

# Gillian Russo

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## EDUCATION

**Fordham University**, New York, NY  
*Bachelor of Arts in Journalism with a Minor in Theatre*  
Cumulative GPA: 3.84 | Major GPA: 4.0

May 2021

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Honors Program 2017-2021, Dean's List 2017-2019

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

Journalism, Interviews and Profiles, The Journalist and the Law, Honors Writing Intensive

Intermediate Multimedia Reporting

- Built skills in print, audio and video journalism, including strategies such as the Inverted Pyramid Format
- Gained experience working with technology including DSLR cameras, Adobe Premiere and Audacity
- Co-wrote and produced a feature story, podcast, video and infographic about music teachers adapting to virtual learning

## JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

**The Observer**, *Online Editor*, New York, NY April 2020 – Present

*Previous: Arts and Culture Editor (April 2019 – April 2020), Copy Editor (Sept. 2017 – April 2019)*

- Oversee the weekly publishing of all articles on The Observer's website using Wordpress
- Research and implement new site features and improvements, including plugins and creative visual layouts for stories
- Monitor analytics and SEO using Google Analytics and Yoast, and brainstorm and enact strategies to increase engagement
- Oversee all internal operations as part of the management team with the editor-in-chief, managing editor and co-online editor
- Edit writing and multimedia content by fellow students for content and correct grammatical style, overseeing distribution to an audience of 2,000+

**Broadway News**, *Intern*, New York, NY January 2020 – Present

- Write weekly stories focused on New York's theater industry, including short-form breaking coverage and long-form features
- Interview top theater professionals including company managers, press agents, producers and playwrights
- Proofread, fact-check and copy-edit others' writing
- Publish articles in the Wordpress content management system

**Plays to See**, *Editor and Reviewer*, New York, NY August 2018 – Present

- Write reviews and critiques of shows within the New York City area, published on an international online forum
- Analyze theatrical works in genres including drama, comedy, musicals and Shakespeare
- Edit writing by fellow reviewers for content and correct grammatical style
- Connect and network with other writers to learn about new shows and issues in the theatre industry

**Writing Wrongs**, *Staff Writer*, Reading, PA August 31 – September 2, 2019

- Wrote 4 long-form feature stories in 48 hours to be included in a book distributed worldwide on Amazon
- Interviewed subjects and attended talks at the LGBT Community Center of Reading
- Researched current events and statistics related to LGBT issues

**Prime Publishers – Voices Newspaper**, *Intern Reporter*, Southbury, CT May – August 2018

- Covered a beat: council meetings in one of the largest towns served by the paper
- Composed weekly feature stories about local events of interest alongside veteran reporters
- Utilized computer software to process approximately 50 press releases and 1-2 news stories per week
- Reviewed others' work to maintain cohesive content, style/flow and correct grammatical style
- Trained and on-boarded four incoming employees; reviewed policies, procedures and schedules

## SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Photoshop, Audacity, Premiere, Microsoft Office, Wordpress, Wix, Google Suite, InDesign  
Conversational Spanish, Basic French

## INTERESTS

15-Year Trained Tap Dancer, Stage Combat, Theatre/Performing Arts, Poetry Writing, LGBT Issues, History of Fashion Trends