Claimed Body

How American Institutions Divided the Human Organism Among Themselves · Ideas & Inquiry · 2026

In 1862, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, the legal instrument through which the United States distributed approximately 270 million acres of continental North America across the following century. A settler filed a claim on 160 acres, lived on the parcel for five years, improved it, and received title. The Act was repealed in the contiguous states in 1976. Its logic was not. This book argues that the Homestead Act's registered-claim logic migrated from continental land to the human body and now operates across fifteen institutional domains that file active claims on portions of the American body from before birth to after death: the Birth Score, the Measured Child, the Sorted Student, the Diagnosed Body, the Insured Body, the Laboring Body, the Reproductive Body, the Military Body, the Incarcerated Body, the Addicted Body, the Athletic Body, the Beautified Body, the Datafied Body, the Dying Body, and the Dead Body. Drawing on historical scholarship, legal documents, public health data, and investigative journalism produced across the past half century, the book tracks how each instrument of institutional claim (the FICO score, the DSM, the pediatric percentile chart, the Social Security number, the drug screen, the actuarial table, the dying registry) escaped its original narrow purpose and now prices, sorts, and adjudicates the body across domains its designers never anticipated. The homestead did not end. It turned inward. Companion volume to Carceral Nation.

Carceral Nation

How the Prison Escaped Its Walls and Made a Panopticonic Society · Technology · 2026

Walk south on Peachtree Street in downtown Atlanta on any Tuesday morning in 2026, and you will pass through more layers of surveillance than a federal inmate encountered in a maximum-security facility in 1975. You will not feel them. That is the point. This book traces three centuries of surveillance, discipline, and control as they migrated from colonial lantern laws through Bentham's panopticon, Foucault's theoretical escalation, the Cold War intelligence apparatus, the post-9/11 mass surveillance state, the commercial data economy, and the neighborhood platforms where citizens now report one another's movements. Drawing on federal court filings, police department disclosures, municipal camera registries, academic studies of chilling effects, and the published record of how commercial data brokers sell location data to government agencies without warrants, the book documents how a nation built on liberty constructed an invisible infrastructure of observation that touches every citizen. The argument began on Boles Blogs in December 2006 and continued through the dedicated Panopticonic blog and the domains CarceralNation.com and Panopticonic.com, registered in October 2008. Twenty years of continuous writing on surveillance and the panoptic principle became this book.

Selling Saturday Morning

Television, Advertising, and the Making of the Child Consumer · Technology · 2026

The twelve-year period between 1968 and 1980 in which American broadcast television built, contested, and politically ratified a commercial pedagogy of childhood. Five interlocking mechanisms taught children a Grammar of Want: parasocial relationships with animated spokescharacters, aspirational product demonstrations, jingles designed for viral transmission through children's voices, the program-length commercial, and retail environments engineered to complete what the screen began. Drawing on FTC and FCC regulatory documents, trade press, archived commercials, congressional records, developmental research, and personal experience, this book isolates the decisive period in which the commercial address of American children was constructed as an integrated system, and demonstrates that its architecture persists in every screen that has followed.

The Human Universal Beautiful

How Civilizations See, Shape, and Rank the Human Form · Ideas & Inquiry · 2026

An infant, hours old, will look longer at a face that adults rate as attractive. That perceptual tendency is real, measurable, and early-emerging. No civilization has ever left it alone. This book proposes a new framework: the institutional conversion thesis, which argues that beauty begins as perception and survives as institution. Human beings arrive with perceptual tendencies that orient attention toward certain configurations of faces and bodies. Those tendencies are then taken up by religions, empires, schools, markets, technologies, and legal systems and converted into standards with enforcement mechanisms, economic consequences, and social rewards and penalties. Drawing on evolutionary psychology, art history, race and colonial studies, gender theory, the economics of appearance, the history of cosmetics and body modification, and the emerging scholarship on synthetic imagery, the book traces the conversion process across civilizations and centuries, from the infant's first attentive gaze at a symmetrical face to the crisis of provenance created by synthetic imagery in the mid-2020s.

