

Marisa “Mars” Salazar

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Skills and Coursework

- AP Style Writing (Hard News, International)
- Layout and Website Design (InDesign, Wordpress)
- Opinion Editorial Journalism (Op-Ed)
- Adobe Software (Illustrator, Photoshop, etc.)
- Culture Journalism (Music, Arts, Community)
- Social Media Management (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)

Education

The University of Texas at Austin | July 2023

Bachelor of Arts in Journalism | GPA 3.5

Experience

Music Journalist, The Austin Chronicle | Austin, TX | September 2021-April 2023

- Reported on ten local bands over three months to publish a six-page music feature cover story.
- Reviewed album releases for publication in the weekly “What We’re Listening To” recommendation section.
- Previewed upcoming local concerts for publication in the weekly “Crucial Concerts” show promotion page.
- Official Press for SXSW and Levitation music festivals producing nightly coverage on performing acts.

SXSW Music Press, The Austin Chronicle | Austin, TX | March 2022

- Published nightly coverage documenting and reviewing the performances of various musical groups.
- Interviewed official music artists for entertainment previews that were published leading up to the event.
- Coordinated the work of multiple photographers to produce images that accompanied my written concert reviews.
- Assisted in organizing the content gathered throughout the daily events for immediate editing and publishing.

Program Instructor, Austin Bat Cave | Austin, TX | March 2021-Present

- Assisted the creation of educational materials accessible for visual impairments for a non-profit writing program.
- Guided students through the purpose, construction, and execution of Op-Ed articles within AISD and TSBVI.
- Edited and advised students individually on AP style formatting to polish their writing for publication.

Teaching Artist, Austin Bat Cave | Austin, TX | January 2022-Present

- Coordinated classroom instruction on various writing styles to encourage student interest in prose and journalism.
- Instructed marginalized students on English fundamentals to improve writing structure and ELA test scores.
- Developed materials targeting educational needs of marginalized populations.
- Coordinated guest speakers and activities to promote student interest in professional writing careers.

Honors

- Texas Association of Journalism Educator, 2022 Speaker
- Girl Scouts of Central Texas Ambassador

I fell in love with Journalism through cigar-smoking bluesmen, dodging mosh-pit elbows, and sharing whiskey with washed-up rock legends. Shamelessly, asking the editor for a job after his guest lecture kickstarted my music journalism for The Austin Chronicle before I could legally enter any bars. Hunting interviews in scuzzy rock venues and prowling beatnik bungalows for sounds that stir the soul has threadbare my shoe leather ever since.

Documenting music culture and reporting on sounds shaping urban centers is my passion. Music dissected through immersive multimedia features, meaningful interviews, and in-depth articles. Alongside encouraging newsroom mentors, I am seeking the mystique of new music scenes after cutting my teeth in the “Live Music Capital of the World,” where I traced artistic legacies and burgeoning generational identities.

Outsider hero Daniel Johnston colored my first musician profile. Vaguely familiar with the icon behind folk murals plastering local gift shop mugs, I chose him to impress a crush obsessed with his art. On a deadline, I immersed his cultural significance and memory that advocates mental health awareness.

Studying journalism at The University of Texas at Austin during my reporting placed me on Johnston’s old stomping grounds where his famous “Hi, How Are You?” mural still stands. After talking my way into the opening reception of his special exhibit at The Contemporary Museum, I conferred with the director of the *Hi, How Are You* Foundation.

Hours of interviewing uncovered a stalemate over the rights to release an elusive posthumous album with a new sound entitled *Yes*. I miraculously acquired this obscure musical gem. My dedication to the tireless journalistic process led me to a piece of music history and deepened my connection to home.

A year one starry-eyed music journalist, I slid my snakeskin boots down the back entrance of a co-op hosting mediocre indie sleaze bands, scouting talent the old newsheads weren’t hip to. Air hung with fuzzy silence before the riff came back slower and nastier in my season among burgeoning musicians, producing 40-plus album reviews, show recommendations, and interviews.

My work culminated in “10 Bands Under 25 That Make Me Feel Alive,” a feature profiling artists from my gonzo-esque research over a six-page spread printed covers of The Austin Chronicle! In the spirit of youth culture, I insisted on a promising unknown instead of a staff photographer. Wrangling the bands for a class photo at my parent’s house (who had gone for the weekend) ensued absolute chaos.

This story defined an era of shoe leather reporting in storied lounges and engaging backstage conversation with New Journalism intimacy. I still have this journalistic milestone framed on my kitchen wall. To mine the diverse artistic expressions transcending music culture, I am seeking any experience opportunities in a modern urban newsroom.

10 Bands Under 25 That Make Me Feel Alive

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-06-10/10-bands-under-25-that-make-me-feel-alive/>

The Personal Life of Marlon Sexton, Who Doesn't Want You To Know About His Personal Life

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/daily/music/2022-01-26/the-personal-life-of-marlon-sexton-who-doesnt-want-you-to-know-about-his-personal-life/>

Nolan Potter's Nightmare Band - *Music is Dead* (2021) Album Review

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2021-11-19/nolan-potters-nightmare-band-album-review/>

Post Animal Elevates Levitation Fest With A Psych Punk Score

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/daily/music/2021-10-29/post-animal-elevates-levitation-fest-with-a-psy-ch-punk-score/>

Zero Percent APR - *Higher and Higher Forever* (2022) Album Review

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-11-18/what-were-listening-to-this-week/>

Hi, How Are You? Day Connects Young Audiences With Daniel Johnston

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/daily/music/2023-01-23/hi-how-are-you-day-connects-young-audiences-with-daniel-johnstons-work/>

Rickshaw Billie's Burger Patrol, *Doom Wop* (2022) Album Review

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-12-16/ten-chronicle-music-writers-on-their-favorite-austin-albums-of-2022/>

The Stacks, *Lay Me Down to Rest* (2023) Album Review

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2023-02-17/album-review-the-stacks/>

The Black Angels, *Wilderness of Mirrors* (2022) Album Review

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-10-14/what-were-listening-to-this-week/>

Black Fret Rebrands As Sonic Guild

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-12-09/crosstalk-black-fret-rebrands-as-sonic-guild-and-sup-erstitution-nightclub-announces-grand-opening/>

Witches Exist On The Patio

<https://www.austinchronicle.com/music/2022-12-09/crucial-concerts-for-the-coming-week/>

Raoul Hernandez

Former Music Editor, The Austin Chronicle

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Journalism Professor, The University of Texas at Austin

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Raoul Hernandez mentored my journalistic pursuits while at The University of Texas at Austin from 2021 to 2023.

Kevin Curtin

Former Music Editor, The Austin Chronicle

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Kevin Curtin served as my supervising editor at The Austin Chronicle from 2021 to 2022.

Leticia Urieta

Program Director, Austin Bat Cave

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Leticia is my supervisor at the non-profit organization Austin Bat Cave beginning in 2022.