

# James Edwards

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## EXPERIENCE

### Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University (August 2025 – May 2026) Cambridge, MA *Nieman Fellow*

- Selected for the Nieman Foundation's [88th fellowship class](#). Fellows audit classes across Harvard University, collaborate with scholars and students at Harvard and MIT and participate in Nieman seminars and workshops.
- My study proposal focused on documentary theatre and using the stage as a medium for investigative journalism and storytelling. In the course Making Horizontal Theater (taught by writers and directors Jay Stull and EllaRose Chary), I worked with fellow students to write and create a documentary musical seeking to explore and illuminate the complex ways people of varied identities, experiences, and ages live in and with their bodies. This production was officially staged at Harvard in April 2026.
- Other courses included Found Poems, Erasures and Other Adventures in Documentary Poetry, taught by Tracy K. Smith, 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States; Reckoning with History: Collective Memory, Leadership, and the Politics of Remembrance, taught by Sanderijn Cels.

### GBH/American Experience (September 2023 – December 2024) Remote *Podcast Host (Contract)*

- Host/Narrator for the podcast series [American Experience Presents](#). Produced by TV's most watched history series, the first season of this podcast looked at the lives of three Americans who shaped pivotal moments in 20<sup>th</sup> century America. I served as host/narrator for two of these biographies, Joseph McCarthy and William Randolph Hearst.

### Wondery (May 2023 – November 2025) Remote *Producer/Reporter/Podcast Host (Contract)*

- (May 2023 – December 2023): Producer for the limited podcast series [Blame it on the Fame: Milli Vanilli](#). Worked with lead producer and senior story editor in outlining, scripting, fact checking, and interview prep for follow-up interviews.
- (August 2023 - November 2025) Host/Reporter for investigative podcast series [Heat List](#). Led reporting efforts, interviews and interview prep, scripting, and worked with senior producer and senior story editor to oversee production from development through all subsequent production phases.
- Led reporting and producing efforts on several potential series for Wondery during their development phase. Identified and reached out to sources, conducted interviews, obtained public records, and put together development foundation documents for review by Wondery senior staff.

**Game Theory with Bomani Jones on HBO (December 2022 – April 2023) New York, NY**

*News Producer*

- Hired as news producer for the second season of weekly HBO late-night comedy show that examined major issues in society through the lens of sports.
- Topics covered included drug testing in pro sports, gender equity in the NCAA, and sportswashing. • Pitched stories for topical, field, and deep dive segments of the show.
- Wrote and assembled comprehensive research documents for the show's deep dive segment, which provided background and synthesis of ideas for the writing team.
- Helped oversee fact-checking of the show's script as it was being written.

**Prologue Projects (August 2021 – December 2021) Remote**

*Senior Producer*

- Provided preliminary reporting and pre-production work for the limited audio series [Think Twice: Michael Jackson](#), co-produced with Audible.
- Interviewed and screened prospective producing and editing candidates.
- Left project at the end of December 2021 due to a family medical emergency. On caregiving leave from January to December 2022.

**FRONTLINE PBS (March 2020 – July 2021) Boston, MA**

*Podcast Producer*

- Part of a three-person team producing narrative and interview format material for FRONTLINE'S audio team.
- Host, reporter, and co-producer of podcast series [Un\(re\)solved](#), which was one part of an Emmy winning and Peabody-nominated multiplatform project examining a federal effort to investigate civil rights-era cold cases. Served as one of the lead reporters across the entire project.
- Developed and co-produced the 11-episode series [Covering Coronavirus](#) for the FRONTLINE Dispatch podcast; Episodes include "Cincinnati, Ohio," "Life & Death in the Bronx," and Race, Police, & the Pandemic."

