
JOHN OWENS

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SUMMARY

An award-winning journalist and communicator who specializes in documentary production, videography, video editing, news editing, news writing and reporting, photography and photo editing, television and web content production, newsroom management and education. A multi-platform storyteller with expertise in a variety of subjects, including urban affairs, arts and culture and general human interest stories. Possesses managerial skills to motivate and lead high-performing production teams. A social media enthusiast with experience in various CMS platforms, SEO writing and traffic-measuring tools, including Chartbeat and Omniture.

EXPERIENCE

DECADES NETWORK — WEIGEL BROADCASTING, Chicago, Illinois **Writer/Producer, May 2016 - Present**

A writer and producer for the Decades Network's daily one-hour news program "Through the Decades", hosted by Bill Kurtis, responsible for documentary segments about important events in history, combining new interviews, original footage and archival footage from CBS News and other sources. Also, a writer and producer for special series on Decades, including "1968" and "Comedy Through The Decades". The Decades Network is a joint venture from the CBS Corporation and Weigel Broadcasting, available on over 50 percent of televisions throughout the U.S., including the New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles markets. Also, a writer and producer for programming on Me-TV, including the weekly reality series, "Collector's Call". Me-TV is a Weigel Broadcasting network available to over 96 percent of households in America.

JOHN OWENS — SELF-EMPLOYED, Chicago, Illinois **Multimedia Journalist/Producer/Editor, August 1987 - Present**

A free-lance writer, reporter and researcher with published news stories in the Chicago Tribune, Los Angeles Times, Illinois Issues, Nieman Reports, Chicago Reader, New City, Block Club Chicago and Screen.

A free-lance producer for broadcast and online, responsible for television and web documentaries, podcasts and audio reports for PBS, NPR Illinois, Slate ("Placemakers" podcast series) and Link TV. Also, served as the executive producer and producer of the Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards show from 2012-2015, which ran on WYCC-TV 20 (PBS Chicago) and CLTV (Chicagoland Television), responsible for the overall show presentation, while overseeing a cast and crew of over 50 people.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Chicago, Illinois **Senior Video Producer, September 2008 - January 2016**

Produced and oversaw production of video segments on Tribune's website. Proficient as a videographer and video editor, with extensive experience on variety of non-linear editing platforms. Trained and oversaw reporters and photographers on all aspects of video production. Served as news and features reporter for newspaper, covering enterprise stories in the Chicago area and Midwest. Supplemented my print stories with complementary videos and photos for online and print. Performed additional duties as photo assignment editor and online photo editor for the newspaper's website. Highlights include:

- Produced video content for award-winning multimedia presentations: "Kenwood's Journey," "Chicago Under the Gun," "Lost Friends," "Across the Border, Beyond the Law" and "Pension Games."
- Produced long-form Tribune-branded documentaries for broadcast and online, including award-winning features, "Kenwood's Journey", "Chicago Under the Gun" and "Lost Friends."
- Helped create, launch and produce Tribune "Photos of the Day" segment on WGN-TV from 2010 to 2012.
- Trained staff of reporters and photographers on all aspects of video production.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Chicago, Illinois **Executive Producer/News Editor, January 1998 - September 2008**

Shared content between broadcast and online partners WGN-TV, CLTV, chicagotribune.com and Tribune Broadcasting. Served as executive producer for electronic news division from June 2004 to August 2008, overseeing a group of videographers who created content based on Chicago Tribune stories. Produced documentaries under Tribune brand to run on WGN-TV, CLTV, WYCC-TV, Link-TV and chicagotribune.com. Highlights include:

- Produced news and feature segments for chicagotribune.com, CLTV, and WGN-TV.
- Wrote and produced award-winning documentaries and online multimedia presentations, including "The City's Pastime," "A Tank of Gas, A World of Trouble (Oil Safari)," "Off-Loop, On Stage," and "Football in Chicago."
- Created and produced "Tomorrow's Headlines Tonight" segment from 1998 to 2005 on WGN-TV, CLTV, and WGN-AM.