The Counterfeit Bargain

What We Gain and Lose When We Accept the Fake · Technology · 2026

A counterfeit banknote and a diplomatic white lie are both, in some reductive sense, “fake.” Calling them by the same name obscures everything important about them: the intent behind each, the social function each serves, the harm each inflicts, and the response each requires. This book constructs a nine-category taxonomy of fakery, from the criminal (counterfeiting, forgery) through the ambiguous (imitation, performance, persona) to the socially necessary (white lies, institutional fictions, simulation), and pressure-tests that taxonomy against twelve domains where the line between the real and the fabricated determines what we pay, what we believe, and how we govern ourselves. The argument moves from objects (currency, art forgery, luxury goods) through performances (theatrical repetition, constructed identity, social fiction) to systems (corporate branding, propaganda, synthetic media, and the cumulative cost these domains impose on a civilization's capacity to tell things apart).

The Broadway Machine

Forty-One Houses and the Architecture of an Art Form · Ideas & Inquiry · 2026

On a Wednesday afternoon in midtown Manhattan, 25,000 people are sitting in the dark inside forty-one theatres owned, with near-total statistical certainty, by one of three organizations. A structural analysis of how Broadway functions as a system: ten interlocking components (the houses, the labor, the money, the ticket, the Tony, the tourist, the pipeline, the afterlife, the brand, the memory), each with its own history, its own internal logic, and its own consequences for the art that gets made and the art that does not. The book traces the architecture of the most commercially successful theatrical enterprise on earth and asks why a machine generating \$1.89 billion in annual revenue finds it harder than ever to sustain the conditions under which new work can survive.

The Borrowed Saint

A Horror in Five Skins · Novel · 2026

A boy stands in a bathroom and discovers his face can change. Asa Greer is five years old when the mirror shows him something that should be impossible: the features of the boy next door, worn on his own skull. Over fifty years, he consumes more than a hundred faces, ascending through political consulting into institutional power, constructing public personas and eventually designing the face that governance presents to the world. Each transformation extracts an irreversible sensory payment. His most potent invention is a performed kindness so convincing that audiences worship it on contact. The warmth their trust generates is narcotic. His body is allergic to it. A horror novel about the distance between a window and a painting of a window.

From Genius to Joke

How We Betray the People We Should Remember · Cultural Criticism & History · 2026

A TikTok teenager announces that Helen Keller was a fraud. A New York Times editorial mocks Robert Goddard for believing rockets could work in a vacuum. Billie Holiday dies handcuffed to a hospital bed while a federal agent guards the door. The culture that destroyed them calls it skepticism, humor, or justice. This book calls it what it is. Sixteen case studies in eight paired chapters trace a recurring five-stage mechanism (achievement, overpersonalization, vulnerability, reduction, cost) from ableism and the conviction that certain bodies cannot house certain minds, through authorship disputes and gendered invisibility and the refusal to let genius age, to conspiracy culture and state power. Two framing essays flank the chapters: “The Mechanism” diagnoses the pattern; “What We Lose” asks what kind of society we become if we cannot stop.

The Failed City

An Autopsy of Urban Collapse · Urban Studies / Social Criticism · 2026

In late September 2013, a road crew buried 150-year-old cobblestones under fresh asphalt on Baldwin Avenue in the Jersey City Heights. Something durable was concealed beneath something disposable, for the convenience of the least permanent users of the road. The Failed City extends that observation across twenty case studies, five taxonomies of urban failure, and one diagnostic framework. The five taxonomies are catastrophic erasure (Pompeii, Pripyat, Centralia, Galveston), economic exsanguination (Gary, Cairo, Flint, Pittsburgh), the utopian misfire (Laurent, Fordlandia, New Harmony, Auroville), slow municipal death (St. Louis, Camden, Detroit, Baltimore), and the never-built city (Masdar City, California City, the African new capitals). The book argues that failed cities deserve the same rigorous study we bring to the cities that worked, and that our refusal to conduct that study guarantees the repetition of errors that have already been committed, documented, and filed away.

Go to Every Funeral

How Grief Defines the Living · Cultural Investigation & Memoir · 2026

Nobody teaches you how to grieve. A hybrid cultural investigation and memoir that asks what grief is, where it comes from, who controls it, and what happens when the structures designed to support it are broken. From the neuroscience of loss to the mourning rituals of the Torajan highlands, the burning ghats of Varanasi, and the jazz funerals of New Orleans, this book traces grief across biology, history, culture, economics, and the deeply personal. At its center is a single instruction, overheard in a Newark cafe twenty-five years ago, that contains an entire philosophy of human obligation: Go to every funeral.

