

Patricia Saumsiegle Rabe

Senior Producer

Random House, Inc.

Class of 1969



During her years at Needham High School, Tish Saumsiegle Rabe began a wonderful and varied career in music, the arts, and letters. Ms. Rabe developed as a singer and actress by performing in the Needham High School mixed chorus, drama productions, and the musicals, *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, and *South Pacific*. High school productions were not enough for this talented performer, however, as she was also a singer with a folk-rock band called the *Town Dump*. This group, made up of three more Needham High students, played in local coffee houses. In addition to her musical and dramatic interests, Ms. Rabe's writing and production career was foreshadowed by her involvement on the board of Even a Rag Like This.

After Needham High School Ms. Rabe went to Ithaca College in New York where she earned a Bachelor of Music degree, cum laude, in vocal performance. Again in addition to her college studies, Ms. Rabe was involved in an outside music group. She was the lead singer for a jazz quintet called *Que Passa* which performed on the weekends.

Following college Ms. Rabe headed for New York City to find work as a singer. Singing jobs were not easily forthcoming so Ms. Rabe expanded her horizons. With the help of her former Needham High School music teacher, Dave Connor, who was music director for Sesame Street, Ms. Rabe was hired as assistant music director and began her new and ever expanding career.

Since that beginning, Ms. Rabe has been a Senior Producer

for the PBS science series for children, *3-2-1 Contact*; she has traveled to China with Jim Henson's Muppets for the production of the NBC family special, *Big Bird in China*; and she has worked on the production staff of Sesame Street, the Electric Company, and the Great Space Coaster.

As for her other talents, Ms. Rabe has been a lyricist for many television productions. Her credits include, among others, two songs in HBO's animated production of *The City Mouse and the Country Mouse: a Christmas Tale*, Shari Lewis's *Lamp Chop Play Along*, songs for the Nickelodeon network, songs for Captain Kangaroo, and over 70 songs for the *3-2-1 Contact* series for which she received an Emmy nomination for Outstanding Achievement in Music Direction and Composition.

In addition, Ms. Rabe has been the scriptwriter for the PBS children's series *Long Ago and Far Away*, for the Sesame Street Muppets Talk and Play cassette system, and for various public service advertisements, including *Be Smart, Don't Start* and *Give a Hoot, Don't Pollute*. Her script work for the PBS series, *3-2-1 Contact*, deserved another Emmy nomination, this time for Outstanding Achievement in Writing for a Children's Series.

Ms. Rabe has also authored several books in the Sesame Street Growing Up series, including Bert and the Broken Teapot, Big Bird Goes to the Doctor, and Elmo Gets Homesick, among others.

Currently Ms. Rabe is a senior producer for Random House Home Video where she is responsible for producing all children's home video and audio projects including network acquisitions and original productions for Sesame Street, Dr. Seuss, Richard Scarry, and the Berenstain Bears.