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ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

CHICAGOLAND TELEVISION NEWS (CLTV), Chicago, Illinois. Assignment Editor/Producer, October 1994 - December 1997. Developed and assigned news stories to reporters and videographers for 24-hour news channel owned by Tribune Company. Worked with producers and executive producers to determine story placement within news show. Produced segments for news shows.

FOX NEWS CHICAGO (WFLD-TV), Chicago, Illinois. Assignment Editor/Field Producer, October 1992 - October 1994. Developed and assigned news stories to reporters and photojournalists. Worked with photojournalists covering enterprise and breaking news stories for nightly newscast.

CITY NEWS BUREAU, Chicago, Illinois. Reporter/Editor, June 1990 - October 1992. Covered and wrote stories for news wire service in Chicago area. Rewrote and edited stories submitted by general assignment and beat reporters.

CHICAGO TRIBUNE, Chicago, Illinois. Editorial Assistant, August 1987 - June 1990. Encoded agate. Edited and rewrote copy for sports section. Covered high school and college sports events.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO, Chicago, Illinois. Adjunct Professor, August 2010 - Present. Teaches basic and advanced interactive media courses and broadcast writing to students pursuing associate degrees at Kennedy-King College, one of seven City Colleges of Chicago.

EDUCATION

ROBERT MORRIS COLLEGE, Chicago, Illinois. Professional Degree in Multimedia, 2000

BOSTON UNIVERSITY, Boston, Massachusetts. B.S., Broadcasting and Film, Minor in English, 1986

AWARDS

- Chicago/Midwest Emmy Awards as Producer:
 - Outstanding Cultural Achievement for Documentary Programs (2014-2015) for "Kenwood's Journey."
 - Best Documentary of Historic Significance (2004-2005) for "The City's Pastime."
- Chicago/Midwest Emmy Award Nominations as Producer:
 - Outstanding Documentary of Current Significance (2013-2014), for "Chicago Under the Gun."
 - Outstanding Documentary of Current Significance (2006-2007), for "Oil Safari."
 - Outstanding Historic Documentary (2002-2003) for "Here's Harold: The Election of Harold Washington."
- National Sports Emmy Nomination for Best Broadband Documentary (2006-2007) for "Football in Chicago."
- 36th Annual Telly Award for Best Documentary (Bronze) for "Lost Friends" (2015).
- 2015 Peter Lisagor Award for Best Features/News Report for "Kenwood's Journey."
- 2015 Peter Lisagor Award for Best Multimedia Collaboration for "Lost Friends."
- 2012 Peter Lisagor Award for Online Investigative Reporting for Chicago Tribune Series, "Across the Border/Beyond the Law."
- 2007 Digital Edge Award from Newspaper Association of America for Most Innovative Multimedia Storytelling (circulation more than 250,000) for "A Tank of Gas, A World of Trouble" ("Oil Safari").
- 2004 Illinois Associated Press Award for Best Sports Report and Peter Lisagor Award for Best Documentary for "The City's Pastime."
- 2003 National Association of Black Journalists' Award for Best Documentary for "Here's Harold: The Election of Harold Washington."
- Chicago Tribune's "Edward Scott Beck" Award for Outstanding Professional Performance in 1999, 2004, 2012, and 2015.

AFFILIATIONS

Board Member/Vice President — National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (Chicago)

Board Member — Fund for Innovative Television

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management, Management Training Center, 1999

COMPUTER AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

Adobe Creative Suite (Including Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe After Effects, and Adobe Media Encoder), Quark Xpress, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Macromedia Flash, Pro Tools, Sound Edit 16 and all Microsoft applications. Also familiar with most Canon, Panasonic and Sony still and video cameras, GoPro video cameras and Ricoh virtual reality cameras.

