

Heena Srivastava

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Purpose: technically-trained audio producer seeking to tell culturally, politically and systemically impactful stories

EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Journalism, Double Major in Political Science

EXPERIENCE

Freelance journalist and producer, Chicago

Oct 2025 - present

- Interviewing, gathering field tape, transcribing, storyboarding and providing editorial oversight for narrative video documentary hosted by journalist Keerti Gopal, following one man's reentrance to society after release from Stateville Correctional Center
- Reporting for City Bureau on pre-trial criminal detention hearings to track the success of a new Illinois law abolishing cash bail

NPR, Chicago

May 2024 - Oct 2025

Lead Producer/Producer II

- Relaunched NPR's *How To Do Everything* from *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!*, managing detailed logistics such as building show calendars and infrastructure, pitching segments, conducting research, booking guests and directing hosts with in-studio tracking
- Edited, scored and QC'd episodes; recorded in the field; wrote scripts and copy; designed episode art; published via CMS; managed social media strategy, planned live events and fostered relationships across NPR departments for show promotion

WBEZ, Chicago

January 2021 - May 2024

Lead Producer/Producer II

- Lead producer on the long-form narrative series *Stories Without End* with award-winning Chicago journalist Natalie Moore
- Lead producer on the chart-topping narrative show *Making*; managed calendars; recorded in the field; pitched, pre-interviewed and booked sources; researched and prepped host; directed tracking; found archival tape; scripted, cut and published episodes
- Produced newscast for NPR's *Consider This*, mixing anchor tracking, news segments and music within half an hour every day
- Launched WBEZ's *Art of Power* hosted by Aarti Shahani; oversaw all show bookings, like Barack Obama, Dolores Huerta and Cori Bush; pitched, researched, and pre-interviewed guests; gathered archival tape; scripted, edited and scored episodes
- Pitched, reported and produced segments for WBEZ's live daily news talk show *Reset*, which received 25,000 daily listeners

Ben Austen and Bill Healy, Chicago

June 2020 - August 2020

Researcher

- Wrote weekly articles, tracked down sources on TLOxp, conducted interviews, spent hours scouring hard-to-access archives and filed FOIA requests for the Peabody-finalist book *Correction: Parole, Prison, and the Possibility of Change* by author Ben Austen as well as Polk-winning podcast *The Parole Room*. Fact-checked *This American Life* episode "This Is the Case of Henry Dee"

American Public Media, St. Paul, Minn.

June 2019 - September 2019

Researcher, APM Reports

- Mixed audio for investigations and narrative documentaries, including for the Peabody award-winning show *In The Dark*
- Researched, dug for archival tape and filed FOIAs in both English and Spanish for *In The Dark* seasons two and three
- Reported and wrote original investigations into Juul Labs, Inc., CLEAR, Mesabi Academy juvenile facility, and lead contamination

The Daily Northwestern, Evanston, Ill.

October 2017 - January 2021

Digital Managing Editor

- Produced award-winning multimedia investigative series *Lead On*, leading to Evanston city resolution 11-R-21

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2024 George Polk Award in Journalism, Podcast

"The Parole Room", following Johnnie Veal's 20th effort to gain parole after being convicted of murder in 1970

2022 Illinois College Press Association Award

First Place, Podcasts, "In Focus: Loopholes in federal lead law left 5th Ward in the dark about what is in its water"

2020 Society of Professional Journalists Mark of Excellence Award

National Finalist, "In Focus: Loopholes in federal lead law left 5th Ward in the dark about what is in its water"

SKILLS

Proficient with Adobe Audition, Pro Tools, Descript, Riverside, Otter, Vegas, REAPER, Microsoft Office Suite

Fluent in Spanish, native in English