

Ian Sandwell

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Profile

A hard-working, conscientious freelance journalist with over four years experience working with a leading trade magazine and a strong interest in film journalism, I am a good communicator and comfortable working across all media platforms.

Relevant Experience

Screen International

Box Office and Contributing Reporter

July 2010 – present

Role duties:

- Summarising weekly box office statistics in the weekly UK box office analysis, and for other stories on ScreenDaily.
- Writing monthly 'Marketplace' analytical features for print issue by providing and interpreting relevant film statistics, and other features when required.
- Attending film festivals for networking purposes and interviews to write short news stories, features and blog entries for ScreenDaily.

Skills learnt:

- Using CMS to input box office data and ensuring everything appears correctly on the website.
- Analysing the latest box office figures and statistics to be the first to report on the weekend UK box office figures, and looking at the coming releases to create ideas for in-depth marketplace features on current and potential trends at the box office.
- Maintaining relationships with PRs and studios for box office figures, stories and interviews.
- Working to a strict deadline for magazine copy.

Screen International

Intern

May 2010 – July 2010

Role duties:

- Updating films in their database (Screenbase) with the most recent information regarding production status, cast, financiers and distributors.
- Writing the occasional news story for the website ScreenDaily and updating 'The Web Today' daily with the latest news from around the world.

Skills learnt:

- In-depth research of any film in the database using several sources and ensuring that all information gathered is backed up.
- Improved communication skills in order to contact companies that aren't necessarily based in the UK to ensure that I am clear and concise while remaining professional.

The Digital Fix

Contributor and Assistant Editor - Music (from July 2011)

July 2008 – present

Role duties:

- Reviewing the latest CD releases and gigs.
- Uploading news stories from press releases received from PR contacts.
- Sub-editing the capsule reviews section of the music section of the site.
- Reviewing the latest cinema releases (from March 2010)

Skills learnt:

- Developing and maintaining contacts with PR companies in order to benefit the site with access to the latest review copies, press screenings and up-to-date news.

- Carrying out research in order to support all the copy I write, primarily carrying out extensive background research of bands for interviews.
- Adapting my writing style dependent on the task, especially relevant with reviews which require a more creative style.
- Editing other contributors' work in order to maintain the house style.

Education

Anglia Ruskin University

2006-2009

Qualifications gained:

- B.A.(Hons) Journalism – First Class Honours
- NCTJ Shorthand at 60wpm
- NCTJ Law 2

Skills learnt:

- Modules 'Business of Magazines' and 'Research Project' developed my research skills and ability to analyse facts and figures to come to conclusions, such as how will magazines remain profitable in a digital age.
- News and feature writing including the structure of a news story, writing for different audiences, interviewing techniques and shorthand, and the ability to adapt this to different medium including online.
- Page design using a range of industry-recognised programmes including Quark, InDesign and Photoshop.
- Relevant journalistic law, which I went on to gain an NCTJ qualification in outside of course time.

Harlow College

2004-2006

A Levels:

- Mathematics – A
- History – A
- English Language and Literature – B
- AS Level Film Studies – A

King Harold School

1999-2004

GCSEs

- 4 A*s, 5 As and 1 B

References are available on request.