

Oussama Zahr

Editor and Writer

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New York, New York

An effective managing editor with 10 years of experience in print and digital content who has led editorial teams of 10-15 people.

An incisive writer and editor who can polish rough copy and turn it into a compelling, sharply observed story.

A generous colleague with a roll-up-your-sleeves attitude who builds rapport among the team.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Managing Editor, *Gotham, Hamptons, and Capitol File* (2014–Present)

I manage production and budgets, and on any given day I resolve issues around imperfect photo selection, ineffective layout designs, recalcitrant copy, dull cover lines, and team members who are falling behind, while also respecting my colleagues' contributions and motivating them to do their best work.

- Pitch, write, top-edit, and proofread stories about culture, lifestyle, fashion, and food; recruit writers; spruce up display copy
- Oversee special sections on real estate, wellness, and weddings
- Assign stories and edit multi-layered packages
- Track progress of stories by liaising among art, photo, fashion, and editorial departments
- Own editorial budgets and page budgets
- Run weekly meetings to resolve setbacks, enforce deadlines, and promote team cohesion
- Communicate with top brands and advertisers; step in to resolve issues with writers, press contacts, and subjects

Writer, *The New Yorker* (2007–Present)

I write weekly opera listings and reviews for the Classical Music section of Goings On About Town.

Homepage Editor, *Mediander.com* (2013–2014)

I was hired pre-launch to create a workflow that enabled the website to go live on schedule.

- Write daily homepage content, articles, and blog posts
- Manage homepage team (art and edit) to produce daily content
- Supervise and top-edit the social media editor
- Collaborate with marketing and UX teams

Managing Editor, *Opera News* (2009–2012)

I joined the staff in 2007 as Assistant Editor and worked up to the ME role.

- Track copy flow and vet fact-checking and staff corrections
- Edit the Video section, maintain a stable of writers, write stories

Travel Writer, *Let's Go: California, 10th ed.* (St. Martin's Press, 2005)

I was the San Francisco correspondent (dining, hotels, entertainment, news).

SKILLS

Top-editing to clean up and enhance stories on dining, fashion, pop music, travel, and lifestyle

Conducting interviews that yield original sound bites

A mind for both the editorial and operational aspects of a job

Team management that plays to each member's strengths

WordPress, HTML, XML, Facebook Insights, Google Analytics, MS Office

Understanding of best practices

Excellent proofreading skills

Employee training and mentoring

Conversational Lebanese Arabic

HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrity interviews include **Joe Jonas, Anderson Cooper, Diane Lane, Isaac Mizrahi, Ian Schrager, and Renée Fleming**

Created a Facebook marketing campaign for Mediander.com with **an average CTR of 6.80%**

Designed an original CMS for Mediander.com in collaboration with a Microsoft Access specialist

Won **Best Artist Interview award** from Life's a Pitch for an *Opera News* cover story

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts, Harvard University

Summa cum laude in Literature

Phi Beta Kappa

Hoopes Prize