**WBEZ Chicago (July 2017 – February 2020) Chicago, IL**

*Producer, Content Development Unit*

- Developed, wrote, and served as showrunner/lead producer for the podcast series [South Side Stories](#), a collaboration with Comedy Central. Lead and managed all stages of podcast production.
- Served as lead producer for the podcast series [16 Shots: The Police Shooting of Laquan McDonald](#), a collaboration between WBEZ and the Chicago Tribune. Oversaw series development, in addition to writing, editing, and mixing of all episodes.
- Worked as a contributing producer for the podcast series [The Trouble](#) (episodes "Haunted," "Politicized," and "Regret.")
- Contributed research and archival assistance to the podcast series *Making Obama*.

### **Self-Employed (April 2011 – December 2021)**

#### *Freelance Research Consultant*

- (January 2021 – February 2021): Script researcher and fact checker for the feature film *The Good Nurse* (FilmNation Entertainment, Protozoa Pictures).
- (May 2019 - July 2019) Researcher for the feature film *Candyman* (Monkeypaw Productions). Consulted producers and director on script dialogue and historical research.
- (September 2018 – December 2021) Legal and background researcher for A&E Networks. Contributed research to the programs *Fasten Your Seatbelt*, *Living In Sin*, *Gretchen Carlson: Breaking The Silence*, and *Unidentified: Inside America's UFO Investigation*.
- (July 2017 – July 2018) Consulting Researcher (history and archives) for HBO drama series *Lovecraft Country*, produced by Monkeypaw Productions and Bad Robot Productions.
- (March 2017 – May 2018) Legal Researcher for Tupac Shakur documentary, produced by Amaru Entertainment and White Horse Pictures.
- (November 2014 – January 2015) Researcher and audio-visual assistant for the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University. Assisted in center's coverage of the wrongful conviction case of Sean Ellis.
- (April 2011 – December 2012) Researcher for the book *First Class: The Legacy of Dunbar, America's First Black Public High School* by Alison Stewart; conducted extensive archival and library research; located sources for interviews.

### **Public Radio International (April 2015 – August 2016) Boston, MA**

#### *Social & Visual Journalist, Global Nation*

- Oversaw digital efforts for an 18-month project called [Global Nation Education](#), which examined the education of immigrant and first-generation students in the U.S. The project was part of Public Radio International and PRI The World's Global Nation coverage.
- Researched and produced [features](#), such as [blogs](#), [audio](#) and video posts, infographics and photo packages that help readers engage with Global Nation stories.
- Oversaw and edited digital work by Global Nation and Public Radio International partners.

### **WGBH News (January 2013 – November 2014) Boston, MA**

#### *Producer - Reporter*

- Brought on as newsroom's first convergence hire, assisting TV and radio departments in all aspects of local news coverage.
- [General-assignment radio reporter](#). Contributing breaking and feature stories to *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered* broadcasts.
- Writing, researching and field producing segments for the daily television news show *Greater Boston*; Also assisted in guest booking and research.
- Covered breaking events such as the Boston Marathon bombings and manhunt, the 2013 Boston mayoral race, the arrest of NFL player Aaron Hernandez, and the 2013 World Series.

**Merlin Media (July 2011 – September 2012) Chicago, IL**

*News Writer-Editor | Producer | Web Producer*

- Wrote, researched, and edited stories for FM News Chicago, a 24/7 radio news startup.
- Coordinated and distributed hourly newscasts.
- Assembled and edited audio from reporters and news affiliates.
- Managed and updated station's website and social media accounts.
- Provided additional reporting for news stories, including investigative stories and filing public records requests.

**Need to Know on PBS (April 2010 – December 2011) New York, NY**

*Production Assistant | Researcher | Freelance*

- Worked with National Security team and other producers at all stages of the production process, from story development through post-production.
- Researched and reported stories; organizing shoots; fact-checking scripts; searching for archival footage.
- Assisted in the preparation of segments for broadcast; Posted video, audio, and text to the online platform; managed deliverables; maintained production records.

