

## **JESSIE LEVENE**

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jessielevene.com

### **PROFILE**

Creative and confident British-Canadian-Ukrainian journalist, communications professional and educator. Strong research, writing, interview and communication skills. Extensive experience in recording, editing and presenting radio documentaries and podcasts. Further in-depth experience of print, TV, video and online journalism. Skilled independent and team player. Lived in China 2007 – 2010, London 2010 – 2015, and Vancouver Island, BC since 2015.

### **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

**Conquer the Dreaded Synopsis: How to Finish Your Book Pitch – Creative Nonfiction | 2022**

Webinar with veteran book publisher Jane Friedman.

**Outlining Your Memoir – Catapult | 2021**

Online course with award-winning memoirist Lily Dancyger.

**Writer-in-Residence Manuscript Consultation – Haig Brown Heritage House | 2020**

One-to-one feedback with acclaimed author Eden Robinson.

**The Writing Journey – www.traciskuce.com | 2019 – 2021**

Creative writing workshop series led by award-winning writer Traci Skuce.

**Doc Project Mentorship Program – CBC | 2016 – 2017**

Mentored by Iris Yudai, Executive Producer of CBC Radio One's *Unreserved*.

**Creative Skillset Freelancer Training Scheme – BBC | 2012 – 2013**

Mentored by various veteran BBC producers.

**MA Radio Journalism (Distinction) – Goldsmiths College, University of London | 2011 – 2012**

Courses in Creative Radio, Media Ethics, Broadcast Journalism and Online Journalism.

**Photofilm Storytelling – Duckrabbit Productions | 2011**

Three-day workshop on combining audio and photography.

**BA English Literature (First Class Honours) – University of Sussex | 2004 – 2007**

Dissertations on Salman Rushdie and the representation of Jews and Muslims in literature.

### **AWARDS & HONOURS**

**Humber Literary Review / CNFC Creative Nonfiction Contest – Long-listed for *Rat Year* | 2020**

Personal essay on my first-hand experiences of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake.

**Arts & Humanities Research Council Professional Preparation Masters Award | 2012 – 2013**

Won full scholarship and living allowance for this competitive Masters funding program.

### **PUBLICATION HISTORY**

**Comox Valley Collective Magazine – *Creating a Canoe* – Writer | 2022**

Article about a new cedar canoe built by members of K'ómoks First Nation.

The Cleaver Quarterly Magazine – *Takeaway Takeover* – Writer | 2014  
Article about second-generation British-Chinese restaurateurs coming of age.

Time Out Beijing Magazine – *On The Record* & other articles – Co-writer | 2010  
Article about Beijing's best music stores.

Or Something Magazine – *B is for Brain Tumour* – Writer | 2010  
Personal essay about my father's cancer diagnosis.

Go Chengdoo Magazine – *Your Chuancai Cupboard* & other articles – Writer | 2008 – 2012  
Monthly column, restaurant reviews, interviews and other pieces.

## **SELECTED BROADCAST CREDITS**

CBC Radio One – *All Points West* – 'Home In The Valley' – Presenter & Producer | 2018  
Special week-long series on homelessness and housing in the Comox Valley for this daily regional news show.

Telus Optik TV – *Save Space Nugget* – Location Sound Recordist | 2017  
Documentary about how the village of Cumberland united to save its forest.

CBC Radio One – *Unreserved* – 'Ahousaht: Story of a Skatepark' – Producer | 2017  
Documentary about a survivor's response to the Tofino whale watching boat tragedy for this weekly national Indigenous show.

BBC Radio 4 – *The Reunion* – 'Tate Modern' – Co-Producer | 2016  
Episode of this award-winning series which reunites a group of people intimately involved in a moment of modern history.

BBC Two – *Holy Rivers: The Yangtze* – China Consultant | 2014  
Contributed research and advice to this major BBC TV travel series.

BBC World Service – *China in Vogue* – Presenter & Producer | 2014  
Documentary about the rise of high-end fashion in China, Guardian Pick of the Week.

BBC Radio 4 – *Batting for the Middle Kingdom* – Producer | 2013  
Documentary about the development of the sport cricket in China.

BBC World Service – *In Perfect Harmony* – Assistant Producer | 2013  
Documentary about harmony singing around the world, broadcast on Christmas Day.

BBC Radio 4 – *Poetry of Gold and Angels* – Researcher | 2013  
Documentary about poetry in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

BBC Radio 4 – *The Listening Project* – Assistant Producer | 2012 – 2013  
Co-edited several listener-recorded conversations in this long-running project.

BBC Radio 4 website – *The Global Reach* – Producer | 2012  
Online photofilm 'La Lutte' accompanying first episode of this world news series.

BBC Radio 4 – *Short Cuts* – Producer | 2012 – 2013

Contributed pieces to the first and second series of this long-running show.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**Freelance Journalist & Producer – UK & Canada | 2010 – present**

Recorded for NPR, Radiolab, WUNC, Marketplace and others; produced for the Shambala Podcast, In The Dark, the Open University and others.

**Freelance Educator – Vancouver Island, BC | 2015 – present**

In-person and online workshops on Podcasts, Photofilms and Crisis Communications for North Island College, Ahousaht Education Authority, Comox Valley Arts Council, Comox Valley Regional District and K'ómoks First Nation.

**K'ómoks First Nation – Communications Coordinator – Courtenay, BC | 2021 – 2022**

Produced monthly community newsletter, website, social media and press releases.

**Traci Skuce – Assistant & Instructor – Cumberland, BC | 2021 – 2022**

Led online creative writing workshops for students of this award-winning author.

**50th Parallel Public Relations – Production Coordinator – Courtenay, BC | 2020**

Produced podcasts and videos for K'ómoks First Nation and other clients.

**North Island College – English Instructor – Campbell River, BC | 2019 – 2020**

Taught foundational ENGLISH 115: Essay Writing and Critical Thinking.

**Vancouver Island Regional Library – Library Assistant – Courtenay, BC | 2018 – 2020**

Learnt Dewey Decimal System.

**Freelance English Tutor – London, UK | 2010 – 2015**

Prepared students for GCSE and A-Level English Literature essays and exams.

**Media Trust Productions – Production Assistant – London, UK | 2011**

Coordinated shoots in Africa, India, Eastern Europe and the UK.

**Rory Peck Trust – Communications Assistant – London, UK | 2010**

Researched, wrote and edited copy for the annual Rory Peck Awards ceremony brochure.

**Time Out Beijing – Editorial Intern – Beijing, China | 2010**

Researched and wrote feature stories, interviews and reviews.

**Southwest University for Nationalities – English Teacher – Chengdu, China | 2007 – 2010**

Taught English reading, writing, speaking and listening.

## **SKILLS & INTERESTS**

**Languages** Mandarin Chinese (Conversational); French (Basic)

**Computer** Mac and Windows, MS Office, Reaper, Descript, iMovie

**Photography** Photographs featured in various magazines

**Music** Played cello in youth and community orchestras since eight years old

**Food** Former co-chef of a pop-up restaurant, led food tours of London's Chinatown

**Travel** Traveled extensively in Europe, Asia and North America

**\* REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST \***