

Heena Srivastava

heenasriv.com ● (630) 479-1551 ● heenassriv@gmail.com

Purpose: technically-trained journalist and audio producer seeking to tell politically and culturally 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, field recording, transcribing, storyboarding and providing production assistance for video documentary with journalist Keerti Gopal, following one man's reentrance to society after release from Stateville Correctional Center
- Reporting for City Bureau *Documenters*, attending criminal detention hearings to evaluate Illinois's pre-trial justice system

NPR, Chicago

May 2024 - Oct 2025

Lead Producer

- Lead producer at NPR's *How To Do Everything* from *Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!*, producing the show from inception to finale: building showboards and infrastructure, pitching segments, conducting research, booking all guests and coordinating setup, directing hosts in-studio, scoring, determining episode structure, editing audio with Adobe Audition, writing episode copy, publishing episode and fostering relationships across NPR marketing and social media departments to push the show out

WBEZ, Chicago

January 2021 - May 2024

Lead Producer

- Lead producer on the long-form narrative series *Stories Without End* hosted by award-winning Chicago journalist Natalie Moore
- Lead producer on the chart-topping narrative show *Making*; managing show calendars; identifying, pre-interviewing and booking sources; securing exclusive footage; conducting research and prepping host; scripting, sound designing and cutting episodes
- Produced newscast for NPR's *Consider This*, mixing anchor tracking, news segments and music within half an hour every day
- Developed, structured and launched WBEZ's *Art of Power* hosted by Aarti Shahani; booked and pre-interviewed all guests including Cori Bush, Indra Nooyi, Common and Jameela Jamil; prepped, scripted, produced and scored episodes using Vegas
- 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

Research Intern

- Wrote weekly articles, tracked down sources on TLOxp, conducted interviews, gathered hard-to-access archival tape 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

Research Intern, APM Reports

- Mixed audio with Pro Tools for several investigations and documentaries, including for award-winning podcast *In The Dark*
- Researched, fact-checked and filed FOIAs in both English and Spanish for *In The Dark* seasons two and three
- Reported and wrote several original stories about Juul Labs, Inc., CLEAR, a juvenile corrections facility, and lead contamination

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 Peabody Award, Podcast & Radio

"In The Dark: The Path Home", coverage of the Curtis Flowers Supreme Court arguments

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, Descript, Pro Tools, Riverside, Otter, Vegas, REAPER, Microsoft Office Suite

Fluent in Spanish, native in English

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REFERENCES

Aarti Shahani

Author, Here We Are; Host, Art of Power; former NPR Silicon Valley Correspondent

- aa@aartishahani.com
- (917) 647-1627

Michael Danforth

Executive Producer, Wait, Wait...Don't Tell Me!

- mdanforth@npr.org
- (773) 803-5553

Bill Healy

Pulitzer-prize winning audio journalist

- billhealy3@gmail.com
- (708) 214-1065