

KATE TORGOVNICK MAY

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EXPERIENCE

TED TV, UCLA DEPT OF FILM + TV, ET AL – Writer + Creator

MAY 2020 – PRESENT

Kept a busy development slate, **creating and pitching series** on a fertility clinic, the sugar baby conference circuit, a perfume chemist who gets sucked into a whodunit, and a mermaid theme park. Also **led creative for TED TV**, developing a slate of series based on IP from the TED universe to go out to market in the near future, and taught “Introduction to TV Writing” at UCLA, helping students develop their own shows too.

NCIS – Staff Writer

JUNE 2019 – APRIL 2020

Joined the writers room of the iconic CBS series for season 17. **Wrote two episodes:** “Musical Chairs,” about a murder in a Navy band, and “Schooled,” which dropped Team Gibbs inside a fraudulent for-profit college and **had the highest ratings for any episode in years**. Covered set for both episodes, worked with network notes, and contributed fresh ideas to other writers’ episodes.

TED – Storyteller

JUNE 2012 – JUNE 2019

Helped the organization figure out: what’s beyond the classic TED Talk? **Researched, wrote and produced three original video series:** *Small Thing, Big Idea*, a look at simple objects that changed our world; *The Way We Work*, examining shifting work dynamics; and *Torchbearers*, a collaboration with CNN’s *Great Big Story*, profiling everyday people who picked up TED Prize ideas. In previous roles, **worked with the visionaries of The Audacious Project to tell their stories in video and print**, edited the TED Blog, and led TED Conference coverage.

PAGE SIX – Reporter/Online Editor

SEP 2011 – JUNE 2012

Created online content for the classic column. **Researched, wrote, and fact checked 7–10 stories a day**. Increased overall traffic by 53% and search traffic by 200%.

THE FRISKY – Pop Culture Editor

JAN 2009 – SEP 2011

Ran the News and Entertainment verticals for Spin Media’s website for women. **Generated a lineup of 15 stories daily**, writing half and assigning out the rest.

HELLCATS – Consulting Producer

APR 2010 – MAY 2011

Provided ideas for fact-based plotlines for **HELLCATS**, The CW television series about competitive college cheerleading, executive produced by Tom Welling and Kevin Murphy starring Ashley Tisdale and Aly Michalka. Also reviewed all scripts.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE ATLANTIC, ET AL – Freelance Journalist

SPRING 2006 – WINTER 2009

Wrote regularly for *The New York Times*, penning articles for **Styles, Metro and Sports**. Wrote features for *Page Six Magazine* and *Time.com*, with articles also appearing in *The Atlantic*, *Newsweek*, *New York Magazine*, the *International Herald Tribune*, the *New York Observer*, *Time Out New York* and *Glamour*.

CHEER!: INSIDE THE SECRET WORLD OF COLLEGE CHEERLEADERS – Author

SPRING 2006 – SPRING 2008

Researched and wrote **CHEER!**, a narrative nonfiction book published by Simon & Schuster that Joyce Carol Oates described as, “spirited, fascinating, at times disturbing and always absorbing” and *USA Today* called, “a meticulously reported account.” Appeared live on *Good Morning America* to promote, as well as in the *E!* special *True Hollywood Investigates: Cheerleading*. Book was optioned by The CW.

JANE MAGAZINE – Associate Editor

SUMMER 2002 – WINTER 2006

Wrote investigative features. Interviewed celebrities, like Robert Smith of The Cure, Tim Gunn, Franz Ferdinand, and Death Cab for Cutie. **Wrote and edited 9-12 pages per issue**. Did a monthly Prank column, pulling stunts like selling low-carb deodorant on the street. Edited Pamela Anderson’s column, “Pam Honestly.”

EDUCATION

BARNARD COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY – BA, Sociology

SUMMA CUM LAUDE, PHI BETA KAPPA

SKILLS

Vast pool of esoteric knowledge from so many years at TED. Plus: Mac, PC, Final Draft, Highland, Adobe Creative Suite including Photoshop and Illustrator, HTML.

PASSIONS

Unexplored female worlds. People and the strange things that make them tick. Moments when you write something, and the hair on your arm stands on end. Documentary film. Rubik’s Cubes. (Ask me about the time I came in 78th at USA Cubing Nationals.)