

# LAUREN OBER

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Pushkin Industries/iHeart Media** 2021-present

**Host/Executive Producer, *The Loudest Girl In The World***

- Host and executive producer of a reported memoir podcast about being a woman diagnosed with autism later in life

**Topic Studios/Audible** 2021-present

**Host/Executive Producer, *Fine Gorilla Person***

- Host and executive producer of a narrative podcast about Koko the talking gorilla
- Created original show idea and concept
- Garnered media coverage in multiple publications, including *The New Yorker*, *Financial Times* and *The Guardian*

**American Public Media** 2018-present

**Host/Producer, *Spectacular Failures***

- Host and produce a narrative podcast about big business failures, currently in S2
- Designed show concept and created the essential voice for the show
- Guided the show to over 2.5 million downloads in season one
- Achieved media coverage in numerous publications, including *TIME*, *Slate.com*, *The Guardian*, *Esquire* and *Financial Times*

**WAMU 88.5 FM, Washington, D.C.** 2015 to 2018

**Host/Producer, *The Big Listen***

- Hosted and produced hour-long weekly broadcast and podcast, distributed by NPR
- Provided editorial vision, produced segments and conducted prep
- Booked guests, including Katie Couric, Malcolm Gladwell, LeVar Burton, Tegan & Sara, DeRay Mckesson, Jonathan Groff and Phoebe Robinson
- Guided show from local pilot to nationally distributed broadcast

**WAMU 88.5 FM, Washington, D.C.** 2013 to 2015

**Reporter/Producer, *Metro Connection***

- Reported and produced feature-length radio stories for weekly newsmagazine
- Covered breaking news as needed

**Independent Audio Producer, Washington, D.C.** 2012 to 2018

- Produced and reported stories for *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Weekend Edition*, *Here & Now*, *Latino USA*, *Studio 360*, *Only A Game*, *PRI's The World*, *99% Invisible*, *Code Switch*, *Criminal*, *Gravy* and more
- Editor, *Lenny Says* - S2

- Consulting producer, Sidedoor: A Podcast from the Smithsonian
- Consulting producer, Motherly podcast
- Producer, PRX's *Orbital Path* with NASA astronomer Michelle Thaller
- Producer, International Monetary Fund podcasts
- Self-declared (former) Tape Sync Queen of D.C.

**American University**, Washington, D.C. 2012 to 2013  
**Online Writer**, *american.edu*

- Wrote and edited stories about faculty, students and alumni for university website
- Supported the university's strategic goals through storytelling

**Reporter/Staff Writer**, Burlington, VT, and Auburn, NY 2004 to 2012

- Reported and wrote news and feature stories for *The Citizen*, *The Burlington Free Press* and *Seven Days*
- Made regular television and radio appearances as part of local news collaborations

## EDUCATION

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**MA** Syracuse University, S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications 2003  
 Program: Magazine, Newspaper & Online Journalism

**BA** American University, School of Public Affairs 2000  
 Major: Justice and Public Affairs

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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**French-American Foundation Immigration Journalism Fellowship** 2015  
 Grant to travel to Russia to report on LGBT immigration

**Transom Story Workshop** 2012  
 Two-month intensive audio training program in Woods Hole, MA

**Reporting & Writing The Untold Stories — Poynter Institute** 2008  
 Weeklong workshop about reporting on marginalized communities

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

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**New York Festivals Radio Awards** 2020  
 Silver Award

**Public Radio News Directors Inc. Awards** 2016  
 Best Podcast

**Chesapeake Associated Press Broadcasters Association Awards** 2015  
 Outstanding Feature

<b>Edward R. Murrow Awards (Regional)</b> News Documentary	2014
<b>Public Radio News Directors Inc. Awards</b> Best News/Public Affairs Show	2013
<b>National Capital Chesapeake Bay Emmy Awards</b> Outstanding Historical/Cultural — Single News Story	2013
<b>Transom Donor Fund</b> Awarded competitive grant to complete reporting on a story	2012
<b>Vermont Press Association</b> Best State Story	2011
<b>Missouri School of Journalism/Missouri Lifestyle Journalism Award</b> General Excellence	2008
<b>Newhouse School/Catherine L. Covert Research Award</b> Best graduate student mass communications research paper	2003

#### **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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**New Media Mixer: The State of Podcasting in the US and Europe** — Swissnex/Swiss Consulate, 2020