**EDUCATION**

**Northwestern University, Evanston, IL**

M.S. Journalism

- J. Odon Bennett Scholar

**Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL**

B.A. Film and Video

- First Place – Reality Bytes Film Festival (Northern Illinois University)
- Official Selection – Black Harvest International Film & Video Festival

**SKILLS**

Experience with digital videography, audio production, and both field and segment producing. Proficient in Final Cut, Adobe Premiere, Sony Vegas, Adobe Audition, Cubase, Audacity, Microsoft Office, and Google Drive. Well-developed skills in computer-assisted reporting, public records requests, LexisNexis, TLOxp, PACER, and Westlaw.

## HONORS

- Heat List

- o Winner – Peter Lisagor Award (Best Podcast, Best Science and Technology Reporting, Best Reporting on Crime and Justice) – Chicago Headline Club, 2026

- o Winner – National Headliner Award (Third Place, Investigative Podcast) – Press Club of Atlantic City, 2026

- o Winner – Silver Tower Award (Investigative Journalism Podcast, Narrative/Documentary Podcast) – New York Festival Radio Awards, 2026

- o Nominee – The Ambies (Best Society and Culture Podcast, Best Scriptwriting-Nonfiction) – The Podcast Academy, 2026

- o Finalist – Deadline Club Award (Les Payne Award for Coverage on Communities of Color) – Deadline Club of New York, 2026

- Un(re)solved

- o Winner – News & Documentary Emmy Award (Outstanding Interactive Media: Innovation) – NATAS, 2022

- o Winner – National Edward R. Murrow Award (Excellence in Innovation) – RTDNA, 2022

- o Winner – Online Journalism Award (Excellence in Audio Digital Storytelling, Limited Series) – Online News Association, 2022

- o Winner – Scripps Howard Award (Excellence in Multimedia Journalism) – Scripps Howard Foundation, 2022

- o Winner – Silver Gavel Award (Multimedia) – American Bar Association, 2022

- o Narrative Nonfiction Official Selection – Tribeca Festival, 2021

- o Nominee – George Foster Peabody Award (Immersive & Interactive) – University of Georgia, 2022

- o Nominee – NAACP Image Award (Outstanding News & Information Podcast) – NAACP, 2022

- o Finalist – Salute to Excellence Award (Podcast: Arts and Culture) – National Association of Black Journalists, 2022

- o Finalist – DIG Awards (Audio) – Documentari, Inchieste, Giornalismi, 2022

- o Nominee – The Ambies (Best Reporting) – The Podcast Academy, 2022

- South Side Stories

- o Winner – Peter Lisagor Award (Best Podcast Episode, Best Business or Consumer Reporting, Best Music Coverage) – Chicago Headline Club, 2020
  - Finalist – Best Feature Series, Best Multimedia Collaboration, Best Public Affairs Programming, Best New Podcast

- o Shortlist – Publisher Podcast Award (Best Local & Community Podcast) – Media Voices, 2020

- 16 Shots

- o Winner – Publisher Podcast Award (Best Local & Community Podcast) – Media Voices, 2020
- o Winner – Sarah Brown Boyden Award (Best Series) – Chicago Journalists Association, 2019
- o Winner – Amnesty International USA Media Awards (Domestic News), 2019
- o Winner – National Headliner Award (Best Podcast) – Press Club of Atlantic City, 2019
- o Winner – Herman J. Kogan Media Award (Broadcast) – Chicago Bar Association, 2019
- o Winner – Peter Lisagor Award (Best Feature Series, Best Multimedia Collaboration, Best Public Affairs Programming, Best New Podcast) – Chicago Headline Club, 2019
- o Finalist – Scripps Howard Awards (Radio/Podcast) – Scripps Howard Foundation, 2019

- Broadcast Finalist – Religion Newswriters Association Contest, 2014
- Winner – Investigative Reporting Award – Massachusetts/Rhode Island Associated Press, 2014
- Journalist Law School Fellow – Loyola Law School, Los Angeles, 2013
- Silver Dome Award Finalist – Illinois Broadcasters Association, 2013