

LAURA DODD

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BIO: Investigative reporter, producer, director, developer, and published book author with more than a decade of experience digging, pitching, field-producing, interviewing, writing and editing. Have been called curious or nosey, polite or assertive, depending on who's being asked. Gravitate to stories that are off the radar and hearing from people often overlooked.

AWARDS: Edward R. Murrow Award, Overseas Press Club Honorable Mention and a handful of Emmy Award nominations

SELECTED CREDITS

HURRICANE KATRINA Senior Producer 2023-2024

Lightbox Entertainment & Proximity Media for NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Senior producer – and sole producer in New Orleans – on “*Hurricane Katrina*” (working title), the five-part definitive series about the hurricane that changed a city – and country – forever. Directed by Oscar-nominated Traci Curry.

30 For 30: AMERICAN SON Lead Producer 2022-2023

Words + Pictures for ESPN FILMS

Lead producer on “*American Son*”, an ESPN Films’ 30 For 30 feature-length documentary about Michael Chang, the tennis prodigy who won the French Open in 1989 at the age of seventeen. Through Michael’s story, the film also examines the story of Asian immigration to America and what is gained – and lost – when a family decides to risk everything to chase the American dream. Directed by Jay Caspian Kang.

BLACK GOLD Producer 2021-2022

TIME Studios and Protozoa Pictures for PARAMOUNT+

Produced the third hour of “*Black Gold*” – a three-part doc series told as a true-crime conspiracy thriller digging into a decades-long campaign to trade our planet for profit.

PARAMOUNT+ / 60 Minutes+ Director / Producer 2021

Pitched, directed and produced “*Crisis: Race, Politics & Water*” – when a winter storm swept through Jackson, Mississippi, thousands of residents were left without running water for up to a month – a surreal indignity in a U.S. capital city in 2021. But after decades of white flight and shifting demographics, we uncover that there was more than a water crisis at play.

PARAMOUNT+ / 60 Minutes+ Director / Producer 2021

Directed and produced “*Jim Crow Juries*” – a probing look into a century old Louisiana law intentionally designed to make it easier to incarcerate people of color. The United States Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional, but there are still hundreds of people behind bars awaiting their day to seek justice.

CBS NEWS / 60 Minutes Director / Producer 2021

Pitched, directed and produced “*Best Band in the Land*” – St. Augustine High School in New Orleans is one of the few predominately black, all boys’ Catholic high schools in the country. The school’s band, a beloved institution in the city dating back to 1952, has a new -- but old-school -- band director who is working to rebuild the program, in spite of a myriad of challenges.

AMERICAN HOSPITAL Field Director & Producer 2020

Field-directed and produced a pilot for Quibi inside New York Health and Hospitals, the largest public health system in America serving 1.4 million patients annually, as it braced for a second wave of Covid. Lead a small crew that was granted unprecedented access from the top of leadership to the frontline health workers in the ICU to the “Covid Hotel” where hundreds were sent for quarantine.

SIGNAL / PF PICTURES**Story Producer****2020**

Combed through hundreds of interviews shot over years and around the world and created the most pivotal, salient and compelling scenes and story arcs for a series chronicling an outlier crew of Wall Street insiders as they investigate how climate change is threatening a complete global financial crisis.

GLASS CANNON, INC/ HBO**Producer, Development / Production****2019**

Sole producer at Ronan Farrow's production company overseeing its development deal with HBO Documentaries. Director & producer for a multi-part video companion series to "The Catch & Kill Podcast with Ronan Farrow," a podcast that built upon his NYT best-selling book of the same name. Developed a feature documentary film about endangered journalists around the world that is pending an HBO green light, with an Academy Award-nominated directing team attached. Also report, develop, write, package and pitch feature docs and doc-series with a focus on character-rich verite and deep-dive investigations, as well as adapt Farrow's original print reporting for *The New Yorker* magazine for documentary projects. Collaborate and liaise with high-profile directors for various projects in development.

CBS NEWS / 60 Minutes**Co-Producer, Associate Producer****2014 - 2018**

One half of an exclusive, dedicated two-person team scouring the world for investigative, original and engaging stories and executing them from idea to air. Responsible for discovering and vetting stories, thoroughly reporting and extensively fact-checking every angle, briefing correspondents, supervising production logistics for multiple film crews; directing and producing domestic and international shoots, and returning to headquarters to assist in scriptwriting, corralling archival material, and working on deadline with editors to craft the myriad elements into layered and compelling narratives.