**Break With The Pros** — National High School Journalism Convention, 2019

**“So You Wanna Start A Podcast?”** — National College Media Convention, 2019

**“Failing is the Pits: An Anti-TED Talk”** — Werk It: A Women’s Podcast Festival, WNYC Studios, 2019

**Own It Summit** — Georgetown University, 2019

**Washington Journalism & Media Conference** — George Mason University, 2018 & 2019

**“Getting To The Guts: How To Make A Real Connection In An Interview”**  
— UnionDocs, 2018

**“What’s Missing In Podcastland? You!”** — Treefort Music Festival/Boise Public Radio, 2018

**“Myth: All The Good Podcast Ideas Are Taken”** — Werk It: A Women’s Podcast Festival, WNYC Studios, 2017

**Social Media Week iFairfax** — Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 2017

**“Myth: All The Good Podcast Ideas Are Taken”** — Podcast Movement, 2017 & Werk It: A Women’s Podcast Festival, 2017

**PR Summit D.C.** — Capitol Communicator, 2017

**WGRL** — Lower East Side Girls Club, 2017

**International Visitors Leadership Program** — U.S. Department of State, 2017

**National Nonprofit Technology Conference** — Nonprofit Technology Network, 2017

#### **INVITED LECTURES**

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**American University** — MFA Program, 2017

**American University** — School of Communications, 2016-2019

**California University of Pennsylvania** — Center for Undergraduate Research, 2020

**Eastern Connecticut State University** — Department of Communication, 2020

**Georgetown University** — Georgetown College, 2017, 2018 & 2019

**Indiana University** — Media School, 2018

**Syracuse University** — Newhouse School of Public Communications, 2017

**University of Maryland** — Philip Merrill College of Journalism, 2017 & 2018

**University of Nevada Las Vegas** — Hank Greenspun School of Journalism and Media Studies, 2017

**Washington State University** — Edward R. Murrow School of Communication, 2021

#### **PANEL MODERATION**

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**“I’m Totally Starting A Podcast: Learning To Love The Mic”** — Nerds In NoMa, NoMa Business Improvement District, 2018

**“Queering Podcastland”** — National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association Convention, 2017

**“What’s Your Podcast Superpower? Harnessing Your Station’s Expertise To Create The Next Big Thing”** — Public Radio Program Directors Conference, 2017

**“Hear Me Now: The Art Of Nonfiction Podcasting”** — AFI Docs Forum, 2017

**SELECT MEDIA APPEARANCES**

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[\*Everything Is Fine\*](#)

February 2020

[\*The Gist with Mike Pesca\*](#)

Slate.com, July 2019

[\*It’s Been A Minute With Sam Sanders\*](#)

NPR, December 2017

[\*IA\*](#)

WAMU/NPR, February & December 2017

[\*The Pub\*](#)

Current, August 2017

[\*Forum\*](#)

KQED, July 2017

[\*Think\*](#)

KERA, June 2017

[\*Weekend Edition\*](#)

NPR, April 2017

[\*The Wolf Den\*](#)

Earwolf, April 2017

[\*Dinner Party Download\*](#)

American Public Media, March 2017

[\*Nerdette\*](#)

WBEZ, December 2016

[\*Pop Culture Happy Hour\*](#)

NPR, December 2016

[\*Central Standard\*](#)

KCUR, December 2016 & 2017

*Air Talk With Larry Mantle*

KPCC, October 2016

**SELECT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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Judge — Australian Podcast Awards, 2020

Grant reviewer — D.C. Humanities Council, Arts and Humanities Fellowship Program, 2020

Juror — D.C. Shorts Film Festival, 2020

Emcee — Washington Area Bicyclists Association, Bicyclists' Choice Awards, 2018

Judge — U.S. Department of Energy, Intersection of Sound and Science Podcast Contest, 2017

Emcee — National Building Museum, Blank Space Fairy Tales competition, 2017

Judge — Third Coast International Audio Festival/Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Competition, "Best News Feature," 2016

**SELECT PODCAST CONSULTATION**

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- Aspen Institute
- Foreign Policy
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Duke University/Kate Bowler
- Motherly.com
- Smithsonian
- Tegan & Sara

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Werk It: A Women's Podcast Festival, 2019-present  
Advisory Board

Association of Independents in Radio, 2016-2018  
Board Director

National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association, 2005-2007  
Chair, Women's Task Force

**AUDIO SKILLS**

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— Hindenburg Pro

— Adobe Audition

— Field reporting

## **OTHER FUN FACTS**

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- Div. I student-athlete — Varsity lacrosse, American University
- Former housemistress/lacrosse coach — Queen Margaret’s School, N. Yorkshire, UK
- Iced tea fanatic
- Dog parent
- Homosexual

## **REFERENCES**

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### **Whitney Jones**

Senior producer, APM Podcasts

American Public Media

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503-871-2693

### **Lauren Dee**

Interim Director, APM Podcasts

American Public Media

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651-290-1480

### **Tara Boyle**

Executive Producer, Hidden Brain

Hidden Brain Media

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