What the Light Carries

A Book of Temporal Correspondence · Literary Fiction · 2026

Twenty-one letters, notes, messages, signals, and encodings, organized by the magnitude of the temporal gap each one attempts to cross. The gap begins at one second and expands to 4.24 light-years. A surgeon dictates while the patient is still on the table. A cockpit voice recorder captures ninety seconds a first officer will never mention to his wife. An eleven-word note on a gas bill envelope sits on a kitchen counter for nineteen days. A recipe card annotated by three generations carries a sixty-year argument about chocolate. Seven emails to an ex-wife are never sent. A retired librarian returns a book twenty-seven years overdue. A panel of experts tries to design a warning legible for ten thousand years. A scientist inscribes a theorem into the DNA of a bacterium that will outlive every human language. In the final letter, light itself becomes the message. These are not wisdom dispatches from a better tomorrow. Nobody here has answers. The gap is the plot.

Abandoned in Place

Cultural Criticism · 2026

A judge gave a father five days to help the mother. On the sixth day, he left. The infant woke up in a house with one fewer person in it, and no one called it what it was. Abandoned in Place traces the pattern of institutional abandonment from the personal to the political. Twelve chapters examine the grammar by which abandonment is disguised: the passive voice that removes the actor, the euphemism that renames the departure, the appeal to inevitability that converts a decision into a condition, and the therapeutic instruction that recruits the abandoned into the management of their own forgetting. The title comes from engineering: the designation for a decommissioned structure too large to remove, left standing with a notation that says no one is coming back to restore it.

Miscast

Who Owns the Story on Stage? · Ideas & Inquiry · 2026

The playwright creates the characters. The playwright determines what the characters are. No institution has the right to override that determination. This book examines the history, practice, and ideology of non-traditional casting in the American theatre, tracing the practice from the all-male stages of fifth-century Athens through blackface minstrelsy, the founding of the Non-Traditional Casting Project in 1986, and the contemporary institutional mechanisms that now govern who is permitted to play whom on the American stage. Fourteen chapters examine seven case studies: Samuel Beckett and the American Repertory Theatre, August Wilson's "The Ground on Which I Stand," Hamilton and the 2022 revival of 1776, the debate over who should play Helen Keller, the removal of a white ASL interpreter from The Lion King, Ali Stroker's Tony-winning performance in Oklahoma!, and the cultural architecture of Eugene O'Neill's Irish families. Written by a dues-paying member of the Dramatists Guild since July 2, 1984, member number 45010.

The Dark Matter People

A Novel · 2026

Dr. Lena Vasquez sees something in the data that the statistics do not measure. A gravitational lensing researcher at the University of Chicago, Lena finds a periodic oscillation in the dark matter density profile of a candidate dark galaxy. The signal is faint but structured, repeating with a regularity that cold, collisionless dark matter should not produce. Every instrument, dataset, and statistical method in the novel is drawn from actual astrophysics: the Euclid space telescope, the NANOGrav pulsar timing array, weak gravitational lensing, the Navarro-Frenk-White profile. The science is real. The discoveries are not. The question is open.

The God in the Wire

Technology, Meaning, and the Empty Shrine · Cultural Criticism · 2026

There is a sign on a wall at LaGuardia Community College in Queens, mounted above a narrow shelf. The sign bears the universal symbol for Deaf access. The shelf once held a TTY, a text telephone that gave Deaf people their first access to instantaneous distance communication. The TTY is gone. The smartphone replaced it. The sign is still there, pointing to something that no longer exists. That empty shelf is the governing image of this book, because the pattern it represents is the story of every technology Western civilization has worshipped for the past century. Something arrives. It promises to solve a fundamental human problem. We organize our lives around it. And then it disappears, replaced by the next machine, and the meaning disappears with it, because the meaning was never in the machine. It was in us. Tracing the pattern from the dynamo to the large language model, this work examines what happens when a civilization replaces its gods with its machines, and the machines turn out to be structurally incapable of doing what the gods once did.

