

# Tekella Foster

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**Emmy Award-winning journalist, producer, and project manager** who leads with purpose, clarity, and care. Known for building trust, moving stories forward, and creating thoughtful systems that help teams thrive. I bring deep experience across television, digital, and podcast platforms – booking meaningful voices, managing smooth productions, and elevating stories that matter. A strategic thinker and steady communicator who works at the intersection of storytelling, structure, and purpose.

## **Production Experience**

### **Gravy Podcast, Southern Foodways Alliance**

*Freelance Producer/Reporter, (In Production)*

- Reporting, recording, and producing a narrative episode on rural entrepreneurship and foodways for Gravy Podcast.
- Coordinating field interviews, ambient sound collection, and assembling tape for editorial review.
- Drafting outlines, scripts, and preparing session files for mixing and mastering.
- Developing episode marketing materials including summaries, titles, and photo assets.

### **Hearst Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien**

*Consulting Producer, 2024-2025*

- Strategically pitch high-impact story ideas and secured top-tier guests, including thought leaders and industry experts, to drive compelling and relevant content.
- Research, identify, and secure high-profile guests, experts, and thought leaders for interviews on timely social, political, and cultural issues.
- Collaborate closely with senior producer to shape segment direction, aligning guest perspectives with the show's editorial vision and current news cycle.
- Work with correspondent and host in the field by identifying and securing shoot locations, coordinating on-site logistics, and assisting with interview prep through guest questions.

### **National Public Radio (NPR)**

*Network Booker-Contractor, 2021-2025*

- Pitched, pre-interviewed, and booked guests for news magazine shows including *Up First*, *All Things Considered*, *Morning Edition*, *Here & Now*, and *Weekend Edition*.
- Identified guests to discuss breaking news stories, including the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Buffalo supermarket incident, and Uvalde, Texas, Jan. 6th Committee hearings, and conflicts in Haiti.
- Established and maintained a comprehensive database of agents, publicists, press offices, subject-matter experts, and government agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

*NPR Next Gen Radio: Gulf States Newsroom, Project Mentor, 2024*

- Paired 1:1 with a mentee or college student to serve as the main point of communication and support throughout the project.
- Provided guidance and assistance to mentee, including refining pitches, crafting interview questions, and assisting with logistical arrangements.

- Ensured mentee meet daily deadlines by acting as a motivator and offering support and encouragement. Offer constructive feedback to mentees to help improve their skills and the quality of their work.
- Listen and Read: What is the Meaning of “Home”? ([bit.ly/3A0mDyR](https://bit.ly/3A0mDyR))

*NPR Next Gen Radio: Gulf States Newsroom, Reporter, 2023*

- Listen and Read What Is the Meaning of “Home”? ([bit.ly/4bS7GfQ](https://bit.ly/4bS7GfQ))
- Collaborated with editorial illustrators, technical audio producers, and digital and visual journalists to produce a non-narrated audio piece.
- Pitched, reported, photographed, and wrote a companion multimedia story.

*NPR Digital Reporter, 2022*

- [Pitched and wrote news and feature content for NPR.org](https://bit.ly/4d7aS8f) ([bit.ly/4d7aS8f](https://bit.ly/4d7aS8f))

*NPR’s Morning Edition, Editor, 2021*

- Pitched and booked impactful interviews, covering topics such as the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, the Surfside, FL building collapse, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Wrote and edited scripts. Provided editorial support to the host in preparing for interviews.

### **Indigenous Media**

*Location Manager and Casting Producer, 2024*

- Scouted locations for shoots and booked diverse groups of residents in Mississippi which included nurses, firefighters, retirees, animals and children. Gathered signed legal releases, including NDAs, location and appearance releases.
- [Watch BlackRock in Mississippi commercial](https://bit.ly/4bRcFx9) ([bit.ly/4bRcFx9](https://bit.ly/4bRcFx9))

### **Podcast Fahrenheit Creative Group**

*Senior Creative Support Specialist, 2024*

- Supervised edit all sessions for “Our Health Stories,” a podcast dedicated to improving healthcare for all Americans by sharing lessons from leaders who championed change, particularly during Freedom Summer in 1964. Hosted by “Medical Mythbuster,” Joel Bervell.
- Wrote interview questions for podcast episodes.
- Assisted with the copywriting process for client-facing materials, including websites, social media content, op-eds and similar materials. Manage communication with clients and team members to ensure projects are kept on time and within budget.
- Used Teamwork project management software to organize projects.

### **CNN New Day & Early Start**

*Editorial Producer, 2013-2021*

- Wrote pitches and booked guests for live morning show that included subject-matter experts, government officials, public figures, CNN contributors, and “real people”.
- Traveled extensively for breaking news coverage, securing exclusive guests for events such as the Ferguson shooting, Charleston church shooting, and Presidential elections.
- Developed and nurtured relationships with new and diverse voices, transforming them into regular contributors and air talent.
- Conducted thorough pre-interviews over the phone, ensuring guests were well-informed on topics and relevant research. Proof guest-related fonts and information. Coordinated logistics, including car travel, guestbook and makeup.

- Prepared background information on stories for anchors and producers. Managed logistics with Technical Managers, Satellite, Affiliates, and Breaking News Desk for on set or remote interviews. Collaborated effectively with other Show Bookers across the network

### **ABC LIVE! With Kelly & Michael**

*Producer, 2013*

- Wrote scripts for the Unstoppable Moms Contest, a collaboration between “LIVE with Kelly and Michael” and Children’s Motrin.
- Directed crew and traveled nationwide to produce segments featuring ordinary moms doing extraordinary tasks. Involved in all stages of production: from pre to post production.

### **Leopard Films Entertainment, HGTV’s House Hunters International**

*Supervising Segment Producer, Field Director & Casting Producer, 2009-2012*

- Managed production across six continents and over 30 countries. Pitched and booked guests. Conducted interviews and hired crew members.
- Wrote and approved call sheets, shoot schedules, and casting videos, along with the EP.
- Directed and traveled to on domestic and international shoots in USA, Canada, South America, Europe and the Caribbean.

### **ABC News Good Morning America**

*Editorial Researcher, 2007-2011*

- Emmy Awards 2007 and 2008, ABC’s *Good Morning America*
- Conducted in-depth research stories for live segments and specials.

## **Additional Production Experience**

- New Harbor Entertainment (TLC “I’ve Got Nothing to Wear”; Style “My Celebrity Home)
- The Dr. Oz Show                      • INSP                      • Newseum                      • PBS NewsHour
- Sony Pictures (Judge Hatchett, Judge Karen)
- 520 Collective (Oprah Winfrey Network and Tequila with Olmeca Altos)
- CBS EYEtoo Productions (Food Network, Animal Planet)
- Al Roker Productions (Food Network, TV One, Court TV, exec. asst to Mr. Roker)

## **Community Engagement**

- [Tekella.com](http://Tekella.com) - etiquette and manners services
- Winston County Library - board membership and volunteer
- Justice Film Festival - board membership
- Louisville Municipal School Starkville Oktibbeha School District, - Substitute teacher

## **Education**

- M.A., Journalism, Regent University
- B.A., Broadcast Journalism, The University of Southern Mississippi
- Minor, Spanish

## **Skills**

- AI experience, iNews, Slack, Microsoft Word; familiar with Trint, Descript, Adobe Audition
- Digital Marketing Bootcamp 2.0 Certificate. *Mississippi SBDC Network* (2025)