

PORTFOLIO





Zell Burke

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ABOUT ME



I attended Linfield University, where I earned a B.A. in Journalism and Media Studies. I am also a part of Kappa Tau Alpha, the national honors society that promotes scholarship in journalism and mass communication. I aim to connect people to accessible, reliable information through meaningful storytelling.

My dream is to be a multimedia storyteller on the arts and culture beat, with a focus on music, film, and physical artists. In the next three years, I plan to go back to school and complete a degree in music and creative writing, so that I can confidently and competently pursue a career in musical reporting.

I have always been involved in the arts, and continue to find ways to be involved in that scene by volunteering in my community. I have volunteered at the McMinnville Film Festival, the Cúirt International Festival of Literature, the Queer Wine Festival, the Salem Art Festival, the Deschutes River Cleanup, and the Willamette Art Center. I am also a volunteer for OPB!





In my free time, I am toiling away at my local ceramics studio, studying at my local library, strolling through a museum, practicing music, learning something new, exploring some*where* new, and of course following the news!

To learn more about me: https://zellburke.wordpress.com/about-me/

THE MUSIC OF WILDWOOD

I can *hear* into the future: the cawing of crows, the clashing of a magical battle, the pounding footsteps of Portlanders racing to the theatres, and something else…

LAIKA, the studio behind whimsical stop-motion animated films like "Coraline" (2009), "Paranorman" (2012), and "Missing Link" (2019), is set to release its newest feature next month: "Wildwood" (2026).

The film takes place in Oregon and viewers can count on seeing several Portland landmarks on the big screen. Already, Portland artists are gearing up for the event with Wildwood: Follow the Crows, "a free public art trail with 30 hand-painted crow sculptures," that will be present in Downtown Portland until October 30th. LAIKA also calls Oregon home– its studio based in Hillsboro–and the film appears intent on celebrating the magic of Oregon.

"Wildwood" is based on the bestselling novel by the same title written by Colin Meloy. You might recognize his name if you are a fan of Portland indie folk, for he is also the lead singer and songwriter for the local band The Decemberists.

Meloy is not the only gifted musician behind-the-scenes of "Wildwood." While my eyes are eager to see what handmade masterpieces LAIKA has in store this time, my ears are keen to know what musical score follows the film.

LAIKA has entrusted Dario Marianelli, the Italian composer, to create the melodic soul of "Wildwood." He is not unfamiliar with LAIKA studios, having worked on the projects twice before with "The Boxtrolls" (2014) and "Kubo and the Two Strings" (2016).

Marianelli has worked on award-winning films like "Anna Karenina" (2012) and "Darkest Hour" (2017). Marianelli himself won the Oscar and Golden Globe for Best Original Score for the film "Atonement" in 2007.

Austenites or fans of the 2005 adaptation of "Pride and Prejudice" will already be familiar with his work, as his compositions brought the world of the Bennet family to life. As heard in "Pride and Prejudice," his scores incorporate many classical, orchestral influences. However, audiences will have to wait until the film's release on October 23rd to hear if "Wildwood" includes the piano and string arrangements he favors.

Sept. 15th, 2026

FEATURE PROFILE

Stacey Barchenger

Bewitched by stunning voices, electrifying dance moves and looks that could kill, few teenage girls can resist the charm of boy bands. As a teen growing up when butterfly clips, low-rise jeans and popcorn shirts were all the rage, Stacey Barchenger was no different. Her passion -- along with throngs of other teenage girls -- was Justin Timberlake.

Thrilled at the chance to cover the teen heartthrob while still just a high schooler, Barchenger was inspired to pursue journalism. Twenty years later, she's working as a Trenton-based statehouse reporter for the Asbury Park Press, a Jersey Shore daily tucked into the southeast corner of the New York City Metropolitan area.

While she has yet to report on Hollywood scandals or meet her dream beau, Barchenger has covered her fair share of high-profile cases. Although not traditional celebrities, Barchenger has interviewed astronauts, governors, and presidential candidates -- people whose decisions influence the nation on a daily basis.

Perhaps no group has more power over the ultimate fate of laws governing our lives than the U.S. Supreme Court.

While working at the Tennessean in 2015, Barchenger covered the landmark Supreme Court decision regarding same-sex marriage. Not only would the ruling affect the lives of the Tennessee couple involved, but it would also change the lives of thousands of Americans.

"There were the people who believed so fervently that this was not appropriate on the one side and then the people that had given their all to win this recognition of how they choose to live their lives," she said. "And I was stuck in the middle of it."

The path she took from star-struck Justin Timberlake devotee to professional chronicler of courthouse and statehouse workings arose from her first post-college job at the Statesman Journal, capital city newspaper in her hometown of Salem. There, she found her interest in celebrity stories swept aside by the hard-news allure of the police beat.

She realized that she'd rather cover stories that affected the public in a meaningful way. She yearned to enlighten people by giving them information they couldn't get on their own.

By pursuing this interest, Barchenger was able to write stories that spurred officials into action. Among them was an investigative takeout on lead-tainted drinking water in New Jersey schools.

