

# JESSIE LEVENE

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## PROFILE

Creative, confident and award-winning British-Canadian-Ukrainian journalist, communications consultant and educator. Numerous film, radio, print and online credits with national broadcasters and other media outlets, telling stories both global and local. Further extensive experience in communications for First Nations and other governments in British Columbia. Grew up in Hebden Bridge, UK (1985 – 2004), lived in Brighton, UK (2004 – 2007); Chengdu and Beijing, China (2007 – 2010); London, UK (2010 – 2015); and the Comox Valley, Canada (2015 – present).

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Munro Thompson Communications | Senior Communications Specialist | BC | 2023 – present  
Strategic communications and media production for Blueberry River First Nations and other government clients.

Freelance Journalist & Producer | Canada, UK, USA & China | 2008 – present  
Broadcast and publication credits below. Recording and production for NPR's All Things Considered, Radiolab, Marketplace, the Open University and others.

Freelance Educator | BC | 2016 – 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 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 Essay Writing and Critical Thinking course.

Vancouver Island Regional Library | Library Assistant | BC | 2018 – 2020  
Book processing and customer service at branches across the region.

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 film projects in Africa, India, Europe and the UK.

Rory Peck Trust | Communications Assistant | London, UK | 2010  
Researched, wrote and edited 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.

Alternative Information Centre | Media Assistant | Israel-Palestine | 2007  
 Monitored media and assisted on tours of Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts | Usher | Brighton, UK | 2004 – 2007  
 Ushered audiences at film, theatre, music and dance events.

Edinburgh International Book Festival | Usher | Edinburgh, UK | 2005  
 Ushered audiences at live author events including Zadie Smith and Margaret Atwood.

Lumb Bank – Arvon Writing House | Assistant | Hebden Bridge, UK | 2002 – 2004  
 Events assistance at residential writing centre in the former home of poet laureate Ted Hughes.

## **BROADCAST CREDITS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BBC Radio 4 | *Short Cuts* | Producer | UK | 2012 – 2013  
Contributed pieces to the first and second series of this long-running show.

## **PUBLICATION CREDITS**

Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper | Canada | 2023  
Reports on the future of the Royal BC Museum, and development of Long Beach Airport.

Comox Valley Collective Magazine | *Creating a Canoe* | Canada | 2022  
Article about a cedar canoe built by members of K'ómoks First Nation.

The Cleaver Quarterly Magazine | *Takeaway Takeover* | China | 2014  
Portraits of two second-generation British-Chinese restaurateurs coming of age.

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

Time Out Beijing Magazine | *On The Record* & other articles | China | 2010  
A review of Beijing's best music stores.

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

## **EDUCATION & TRAINING**

Creative Nonfiction | How to Finish Your Book Pitch | USA | 2022  
Webinar with veteran book publisher Jane Friedman.

Catapult | Outlining Your Memoir | USA | 2021  
Online course with award-winning memoirist Lily Dancyger.

Haig-Brown House | Writer-in-Residence Manuscript Consultation | Campbell River, BC | 2020  
One-to-one story feedback with acclaimed author Eden Robinson.

Traci Skuce – The Writing Journey | Cumberland, BC | 2019 – 2021  
Creative writing workshop series led by award-winning writer.

CBC Doc Project Mentorship Program | Canada | 2016 – 2017  
Mentored by Iris Yudai, Executive Producer of CBC Radio One's *Unreserved*.

BBC Creative Skillset Freelancer Training Scheme | London, UK | 2012 – 2013  
Mentored by various veteran BBC producers.

Goldsmiths College – University of London | MA Radio (Distinction) | London, UK | 2011 – 2012  
Courses in Creative Radio, Media Ethics, Broadcast Journalism and Online Journalism.

Duckrabbit Productions | Photofilm Storytelling | Birmingham, UK | 2011  
Three-day workshop on combining audio and photography.

University of Sussex | BA English (First Class Honours) | Brighton, UK | 2004 – 2007  
Dissertations on Salman Rushdie, and Jews and Muslims in Western literature.

## **AWARDS & HONOURS**

Humber Literary Review Creative Nonfiction Contest | *Rat Year* | Canada | 2020  
Longlisted for essay about my first-hand experiences of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake.

Arts & Humanities Research Council – Professional Preparation Masters Award | UK | 2011 – 2012  
Won full scholarship and living allowance from this competitive postgrad funding program.

## **VOLUNTEERING**

Dev's Darling Donkeys | Cumberland, BC | 2015 – present  
Donkey walking, care, shelter construction and fundraising.

Miners Memorial Weekend Oral History Project | Cumberland, BC | 2016  
Recorded interviews with labour activists and historians.

In The Dark | London, UK | 2012 – 2015  
Curated and produced audio for live events and podcasts.

Hampstead Heath Oral History Project | London, UK | 2012  
Recorded interview with my grandmother for people's history project.

## **SKILLS & INTERESTS**

Languages	Mandarin Chinese (Conversational), French (Basic)
Computer	Mac, Windows, MS Office, Mailchimp, Wordpress, Premiere Pro, Audition
Photography	Images featured in various publications
Music	Played cello in youth and community orchestras since age eight
Food	Co-chef of a pop-up restaurant, and food tour guide of London Chinatown
Travel	Traveled extensively in Europe, Asia and North America

## **REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**