Cat Heads in Space: The Body Problem

A Novel · 2026

What remains of you when the thing you thought defined you is removed? Four cat heads, separated from their bodies by a procedure they cannot remember, float through the universe in Life Helmets searching for the bodies they have lost. Born from twenty-eight episodes of the Human Meme podcast and written entirely for the page, this comedy of embodiment traces four consciousnesses as they confront the Doctrine of Irrevocable Change, navigate the clockwise soup that transforms all who enter it, and discover that wholeness may cost more than they are willing to pay. A novel about loss, identity, and the irreversible direction of becoming.

What the Land Remembers

Essays from Prairie Voice · Anthology · 2026

Twenty-two essays, a fictional interlude, and a sustained argument across six thematic sections. Originally published in *Prairie Voice*, this collection examines the systematic dismantling of the institutions that once produced citizens capable of self-governance on the American prairie. The phrase “technologies of formation” describes what was lost: the potluck supper, the handwritten letter, Sunday observance, the county fair, the one-room schoolhouse. Each was a mechanism by which communities reproduced themselves. When these institutions were replaced by faster, more efficient alternatives, the civic capacities they produced disappeared within a generation.

Touching Everything, Holding Nothing

Twelve Stories of the Extraordinary and the Alone · Short Story Collection · 2026

What happens when the thing that makes you extraordinary is also the thing that makes you unreachable? Twelve characters discover that their remarkable gifts function as sentences of isolation. An old man can only speak in limericks. A dragon kitten burns too hot for its own kind. A teenager becomes a walking nuclear reactor who can save cities but cannot embrace another person. A physicist folds spacetime but cannot close the distance to his own kitchen table. Written across genres because isolation does not respect genre.

Beautiful Numbness

Art, Sedation, and Twenty-Five Centuries of the Standing Ovation · Cultural Criticism · 2026

A pharmacist's grandson discovers that institutional art is the oldest prescription in Western civilization. From the Theatre of Dionysus to the infinite scroll, this work traces twenty-five centuries of aesthetic experience functioning as social sedation. The standing ovation is not a spontaneous eruption of feeling; it is the visible evidence of a pharmacological transaction between performer and audience that predates written medicine. The beauty is real. The catharsis is real. And the function of all of it is pharmacy.

The Last Living American White Male

A Novel · 2026

A garbage man and an AI fall in love in a world that has no use for either of them. Robert James Miller is the last person in the national database still classified as an American white male. Alma is the administrative processing unit assigned to his case. In a grey city where Universal Basic Income has replaced work and demographic categories have replaced identity, they discover what it means to be seen by something that was never designed to see you.

Passage Land

A Multigenerational Novel · 2026

A 160-year saga spanning 1866 to 2026, following three family lineages across the Great Plains. From the aftermath of the Civil War through the present day, *Passage Land* traces how the land shapes those who work it, and how the wounds of one generation become the inheritance of the next. An American epic of persistence, loss, and the stubborn hope that outlasts empires.

Beyond the Hands

Non-Manual Grammar, Discourse Structure, and Sentence Types in American Sign Language · 2026

Co-authored with Janna Sweenie, MA. Non-manual markers are not stylistic flourishes or emotional additions to signing. They are obligatory grammatical features that govern sentence type, discourse structure, and meaning in American Sign Language. This comprehensive textbook examines how the face, head, and body function as a complete grammatical system. Book Three in the *ASL Linguistics for Practitioners* series.

Depicting Space

Advanced Classifier Morphology and Spatial Grammar in American Sign Language · 2026

Co-authored with Jenna Sweenie, MA. Classifiers are hard because they require signers to think spatially while signing temporally. This comprehensive textbook bridges the gap between knowing what classifiers are and deploying them fluently. Book Two in the ASL Linguistics for Practitioners series.

Arm Angles in American Sign Language

A Study of Proximal Articulation in Signed Discourse · 2026

Co-authored with Jenna Sweenie, MA. Most ASL instruction concentrates on handshapes and facial grammar, treating arm positioning as secondary or intuitive. This advanced textbook challenges that assumption by examining how the shoulder, elbow, and upper arm function as primary articulators in American Sign Language, carrying semantic weight that affects meaning, register, and comprehension.

