



## ALETTA HARRISON

I am a multimedia journalist, specialising in visual storytelling, including video and images.

I was born in South Africa, but emigrated to Britain aged 15 with my family. After graduating from the University of Kent, I began my career in journalism with BBC radio in the Channel Islands.

In 2010 I returned to South Africa and settled in Cape Town, where I pursued multimedia journalism with a focus on online video and digital features. I have a particular passion for environmental journalism and humanitarian stories. I also enjoy pushing the boundaries and trying out innovative technologies.

In 2019 I returned to the UK with my family for personal reasons, and joined the teaching staff at the well-regarded Multimedia Journalism programme at Christ Church University in Kent.

In addition to the experience listed in this document, I have worked as a stringer & contributor for the BBC, AFP and the Associated Press and my writing has appeared in print in books and magazines - most recently I had a story published in a compilation on emigration called 'Should we Go?'

I enjoy spending time in nature with my family and can often be found on a trail with my dog. I love travel, photography, art and cooking in my spare time.

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## EXPERIENCE

**SENIOR LECTURER (DEC 2019 - CURRENT)**  
CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY (CANTERBURY, UK)

I teach video journalism and oversee the BA Multimedia Journalism degree in my role as programme director.

**DEPUTY EDITOR (SEP 2017 - SEP 2019)**  
NEWS24 VIDEO (CAPE TOWN)

I was recruited as special projects lead and later promoted to Deputy Editor at the biggest news website in South Africa. I assisted the Head of Video to oversee day-to-day news output, manage the team of video journalists and conceptualise, produce and manage special projects, including documentaries and features. I also continued to shoot my own stories and contributed as videographer, director and producer to team projects such as the award-winning short documentary Am I Next.

**MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST (SEP 2016 - SEP 2017)**  
FREELANCE (CAPE TOWN)

I decided to embark on a freelance career in order to pursue longer form projects and take on stories beyond the borders of South Africa. During this time I produced several television pieces, including a documentary on diabetes, international news reports for TRT World and travelled to Uganda to cover the South Sudan refugee crisis for UNICEF.

**MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST (MAY 2010 - SEP 2016)**  
EYEWITNESS NEWS (CAPE TOWN)

I started working at EWN as a radio journalist, before a stint as online sub-editor. But I soon established myself as a video and photojournalist. During this time I covered a wide array of general news events, long-form features and profile pieces. I continued to contribute to the radio output routinely, sometimes as a stand-in anchor. I worked on high-profile news events such as the Oscar Pistorius trial, the death of Nelson Mandela, the devastating 2015 Cape Town fires and the Malawi floods of 2015 - in a variety of media spanning video, photos, text and radio.

**BROADCAST JOURNALIST (MAR 2008 - FEB 2010)**  
BBC RADIO (GUERNSEY)

I forged my career with the BBC in the Channel Islands, where I was trained as a radio producer, reporter, presenter and news anchor. I also attended the BBC's Journalism Foundation course in London and received in-house television training. I was quickly promoted from broadcast assistant to trainee broadcast journalist and later to a broadcast journalist.

## SKILLS

I am a passionate visual storyteller with a love for shooting and editing video, as well as writing and photography. My experience with different platforms means I'm highly adaptable with a firm understanding of various modes of communicating. I have been writing scripts for online video, television and radio for more than 10 years. I am a trained radio news anchor with extensive experience in recording voice-overs and have also done pieces to camera for television news.

I work well under pressure and am used to tight deadlines where solid editorial judgment and excellent language skills are vital. In recent years I managed several longer term projects such as digital interactive features, documentaries and immersive storytelling and I have also spear-headed 360 video projects.

I am able to work independently to see stories and projects through from inception to broadcast, but also enjoy guiding others and managing a team on larger projects.

## AWARDS

WAN-IFRA African Digital Media Award - Best use of Online Video (2020)  
Bookmark Awards Silver Pixel for News or Feature Writing & Silver Pixel for News Innovation (2019)  
Vodacom Journalist of the Year Award - Regional Winner: CSI/Sustainability (2015, 2017, 2018)  
Bookmark Awards Bronze Pixel for News or Feature Writing (2016)  
SAB Environmental Media Awards Video Merit Award (2015)  
Bookmark Awards Journalist of the Year Nominee (2015)

# EDUCATION

## **BA HONS : CULTURAL STUDIES (2004 - 2007)**

UNIVERSITY OF KENT, CANTERBURY, UK

This course included sociology, anthropology and media components. It also touched on history, philosophy and literature as well as the impact of digital technology on society.

## **FOUNDATION IN ART & DESIGN (2003 - 2004)**

THE KENT INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN (KIAD)

I specialised in Visual Communication, which included magazine layout, photography and graphic design. I achieved a Merit for this BTEC course.

## **A-LEVELS (2002)**

AXTON CHASE SCHOOL, ENGLAND

Art, English and Media Studies.

# LINKS

## **AWARD-WINNING FEATURES**

### **AM I NEXT: HOW UYINENE MRWETYANA'S MURDER IGNITED A MOVEMENT**

I played a leading role in producing, directing, scripting and voicing the documentary about the murder of a Cape Town student and subsequent protests around the country. The feature, hosted on a special site, won Best Use of Online Video at the 2020 WAN-IFRA African Digital Media Awards.

### **LAND OF THIRST (360 PROJECT)**

An interactive digital feature showcasing the first 360 video published on News24's platforms. I conceptualised, filmed, photographed and edited this multimedia experience about the drought in the Central Karoo region. I also built the story on the Shorthand platform and spearheaded the collaboration with Code for Africa and africanDRONE. The story won two Silver Pixels at the 2019 Bookmark Awards.

### **STEENBRAS AQUIFER DRILLING TOO RISKY, ECOLOGISTS WARN**

I produced, shot, edited and wrote this video and text feature and commissioned infographics to help illustrate the issues. I won the 2018 regional Vodacom Journalist of the Year Award in the CSI/Sustainability for this story.

### **TURNING THE TIDE ON POACHING: WILL NEW POLICY KEEP ILLEGAL FISHING AT BAY?**

This 2016 video and text feature explores the potential impact of a small-scale fishing policy overhaul on marine poaching. In order to produce it I spent an evening with crayfish poachers documenting their arduous and dangerous work. I won the 2017 regional Vodacom Journalist of the Year Award in the CSI/Sustainability for this story.

## **TELEVISION**

**Money Talks: Shark-diving ecotourism want fin trade stopped (TRT WORLD)**

**Can technology transform the lives of rural African farmers? (TRT WORLD)**

**Diabetes: The Silent Killer (Produced for Health-e News, aired on ENCA)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6cn825RSMLo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCmmOQMCDs>

**Coverage of the South Sudanese refugee crisis, published and aired on various platforms**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w82LyUJjMHU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnAhgiVfKg0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5My7pupwqHI>