Select credits:

- ***The Isle of Eigg*** -- **** Winner of an Edward R. Murrow Award & Overseas Press Club Honorable Mention **** -- Fed up from being mistreated by a negligent wealthy landlord, a motley crew of 67 resilient residents banded together in 1997 to buy their home – the Isle of Eigg, a rugged 12 sq. mile island off the west coast of Scotland – for themselves, the first community buyout in the country's history.
- ***The Pope's Choir*** -- **** Emmy nominated **** -- It's the oldest choir in the world and is by the Pope's side for all papal celebrations. The choir – 30 boys and 22 men – achieve a heavenly harmony, perfected by a meticulous and demanding maestro.
- ***The Greek Freak*** – **** Emmy nominated **** -- a profile of Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Greek superstar of the NBA's Milwaukee Bucks team.
- ***Chess Country*** -- A tireless chess teacher is recruited by an anonymous donor to Franklin County, MS, a blip of a town, to see if chess can take hold in the country. A year later, a chess boom is underway in the unlikeliest of places and the rural students are racking up trophies against competitors nationwide.
- ***Thrown For A Loss*** – a year-plus long investigation into NFL union-approved financial advisors – told through one story of one especially egregious financial investment that cost a handful of NFL players \$43 million dollars.
- ***The Spy Among Us*** – A two-part, never-before-told story about Jack Barsky, a former spy for the Soviet Union's KGB, assigned to the United States during the last years of the Cold War. Barsky, born Albrecht Dittrich in East Germany, led a double life for decades until finally caught by the FBI.
- ***The Blockade of Qatar*** – Qatar's young Emir admits to being blindsided by the economic and political blockade imposed against his country by neighboring Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, and discusses the challenging road to reconcile.
- ***The Prime Minister*** – The brash young Prime Minister of Italy, Matteo Renzi, reveals his motivation for initiating a controversial referendum to change the constitution by reducing the size of parliament by two thirds.
- ***A Survivor's March*** – Veteran Ben Skardon survived the Bataan Death March that killed thousands of American and Filipino soldiers during WWII. Now, at nearly 100 years old, he's still marching to pay tribute.
- ***Ambassador Kennedy*** – an in-depth interview with Caroline Kennedy, U.S. Ambassador to Japan.

NBC NEWS / Peacock Productions**Field Producer, Associate Producer****2012 – 2014**

Reported, field-produced, wrote scripts, oversaw edits, developed storylines, booked for dozens of shows across half-a-dozen platforms, including NBC Network, MSNBC, Military Channel and Discovery Channel.

Select credits:

- ***The Mystery of Flight #370*** (MSNBC) – On March 8, 2014, Malaysian Airlines flight #370, carrying 239 people, vanished into thin air. Within 72 hours, our crash team produced a comprehensive one-hour report for air, with correspondent Chris Jansing.
- ***What If: Armageddon 1962*** (Military Channel) – A one-hour documentary exploring the “What If” scenario: had John F. Kennedy been killed years earlier, in a not-widely-reported assassination attempt, leaving Lyndon B. Johnson to be president during the Cuban Missile Crisis.
- ***Everest Avalanche Tragedy*** (Discovery Channel) – By sheer coincidence, NBC crews were at Mt. Everest basecamp when an avalanche killed 16 Sherpas on April 18, 2014. Our crash team produced a 90-minute documentary about the tragedy, the rescue efforts, and the aftermath.
- ***A White House Christmas: First Families Remember*** (NBC) – Interviews with high-profile former, and current, first ladies and their daughters about their Christmas memories at the White House.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Contributing Investigative Reporter

2010, 2012

- ***Breakdown: Death and disarray at America’s racetracks – Racing Economics Collide with Veterinarians’ Oath*** (A1 story, Sept. 21, 2012) – A two-year investigative into the economics of thoroughbred horse racing and the veterinarians who treat the animals. Filed weekly memos covering a swath of reporting surrounding the horse-racing world including the role of trainers, jockeys, racing commissions, Congressional oversight, breakdown statistics, drugs etc. Field reporting to the race back-track to interview vets, trainers.
- ***Between Blast and Spill, One Last, Flawed Hope: Lax Oversight of Rig’s Failsafe Device*** (A1 story, June 21, 2010) – An in-depth investigation into the cause of the Deepwater Horizon Blowout that killed eleven men. Helped pour-through and analyze thousands of documents encompassing everything from dense engineering reports to government memos; interviewed experts and witnesses to the accident, and worked closely with an all-star team of NYT investigative, award-winning reporters.

DIG THIS GIG

Book Author

2011

DIG THIS GIG: FIND YOUR DREAM JOB—OR INVENT IT: A collection of profiles of 20-Somethings working in a variety of fields (for example, Healthcare, Entertainment and Government) speak candidly about their jobs. Hand-picked industry icons (for example, Georgia Congressman John Lewis, CEO of OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, Christina Norman) revisit their 20’s, too, and share what they wish they had known going into the business. Coinciding with publication, embarked on a 10-week promotional book tour across the country appearing on television and radio shows, as well as participating on academic panels. *Published by Kensington Publishing, Citadel Press; Released: April 2011 & a second printing in Fall, 2011*

EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

Master of Science in Journalism

** Academic Honors in Anthony DePalma’s Reporting and Writing Class, Walt Bogdanich’s Investigative Reporting class, and Stuart Karle’s the Law of Journalism class.

WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

Bachelor of Arts & Sciences in Political Science

** Graduated with honors