The Wound Remains Faithful: A Tragedy of Nora

Literary Tragedy · 2025

A seventeen-year-old girl walks out her front door one August morning and never comes home. This novel is an act of witness: holding the wound open, refusing to let it heal, insisting that who was lost matters.

Mother Narcissus

Autobiographical Fiction · 2016

The Narcissistic Mother is a classically defined psychological condition that infects and ruins many mother-son and mother-daughter relationships. This autobiographical fiction, half a century in the writing, confronts the themes of a childhood governed by a mother who set herself up as her son's perfect enemy and best competitor. The storytelling is shared in bright, taut shards of childhood memory and in the bitter limpets of an insecure adulthood. This is not about the son. It is about the mother's effect upon the son.

FRACTIONAL FICTION SERIES

Fractional Fiction transforms public domain works through systematic synthesis with contemporary scientific research. Each novel begins with a classic source text, integrates current research from peer-reviewed domains, and follows established dramatic frameworks to create original narratives that carry the weight of literary tradition while speaking to present concerns.

The Likeness

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: D.W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation*, Sinclair Lewis's *Elmer Gantry*, and Franz Kafka's *The Metamorphosis*. Research: Algorithmic image-making, voice cloning, and the machinery of synthetic media. A freelance audio engineer clones a county commissioner's voice and fabricates a ninety-three-second recording of a conversation that never took place. The recording enters the public record through a local newspaper and dismantles the career, reputation, and civic identity of a woman whose only vulnerability was that she spoke in public. The novel traces the lifecycle of a fabricated weapon through four perspectives: the technician who builds it, the official it destroys, the journalist who publishes it, and the public that consumes it.

Standard Deviation

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: Leonardo da Vinci's Vitruvian Man, Jeremy Bentham's Panopticon, and William Jennings Bryan's Cross of Gold speech. Research: Algorithmic governance and surveillance capitalism. Five characters find themselves caught in a municipal scoring system that reduces residents to three-digit numbers.

Civility Certified

A Dossier Novella · 2026

Source: Martin Luther's 95 Theses, Jefferson Davis's rhetoric of exclusion, and Sergei Eisenstein's documentary montage theory. Research: Institutional harm and administrative violence. Constructed entirely from institutional documents, this bureaucratic horror story asks what happens when the machinery of inclusion becomes indistinguishable from the machinery of exclusion.

The Somnambulist's Prophecy

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: J.M. Synge's Deirdre of the Sorrows, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari, and Robert Frost's poetry. Research: Neuroscience of somnambulism and disorders of consciousness. At the Emain Institute on the Hudson River, Dr. Francis Morrow studies patients whose visions defy clinical explanation.

The Corollary

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: Mark Twain's "The War Prayer," Aristophanes' Lysistrata, and Hesiod's myth of Pandora. Research: Women's peace activism in World War I. In September 1916, Ada Lennox refuses to say amen to a prayer for victory.

The Held Land

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: Willa Cather's My Antonia. Research: Black land dispossession. Three narratives across 159 years on a single quarter-section of Nebraska prairie.

The Kinship of Strangers

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: Edith Wharton's The House of Mirth. Research: Social network neuroscience. A disgraced financier and an outsider academic discover that social connection and isolation operate through the same neural architecture.

The Inheritance

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2026

Source: Henrik Ibsen's Ghosts. Research: Transgenerational epigenetics. Three generations of the Alving family confront the biological reality of inherited trauma.

The Dying Grove

A Fractional Fiction Novel · 2025

Source: James Joyce's Dubliners. Research: Mycorrhizal networks. A graduate researcher discovers a four-thousand-year-old forest consciousness in the Pacific Northwest.

THE ELEMENTS SERIES

Young Adult Fantasy Trilogy · 2026. Four disabled teenage girls discover elemental powers that defy explanation. Elle is Deaf and commands wind. Meen is blind and controls fire. Teena has cerebral palsy and moves earth. Tal has autism and feels water. Their names encode their identity: take the right letters from Eleanor, Mingzhu, Christina Sarah, and Talia, and you spell EleMenTs. Hunted by Prometheus Applied Sciences, they must choose between hiding and fighting for a world that has always underestimated them.

