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Introduction

Eleanor Beardsley began reporting for National Public Radio in London in 2004 as a freelance journalist. Beardsley reports on French society, politics, economics, culture, and gastronomy. She has also played an active role in covering the Paris terrorist attacks in Brussels, heavily follows the migrant crisis, and travels to meet and report on arriving refugees in Hungary, Austria, Sweden, Germany, and France. Before Beardsley moved to Paris, France she worked for the United Nations Mission in Kosovo for three years and also worked for a France Television broadcaster as a News producer in Washington, DC.

Before her communications/ journalism career, Beardsley grew up in South Carolina and attended both Furman University and the University of South Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in European History and French and a Master's degree in International Business. She loves to travel and observe foreign cultures which made her love for journalism one of her passions and prepared her for her foreign correspondent job with NPR. Her favorite foreign cities to visit and stay in are Istanbul, Turkey, and Paris, France.

Subject/Content Overview

While living in France, she covered three presidential elections including Emmanuel Macron's win in 2017. Beardsley especially enjoys reporting and covering historical topics and has covered reporting on several anniversaries of the Normandy Beach D-Day invasion as well

as World War One anniversaries. Besides history events, Beardsley likes to cover women's sports in France and closely covered the Women's World Soccer Cup in June of 2019, which Team USA ended up winning. She has also covered many Tour De France cycling races and loves to cheer on France.

Beardsley's top recent articles have been reported in Kyiv, Ukraine, Paris, Grasse, and Cannes in France for National Public Radio (Paris). She likes to report on current events and people who get honored for specific reasons in France and the history of that person. Recently, her articles have been reporting on the war in the Ukraine and interviewing civilians and how they feel with the tensions and invasions rising. She reports on a broad selection of current topics. Like I mentioned earlier, Beardsley loves to travel and is willing to travel in Europe and France for a current events article.

Her reporting style is unique and depends on what kind of article she is writing. For example, If she is writing an entertaining article about the Olympics happening she will use more descriptive words and entertaining tone to get her readers to keep reading, and for a hard news story on war in the Ukraine she will use a more serious tone and support her article with real people, important facts and real quotes from her sources.

Free Press

Eleanor Beardsley lives in France and works for National Public Radio (NPR) based out of Paris, France. France is ranked number thirty-four in the 2021 World Press Freedom Index, which is better than the United States ranking at forty-four out of one hundred and eighty countries listed on the 2021 World Press Freedom Index. Just like reporting on protests in the United States, France has found difficulty protecting journalists out in the field reporting on

peaceful protests that end up with violent acts committed by citizens or the police. While at protests some French journalists experience getting hurt by police restraints. Police in France try to limit protest crowds and use gadgets like tear gas grenades, flashball rounds, rubber bullets, or even baton blows to civilians and journalists. Journalists covering protests sometimes get their equipment taken or seized by the police and some even get detained for covering the events.

Another Issue with France and Freedom Press that French journalists face is editorial independence because media ownership is concentrated and media outlets tend to be affiliated with big businesses interested in the economy. This is an important factor to consider because then articles and stories being published will feed the mistrust of the media and will have conflict of interests with those articles.

The overall “climate” in France towards the media and journalists is still hostile to this day and some journalists even receive social media or verbal threats set up by political parties/members during campaigning. Beardsley does report on political matters and has covered multiple presidential elections in France. From my research I haven’t found anything about Eleanor Beardsley having trouble while reporting in the field but that doesn’t necessarily mean she hasn’t been affected while working and reporting on those types of matters.

Sources

Eleanor Beardsley interviewed both ordinary French civilians as well as French government officials in her articles. In the first article I chose “Thousands of Ukrainians are training to protect their cities in case Russia Invades”, Beardsley interviewed a retired Ukrainian General Volodymyr Havrylov about Ukrainians being recruited now to join the fight against Russia. Gen. Havrylov says “ Today we have more than 400,000 citizens participating in all kinds of activities to help with the war effort in the east. This is a very critical mass of people

which was absent in 2014” when the war against Russian-backed separatists began. Beardsley also interviewed Ukrainian citizens about the same subject. In the second article I chose “Despite fears of a Russian invasion, one Ukrainian family tries to keep life normal”. Beardsley interviews Artyom and Marina Kluchnikov and their four children in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The contrast between these two articles is that in the second article The Kluchnikov’s bring up the fact that the war is emotional to them and like many other Ukrainians who have family living in Russia. “It’s a painful issue for me because my father, for instance, grew up in Russia, and my great grandmother was a Russian teacher. I grew up speaking Russian. And I was never against Russia. Never.” explains Marina on the subject. Without the addition of a civilian viewpoint, readers would not have thought about the emotional damage this war could lead to between normal families in Ukraine and Russia.

Without the addition of a government official like General Havrylov, we would not know the statistics of the war and what efforts the military officials of Ukraine are doing to prepare. In my third source “ The U.S and NATO stress unity on Ukraine as EU leaders worry about divisions' ", Beardsley interviewed a French political analyst Christian Markarian and he said “Putin wants the Europeans to understand that between Russia and America there is nothing. Russia is a superpower, America is a superpower, and Europe is not " which gives us a professional viewpoint on the matter through Valamir Putin's eye. Eleanor Beardsley provides reliable sources that make the reader connected to the story, providing supporting quotes, and details about the subject of matter while making the reader think.

