

Christopher Kelly

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Summary

An experienced, goal-oriented manager and strategist with a proven ability to produce innovative content, manage talent and grow digital audience.

Education

Dartmouth College
B.A., English, cum laude

September 1992 to June 1996

Professional Experience

NJ Advance Media / NJ.com / Newark Star-Ledger

Director, News Innovation, Topics and Features **August 2017 to Present**

- Manage a team of twenty editors, reporters and multimedia specialists across all news categories, including immigration, the environment, food, arts and entertainment, education, health, transportation and legal weed.
- Part of a three-person senior leadership team that directs coverage of all breaking, local and state news for the largest news organization in New Jersey.
- Develop and manage audience growth initiatives, including social video verticals, podcasts and other special projects.
- Manage story schedules; set and track employee goals; oversee freelance and expense budgets.

Director, Features and Entertainment **November 2016 to August 2017**

- Broadened coverage of food, the environment and real estate, and grew year-over-year traffic in these categories by over 300 percent.
- Edited award-winning enterprise features on the New Jersey hardcore metal scene; the entangled fates of Atlantic City and the Miss America pageant; and a hubristic New York City chef trying to introduce haute cuisine to New Jersey.
- Promoted to Director, News Innovation, Topics and Features in August 2017.

Managing Producer, Entertainment **July 2014 to November 2016**

- Managed a team of five reporters and six regular freelancers, covering all aspects of New Jersey culture and entertainment.
- Grew traffic on NJ.com entertainment channels from eight million page views per month to 25 million in fewer than two years.
- Part of a leadership team that managed the transition of the *Star-Ledger* to a digital-first newsroom model, generating online content that is later repurposed for the print edition.
- Promoted to Director, Features and Entertainment in November 2016.

DFW.com / Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Senior Editor

April 2008 to July 2012

- Part of a leadership team that re-branded and launched the *Star-Telegram's* entertainment Web site, expanding nightlife, dining and local music coverage, and growing monthly site traffic from 100,000 page views to more than five million.
- Broadened the reach of DFW.com by promoting our stories on Twitter, Reddit and other social media sites, and by serving as spokesperson for DFW.com on television and radio.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Chief Film Critic / Staff Writer

September 2000 to March 2008

- Wrote reviews, essays, trend pieces and profiles.
- First-place writing awards from American Association of Sunday and Features Editors, Houston Press Club, Texas Associated Press Managing Editors and Dallas Press Club.
- Promoted to editor of the newspaper's entertainment Web site, DFW.com, in March 2008.

Programming and Special Events

Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth

April 2004 to November 2014

- Founded and hosted a weekend-long film festival, which sold more than 1500 tickets and passes annually.
- Oversaw all aspects of marketing and promotion for the festival, and managed a \$10,000 annual expense budget.
- Coordinated and hosted onstage interviews with visiting artists, including Julian Schnabel, Graham Moore and Javier Bardem.

Freelance Writing

Texas Monthly

Writer-at-large

March 2006 to July 2014

- Long-form features on the fight for marriage equality in Texas; the struggles of the Texas library system; and Fantastic Fest and the rise of geek culture.
- Created and wrote the monthly "Screens" column on Texas-related film, television and pop culture subjects.
- First-place writing awards from National Headliners' Association and City and Regional Magazine Association.

Additional articles and essays published in *New York Times*, *Slate*, *Salon*, *Premiere*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Boston Globe*, *Opera News and Film Comment*.

Books

- *A Push and a Shove* (Alyson Books, 2007). 2008 Lambda Literary Award, Best First Novel.
- *The Pink Bus* (Lethe Press, 2016).

Television, Radio and Speaking Appearances

- **The E! True Hollywood Story:** Luke and Owen Wilson (E! Network, April 2008).
 - **Inside the Creative Mind:** Drew Barrymore (Bravo Network, July 2000).
- Lectures, discussions and interviews** for Dallas Museum of Art, Texas Christian University, National Public Radio, NBC 5 (Dallas affiliate), Fox 4 (Dallas affiliate), and others.