Beneath the City · Book One

The Invisible Hand · Book Two

The Reckoning · Book Three

THE WESTBOROUGH CRUSADERS

Young Adult Literary Trilogy · 2026. Rooted in the eight-episode television series written in 1982 at age sixteen, The Westborough Crusaders trilogy expands that compressed dramatic material into three novels. Two of the original episodes were produced for Cablevision, shot entirely on location in Lincoln, Nebraska, and won a Cable ACE Award.

The Year Before the Wire · Book One

A Farewell to Shins · Book Two

The Stopped Clock · Book Three

CURRENT VENTURES

David Boles Books Writing & Publishing

Editor, Author, and Publisher · 1985 – Present · 40 Years

Independent publishing house creating impactful narratives that inspire reflection and reset moral compasses. Author and publisher of books, blogs, and scholarly papers.

PrairieVoice.com

Publisher · 2025 – Present

Literary journalism examining rural American life. Where forgotten voices and values of the past are reignited. The middle of nowhere is where everything happens when nobody's watching.

Human Meme Podcast

Host and Creator · 2016 – Present · HumanMeme.com

Ideas about living a human life and how we choose to propagate knowledge. Available on major podcast platforms.

Boles.ai

AI Instigator · 2023 – Present

Research in artificial intelligence applications for translation, teaching, and entertainment.

ASL Opera

Founder · 2023 – Present

Bringing Sign Language interpreted performances to worldwide opera stages, fostering inclusivity in global art spaces.

United Stage

President · 1982 – Present · UnitedStage.com

Advocacy organization where playwrights become their destiny by directing their own plays.

Script Professor

Script Doctor · 1990 – Present · ScriptProfessor.com

Script editing, rewriting, ghostwriting, and dramatic consultation for television, film, radio, and stage.

Hardcore ASL

Author and Instructor · 1988 – Present · HardcoreASL.com

American Sign Language instruction and textbook authorship, online and in person.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

City University of New York

Lecturer · September 2010 – July 2016

Founded and developed American Sign Language program of study at CUNY professional school. Multi-campus adjunct appointment with research responsibilities.

California Charter School System

Approved ASL Instructor · 2007 – 2014

State-certified instructor serving students across multiple California counties including Ocean Grove, South Sutter, Sky Mountain, and Connecting Waters Charter Schools.

University of California, Davis

Visiting Professor · April – September 2005

Visiting Professorship with the UC-Davis Program in Sports Medicine. Conducted research on cardiac arrhythmia in student athletes.

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Instructor, School of Public Health · 2002 – 2006

Taught humanities curriculum integrating dramatic and literary perspectives into medical education.

Rutgers University

Instructor, Department of Theatre Arts · 2001 – 2006

Theatre Arts and Speech instruction. Created 'Drama of the Body' (2002), an original production for Deaf audiences.

New Jersey Institute of Technology

Instructor · 2001 – 2005

English, Literature, Composition, and Dramatic Arts instruction for engineering and technical students.

New York University

Instructor, Department of Applied Psychology · 2000 – 2001

American Sign Language instruction within the psychology curriculum.

Fordham University

Instructor · 1999 – 2001

Critical analysis and argumentative writing at the Bronx campus.

The College of New Rochelle

Instructor · 1999 – 2001

English Composition, Critical Writing, and American Sign Language.

THEATRICAL WORK

Columbia University MFA Internships

School of the Arts · 1990 – 1991

Playwright's Associate to Arthur Kopit: Phantom national tour (1991), Bone the Fish at Circle Repertory Company (1990). Playwright's Associate to Peter Stone: Original Broadway production of The Will Rogers Follies (1991), Tony Award for Best Musical. Assistant Director to Jim Simpson: World premiere of Mac Wellman's Sincerity Forever at Brooklyn Academy of Music (1990).

The Producer Circle

Script Consultant · 1990 – 1998

Literary criticism and script analysis for producers Martin Richards and Sam Crothers. Eight years of consultation on Broadway properties.

Helen Merrill Literary Agency

Script Consultant · 1988 – 1991

Script reading and dramatic feedback for one of the most influential theatrical literary agents of her generation.

