

Monica Castillo

Monica Castillo is a journalist who enjoys discovering the most engaging culture stories in the arts and entertainment industries. Her unconventional path to journalism gives her an appreciation for diverse audience needs and innovative social media strategies.

Experience

News Writer, The Lily at The Washington Post

March 2018 – Present

- As the only writer on the team, I'm on hand to cover [breaking news](#), [gather and interview sources](#), [turn around quick analytical explainers](#), [opinion pieces](#), [profiles on women](#) and [other useful articles](#).
- In addition to The Lily, I also contribute to the Post's film section and About Us, which features stories about race and identity in America, including stories on [Daryl Hannah at South by Southwest](#); [Toni Collette on her latest film, "Hereditary"](#); and [the issue of tokenism in the case of Junot Diaz](#).

Staff Writer, The New York Times

June 2016 – Feb. 2018

- As part of Watching, I covered movies on streaming services and curated our film selections for our over 200,000 newsletter subscribers. My contributions to this section included [lists](#), [guides](#), [features on classic movies](#) and a [recurring column](#). My monthly film lists reached over 3 million readers in 2017.
- Contributed to the film section, where I [reviewed movies](#) and wrote about [representation among Disney princesses](#), [Cuban animation](#), [immigration stories on film](#) and [documentaries about Cuba](#).

Freelance Writer

Jan. 2010-June 2016

- Wrote reviews, features and essays for [Village Voice](#), [NPR](#), [Boston Globe](#), [RogerEbert.com](#), [Tribeca Film, Paste Magazine](#), [Cosmopolitan](#), [Teen Vogue](#), [Quartz](#), [Screen Rant](#), [Bitch Magazine](#), and [Remezcla](#).
- Also contributed to WBUR, Dig Boston, Boston Phoenix, Slant, Movie Mezzanine, SundanceTV, Yahoo!, Cinemablend.com, El Planeta, El Mundo Boston and Patch.com.

Entertainment Reporter, International Business Times

Feb. 2015-Feb. 2016

- As [staff film critic](#), I reviewed major releases like ["The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2,"](#) ["Return to Sender,"](#) and ["Straight Outta Compton."](#) Made television and radio appearances as a guest critic.
- Interviewed filmmakers at festivals like Sundance, South by Southwest, and Tribeca Film Festival.

Freelance Producer, Podcasts and Digital Video

Sept. 2012-June 2016

- Produced innovative videos optimized for social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat. My work included a [360 tour of a Robert Mapplethorpe exhibit](#), a [tribute to Frank Sinatra](#), interviews with the [founders of BinderCon](#) and helped create a sketch about [East Coast Latino problems](#).
- As a graduate student, I trained and supervised other [Annenberg students](#) to create social videos.
- Co-hosted movie-focused podcast, Cinema Fix, for over 80 episodes.

Freelance Social Media Manager

Oct. 2012-June 2016

- Created a dozen social media accounts and strategies for new SundanceTV and live tweeted premieres.
- Boosted Facebook audience engagement over 78% over a one-year period for Massachusetts Institute of Technology's School of Architecture and Planning. Developed social media strategies for other several clients.

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

M.A., Specialized Journalism-Arts as the school's first film criticism fellow, May 2016

Boston University, Boston, MA

B.A., Sociology, May 2011

Activities and Interests

- Current President of the New York City chapter of the National Association for Hispanic Journalists.
- Founder of the Boston Online Film Critics Association.
- Taught ballroom dancing at Arthur Murray Dance Studios in Boston and Newton, MA.
- Public speaking experience: moderated discussions at South by Southwest, Athena Film Fest and Ebertfest. Participated on panels at BinderCon, SXSW and Lincoln Center. Hosted several post screening Q & A's.
- Native Spanish speaker.