A month after publishing the investigative story, she said, the governor held a press conference and announced they were making the reports public and dedicating $100 million in funding to remove lead from pipes in schools.

CONT.

In part, Barchenger's success can be attributed to her work ethic, her natural writing ability, or her persistent curiosity -- qualities shared by top reporters everywhere. However, at the end of the day, it comes down to passion.

When Barchenger talked about the most memorable stories of her career, her eyes widened and her voice rose. She took the time to describe the setting, the people, and the emotion in every experience.

She said she gets an amazing feeling from her work as a reporter. Time and again, she mentioned how much she loved reporting, even when it proved challenging. She exuded an infectious brand of enthusiasm.

"I am constantly learning things," she said, "And I get to write about different things every day." One week she'll be covering a mysterious old raft that washed up on the beach, she said, and the next she will be interviewing a woman who was attacked by a deer while running a half-marathon.

The variety of her job stops her from growing tired of it.

Sometimes she gets an uninteresting assignment from an editor, she said, but she never slacks, because she feels a duty to the public. Her passion motivates her to do her job well, no matter what. She knows there will always be people relying on what she writes.

However, the criticism is constant and answers aren't always easy to find.

She talked about getting stonewalled by officials while following up on a tip about a man whose parole had been revoked over statements now alleged to have been false. Eventually, she said, she was able to publish a story that led to legislation to avoid such situations in the future.

But the entire time, she said, "The parole board chair was disputing my report. He was telling lawmakers my reporting was bad, which was hard because I had done my due diligence."

Her advice is this: "You have to do what you think is right. It doesn't matter what everyone else thinks."

She said a reporter must remain calm and keep the focus on the needs and concerns of the public. "If you make a mistake own up to it and if you didn't, stand your ground," she advised.

Barchenger said some stories left her emotionally exhausted. She said the one that came to mind was a Vanderbilt University rape case involving four football players.

The opening trial ran three weeks, she said, and having to listen to the details played out day after day wore on her.

"As journalists, we're supposed to distance ourselves from things," she said. "But I don't think that means we don't have emotion. For me, that was just a really powerful thing to be a part of, even if I'm just documenting it for other people."

FIN

Emotion can tell you what parts of a story are important to write about, Barchenger said, but ultimately, a reporter's job is to tell stories that matter while remaining fair and truthful. With increasingly negative views of the press, it's critical that Barchenger's principles are shared by every reporter.

Finding a passion is easy compared to mustering the courage to pursue it. Throughout her career, when Barchenger saw an opportunity she went for it. And she was rewarded, as journalism gave her the chance to travel, meet interesting people, and tell meaningful stories.

Back when she still had a schoolgirl crush on Justin Timberlake, she was debating the merits of a future as a surgeon versus a marine biologist. All she knew is that she had to love what she did.

That's when journalism entered her life.

In her senior year of high school when she was fortunate to have a writing teacher who had a penchant of telling the class passionate stories from when he was a reporter.

"I remember being intrigued by that," she said. "That there was something that you could like so much that even years later when you recount it you're still so emotionally invested."

April 24th, 2023

VIDEOGRAPHY

East Creek Anagama







I worked with two other peers to create a video for East Creek Anagama's grant proposal

We went to film the artist retreat and ceramic studio during a scheduled kiln firing; there, we interviewed the camp director and videotaped the scenery and studio operations

We edited audio and video content in Adobe PremierePro and AfterEffects, communicating with East Creek until we developed a version they were happy with

We shared three versions with East Creek so that they could use it for their website, grant proposal, social media, and other marketing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGd0nFGrLz8









Oregon Myth Series

I was the sole writer, videographer, and editor. I worked with the theatre students to create three mock-umentaries on Oregon myths: "The McMinnville UFO," "Colossol Claude," and the Lafayette Witch"

Located on my website, complete with Behind-The-Scenes and Cast Bios https://zellburke.wordpress.com/capstone-project/ and YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@zellburke125

I have filmed choir performances, dance showcases, and theatre performances at Linfield University. I also worked for Linfield LAB (the university's version of TedTalks) and Wildcat Productions

Additional videos can be found here: https://zellburke.wordpress.com/video/

PHOTO











Above are headshots taken of the cast of “Treasure Island”

More photos can be found here: https://zellburke.wordpress.com/photos/

GRAPHY









TRAVEL PHOTOS



When you meet new people, there is an inevitable sharing of passion, knowledge, experience, and culture. This may be most apparent when traveling to places unfamiliar to you.

While completing my undergraduate, I was extremely fortunate to be able to study abroad. First, in Galway, Ireland during the spring term of 2022 and then in Nottingham, England during the fall term of 2022.

While in Ireland, I took classes on Irish history, culture, mythology, and archaeology. While in England, I took classes on film theory and production.

I was also lucky to return to Galway fall of 2025 for three months. While there, I got to do even more exploring and met many fantastic people.

The next pages include a selection of photos taken during my adventures in Ireland and England, as well as some from a solo trip to Greece during that time.