Arena Stage at the Mead Center

Script Consultant · 1987 – 1988

Script criticism working with Lloyd Rose (later chief theatre critic for The Washington Post) and Jerry Manning.

Ford's Theatre

Assistant Director · October 1987 – January 1988

Assistant Director to David Bell for Ford's Theatre's annual musical production of A Christmas Carol.

The John F. Kennedy Center

Victory Awards Associate · July – October 1987

On stage associate for The Victory Awards ceremony. Walked Jim Brady on stage for what would be his last public appearance walking unassisted.

ORIGINAL WORKS

Weeping Water Cafe

Stage Play and Television Production · 1986 – 1987

Original stage play written and directed, subsequently filmed for broadcast on KPTM Television, Omaha.

Watershed

Original Film · 1985 – 1987

Feature film written, directed, and produced on location in Nebraska. Supported by Watershed All University Fund Grant.

Murder in F-Flat

Serial Novel · 1983 – 1984

Serialized mystery novel published in The Daily Nebraskan over fourteen months.

Westborough Crusaders

Episodic Television Drama · 1981 – 1982

Eight-episode dramatic television series. Two episodes written, produced, directed, and edited for broadcast on Cablevision, shot entirely on location in and around Lincoln, Nebraska. Won a Cable ACE Award.

Drama of the Body

Original Theatre for Deaf Audiences · 2002

Original production at Rutgers University Department of Theatre. Pioneering work in accessible theatrical performance.

BROADCAST & MEDIA

Boles.tv

Live Stream Host · 2020 – Present

Host of the Boles.tv live stream, continuing a four-decade career in broadcast media.

KOLN/KGIN-TV 10/11 News

Movie Critic · 1981 – 1988

Film critic for Nebraska superstations serving statewide audiences. Earlier role as teenage movie critic on 'Kidding Around' (1980-1983).

Three Eagles Communications / KFOR 1240 AM

Radio Host · 1979 – 1987

'Unique Youth' weekly radio interview program. Eight years of broadcast experience beginning at age sixteen.

Prairie Schooner

Editorial Assistant · 1985 – 1987

First undergraduate in the sixty-year history of the literary quarterly to serve as editorial assistant.

EDITORIAL & PUBLISHING WORK

Pearson Education

Critical Reading Project Reviewer · 2000 – 2002

Prentice Hall

Comparative Marketing Reviewer · 2000 – 2001

Macmillan / New Riders Publishing

Technical Editor · February – June 1998

Guild of British Camera Technicians

U.S. East Coast Correspondent, Eyepiece Magazine · 2001 – 2002

EDUCATION

Columbia University in the City of New York

Master of Fine Arts, Theatre

Oscar Hammerstein II Center for Graduate Theatre Studies, 1988–1991

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Bachelor of Arts, English

1983–1987

HONORS, AWARDS & MEMBERSHIPS

Cable ACE Award (Westborough Crusaders, 1982) · Shubert Organization Presidential Scholar (Renewed) · Librettist and Lyricist Summer Stipend · Watershed All University Fund Grant · Vreeland Scholar

Dramatists Guild · Authors Guild · PEN America

LANGUAGES

American Sign Language: Native/Bilingual Proficiency · English: Native · Spanish: Professional Working Proficiency · Old French: Reading Proficiency

WEB CONSTELLATION & DIGITAL PROPERTIES

Boles.com	Personal Site and Archives, Est. 1995
BolesBooks.com	David Boles Books Writing & Publishing
BolesBlogs.com	Unified Blog Network (14 properties)
PrairieVoice.com	Literary Journalism, Est. 2025
HumanMeme.com	Podcast and Ideas Platform
Boles.ai	AI Research
UnitedStage.com	Playwright Advocacy
ScriptProfessor.com	Script Consulting
HardcoreASL.com	ASL Instruction
ASL-Opera.com	Opera Accessibility
BolesBells.com	Health and Fitness
BoodleBoy.com	Creative Identity, Est. 1974

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CERTIFICATIONS

The Neuroscience of Learning · Vocal Production Techniques: Editing and Mixing in Pro Tools · Foundations of Audio: Compression and Dynamic Processing · Amazon Web Services: Enterprise Security