

James Mae

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Professional Statement: I am a curious, driven, multimedia storyteller focused on fostering human connection through truthful, impactful storytelling across diverse communities. I offer over five years of multimedia expertise.

Platforms: WordPress, Substack, TikTok, Instagram, LinkedIn, YouTube.

Skills: Camera operation (DSLR, Canon Cinema), 3-point lighting, audio recording (lav, shotgun), writing (narrative and AP), coordination, and crisis management

Editing: Data management, Adobe Premiere Pro, DaVinci.

Special Skills: Semi-professional rock climbing.

EXPERIENCE

Freelance Work

- **Writer**, Washington City Paper (Nov 2025-Current) (Washington, D.C.).
 - Cover D.C. arts and theater through features and investigative pieces.
- **Photographer&Videographer**, Mostafa Productions (Nov 2025) (Washington, D.C.).
 - Produced and shot conference coverage for a local nonprofit.
- **Freelance Producer**, Dayton Public Access Television (Dec-May 2025) (Dayton, OH).
 - Wrote, shot, edited, and produced a broadcast show for MLK Day.
- **Communications Associate**, Institute for Independent Journalists (Feb-Apr 2025) (Washington, D.C.).
 - Wrote a weekly newsletter informing the audience of current journalism trends and opportunities.
- **News Writer**, Society of Professional Journalists News Team (Oct 2023, Sept 2024) (NOLA&Las Vegas).
 - Wrote weekly newsletters and spot stories for various journalism conferences.
- **Fellow, Ballotpedia** (July – Sept. 2025)(Washington, D.C.).
 - Researched and fact-checked candidate information and platforms for local, state, and national races.
 - Coordinated Ballotpedia's candidate surveys and responses, resulting in a ⅓ return rate.

Live Events:

- Host and Producer, SPJ Media Fest (Oct 2024-Oct 2025).
- Volunteer, Dadding Film Fest (Jan 2026).
- Volunteer, Video Consortium Future of Visual Storytelling (Feb 2026).

Owner/Executive Director, *Starlight Productions/James Mae LLC* (Feb 2026-Current), formerly Starlight Stories News (July 2024-Sept 2025)

Starlight Productions: specializing in documentary, photography, and video storytelling.

- Manages day-to-day operations, including financial, legal, and creative aspects of the company.
- Secures clients, negotiates contracts, and manages project budgets and timelines.
- Producing Hidden In The Spotlight.
- Builds and maintains relationships with clients, collaborators, and creative partners.

Starlight Stories News:

- Produced over 20 multimedia stories on Substack and TikTok this year, growing audience engagement to 10,000+ viewers through engaging web and social video content.
- Investigated and reported on policy, politics, land use, and social issues by leveraging public records requests, interviews, research, and public meetings to deliver well-sourced coverage.

Owner/Creator, *Starlight Stories News* (July 2024 – Sept. 2025)

Dayton, OH/Washington

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Editor-in-Chief / Investigative Editor, *The Wright State Guardian* (Oct. 2020-May 2023) **Dayton, OH**

- Managed daily editorial operations and a team of 25+ reporters, producers, and editors, ensuring robust and accurate coverage on elections, state and local politics, and national topics such as vaccines and abortion.

- Oversaw preproduction and editing for weekly news coverage, including fact-checking, content planning, and layout for print and digital, leading to over 15 stories a week.
- Broke over 20 developing stories, conducted over five investigative stories, and oversaw the publication of Flight Magazine, Nexus literary journal, and other special projects.

Host and Producer, WWSU 106.9 FM (Aug. 2021-Dec. 2023)

Dayton, OH

- Hosted 10 episodes of a news and talk show focused on local and national political issues.
- Booked over 10 guests, wrote 12 scripts, and edited audio for live and recorded segments.
- Coordinated with station engineers and producers to ensure technical quality and FCC compliance.

OTHER EXPERIENCE:

- Social Media Manager-Wright State University (Aug 23-April 24).
- Campus Scholar-Foundation for Individual Rights and Free Expression (Dec 2023-May 204).

LEADERSHIP & AWARDS

Society of Professional Journalists:

- At Large Board Member: Freelance Community (Oct 2024-Oct 2025).
 - Presented a session advocating for and informing early-career journalists at SPJ Media Fest 2025.
 - Planned and coordinated conference sessions for the organization's annual conference.
 - Assisted in writing the weekly freelance community newsletter.
 - Hosted webinar for SPJ D.C. regarding FOIA and AI.
- SPJ News Team (Oct 2023 & 2024).

Wright State University:

- Received the **Senior Leadership Award** for excellence in leadership and community service..

Grants

- Written and awarded over **four** grant applications, leading to attendance at the **Double Negative Investigative Film Festival, Women and Journalism Symposium**, and funding from the **TJIA**.

EDUCATION

Master of Professional Studies, Journalism, Georgetown University.

Digital Essentials, Photo&Video Storytelling, Ethics, News Writing, Documentary Filmmaking, Interviewing&Sourcing.

Graduate Certificate: Screenwriting, Georgetown University.

Bachelor of Arts, Media Studies, Wright State University.