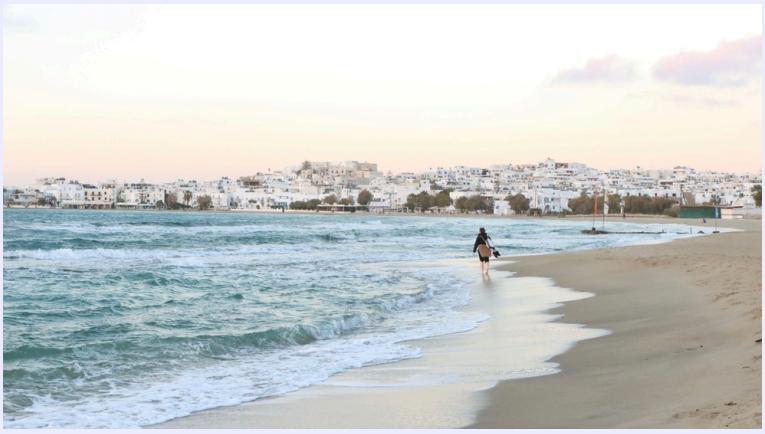




I love exploring and I embrace new experiences. I endeavor to be and active, welcoming member in my community and an appreciative and respectful visitor of others. I want to learn about the history of places I go, observe the environment and nature that makes each place unique, and meet the people who call it home.



Greece

















Ireland











England













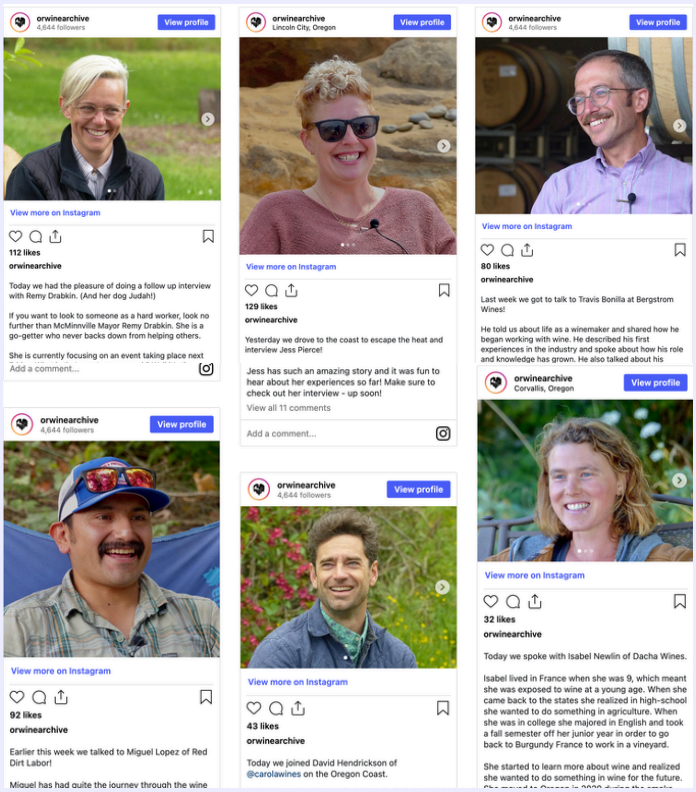






SOCIAL MEDIA MIXED







Social Media

At the Oregon Wine History Archives, I managed all digital media, which included all videography, photography, audio, and digital writing. I organized the digital archive, updated the Archive's website, and uploaded content to all social platforms. Above are some of the Instagram posts.

I have run the social campaigns for several theatre productions, choir concerts, and dance showcases, like Linfield's "Celestial" shown above ↑

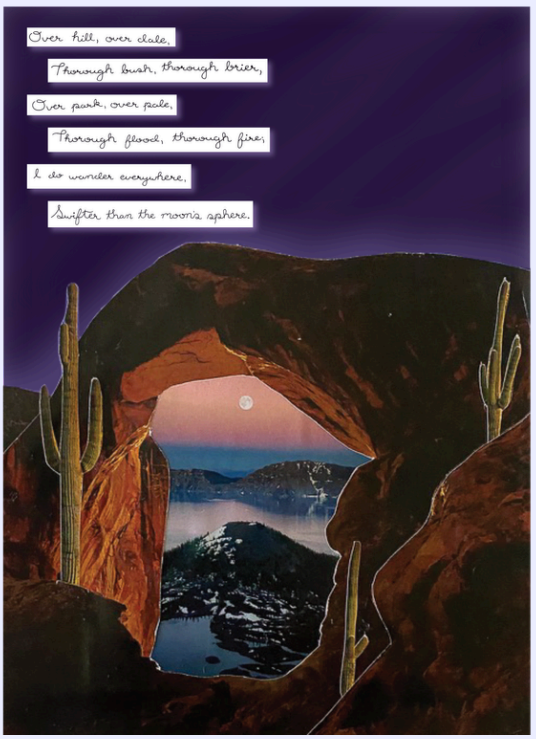


Mixed Media

Storytelling, especially journalistic storytelling, is an artform.

It is fun to play around with combining different artistic disciplines, and how they impact the message you are sharing.

To the left and right are mixed media pieces created for Shakespeare Week! Included are examples of collage and oil pastel techniques.







END

*All photos, except those of myself, were taken by me

*AI was not used to create this portfolio