First-Hand Reporting or not

Eleanor Beardsley loves to travel and does interviews and attend events in person. In my fourth source “This French Pianist Has Been Playing For 102 Years And Just Released A New

Album” Beardsley interviews Colette Maze a retired professional Pianist. In the first sentence of the article, Beardsley says “ Colette Maze welcomed me warmly into her apartment on the 14th floor of a building overlooking the Seine River. From her flowered balcony, she has a view of the Eiffel Tower, She offers me a whiskey or a cognac- along with a hearty laugh as it's 10:30 in the morning”. Beardsley uses many descriptive words and sets the scene for the reader as they read the article about Colette Maze. Later in the article, Colette Maze was asked a question it seems like about which type of composers she preferred, and in that quote, Beardsley caught a beautiful quote from Maze saying “ In music, there is everything- nature, emotion, love, revolt, dreams; it's like a spiritual food.”. You can tell by the quotes given that Colette Maze opened up and trusted Eleanor Beardsley during this interview about her new album being released.

In my fifth article “ In France’s Perfume Capital Of The World, There’s A World Of Beautiful Fragrance” Eleanor Beardsley traveled to Grasse, France to interview the director of Grasse’s perfume Museum, Laurent Pouppeville. Beardsley interviewed Mr. Pouppeville and asked him questions about the history of Grasse and which he replied “ Grasse was well known all over Europe for leather, not perfume, it was the glove makers who first tried to make their product smell better” he later explained when taxes on leather goods increases the tanners switched full time to perfume making. These quotes are good examples of a conversation that happened in person because she also adds pictures of the context he is talking about at the museum. In the same article, Beardsley describes “Grasse is a typical provincial town, with ochre-colored houses and giant shutters to close against the noonday sun. laundry hangs from balconies”. This quote is a good example of the description of how the town of Grasse looks and makes you almost walk where Beardsley is walking.

Stereotypes

In my sixth article written by Eleanor Beardsley, I came across a quote that stuck out to me and made me think of the French stereotype of French society being “snobby or superior”. In “Cannes Rolls Out The Red Carpet For An Expanded, More Inclusive Film Festival”, Film critic Lisa Nesselson says “ I don’t think anybody will argue with the notion that Cannes is the biggest, most significant film event on the planet, some say the Oscars give it a run for its money, but in my humble opinion that’s ludicrous”. While I was reading this article I was surprised that Beardsley used this quote but it was later supported by information about how Cannes carefully curated and chose certain films by professionals in cinema. This quote is a great example to show how French people think they are more intelligent than other countries like The United States by comparing the Cannes Film Festival to the Oscars.

In my eighth article “ Josephine Baker is the first Black woman to be inducted into Frances Pantheon” by Eleanor Beardsley, It made me think of the French stereotype of “French people hating Americans/ moving to their country”. This entire article is about Josephine Baker who is an American-born entertainer and civil rights activist who achieved fame in Paris in the 1920’s and 1930’s that was given the highest honor when she was officially inducted into the French Pantheon. French President Emmanuel Macron says “ Josephine Baker, you enter the Pantheon because while you were born American, deep down there was no one more French than you”. This quote broke that stereotype by the French President himself, while some French civilians were not pleased with this decision it wasn’t up to them. Most stereotypes are false and everyone should have an open mind and travel the world and experience it for themselves. Eleanor Beardsley researches and uses good sources and quotes to back up her story and to make her articles flow the way she wants to tell them.

Context

In my first article “Thousands Of Ukrainians are training to protect their cities in case Russia Invades” Beardsley includes critical information at the end of the article that says “Ukraine is receiving military help from NATO, Europe, and the U.S... The Biden Administration announced an additional \$200 million in defense military aid. This is critical information that French civilians probably didn’t know unless they watched President Biden's conference. In my third article “ The U.S and NATO stress unity on Ukraine as EU leaders worry about divisions,” Beardsley explains how “France hosted its diplomatic meeting with representatives from Germany, Russia, and Ukraine” in efforts to prevent a war from happening between Russia and Ukraine on Ukraine soil. This is also critical information that French civilians should know and be informed about because that is a big step in trying to stop tragedy from happening.

In my seventh article “ How “critical role” players turned their dungeons and dragons role-play into new animated series” Beardsley doesn’t show any critical information because it’s an entertainment article that is positive, fun to read, and informative during hard times with the Russian/Ukrainian war happening in Europe. A good positive quote from this article is from Marisha Ray, the Creative Director and core member of “critical Role” says “ she looks back fondly on how quickly the show grew week after week, considering it was just a group of goofy friends sitting around a table with no flashy visuals.” explaining that now their podcast is turning into a “fancy” animated series. Beardsley does an excellent job writing political, entertainment, and historical articles for National Public Radio in Paris. Her Twitter account is full of current events that matter to her and she loves to support other females including young female journalists.