

Don Duncan
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Nationality: Irish

KEY EXPERIENCE/SKILLS

- Experienced media and communications trainer with over eight years of work undertaken on the ground in over a fifteen countries
- Active freelance journalist, working across all media and filing stories from the Middle East, Europe & Asia for leading English-language outlets
- An experienced screenwriter and filmmaker with latest short film screening in over 30 festivals globally and picking up eight awards
- Skilled in video editing software (Final Cut Pro, Premiere and Avid), sound editing software (ProTools, Audition, Hindenburg and Audacity), photo editing software (Photoshop and Bridge) as well as various podcasting software suites
- Training specialties include include: radio, television, print and web journalism; breaking news reporting; feature reporting; multimedia journalism skills and techniques; podcasting; PR and Communications; film producing; film directing; and script writing
- Fluent in English (mother tongue) French, Irish and lower intermediate level in Arabic (MSA and Levantine)

COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING EXPERIENCE

BBC Media Action, London (UK)

- 05/2017 – 06/2017 **South Sudan:** Lead trainer and creator of syllabus **Project leader/trainer**
- Preparing a series of trainings in journalism and humanitarian communications to happen in three cities across South Sudan in June 2017. The trainings will build the skills of some 100 journalists, humanitarian workers and government spokespeople
- 12/2016 – 01/2017 **Afghanistan:** Lead trainer and creator of syllabus **Project leader/trainer**
- Prepared some 100 journalists, humanitarian workers and government spokespeople for communications, post-earthquake
- 02/2016 – 04/2016 **Tunisia:** Multimedia journalism trainer **Project leader/trainer**
- Developed and led two sets of multimedia training in Tunis targeting journalists from radio, TV and print sectors. Focus was on exploiting portable, easy-to-use technologies so as to make slick, effective multimedia communications products
- 12/2015 – 01/2016 **Tanzania:** **Trainer**
- Trained journalists and humanitarian NGOs in how to better communicate in the context of famine and disease outbreak
- 11/2015 – 12/2015 **Algeria:** **Trainer**
- Built skills and competences of journalists in government-run media as well as government communications personnel
- 07/2015 – 10/2015 **Myanmar:** Managed and edited a weekly radio programme **Mentor/trainer**
- Broadcast to some 8.4 million people through the state broadcaster (MRTV), the radio programme was also a means to carry out close mentorship and training of MRTV staff so as to increase their competence and capacities
- 12/2014 – 05/2015 **West Africa:** Trained and project managed Ebola comms project **Trainer/project manager**
- Prepared and led training of media, humanitarian and government personnel in Benin, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Focus was on preparing trainees to communicate effectively should Ebola spread to their countries
 - Trainings covered skills in radio, television, online and print journalism as well as spokesperson skills and communications strategies for the government and humanitarian sectors
- 09/2015 – 11/2015 **Sierra Leone:** Syllabus design and training of trainers (ToT) **Project leader/trainer**
- Designed a training syllabus for 37 local radio stations nationwide, aiming to improve the overall effectiveness of radio in Sierra Leone in the fight against Ebola. Trained in-country staff to deliver the course out on the field

Institute of War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), London (UK)

- 10/2015 – 11/2012 **Mauritania:** Training on political reporting **Project leader/trainer**
- Delivered a series of courses aimed at enabling Mauritanian journalists to cover the political sphere more completely
- 03/2011 – 06/2011 **Tunisia:** Multimedia training and skills building **Trainer/project manager**
- Trainings targeted journalists working across platforms and helped them capture the country's youth voice, post-revolution
- 07/2010 – 11/2010 **Syria and Lebanon:** Multimedia training and skills building **Project leader/trainer**
- Designed, developed and delivered a comprehensive syllabus on multimedia reporting for young Syrian journalists

Daniel Pearl Reporting Project, New York (USA)

- 2007 – 2008 Online syllabus design and delivery **Consultant/tutor**
- Helped build a multimedia syllabus for use via the web by high school students around the world. Also served as a tutor on the project

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Freelance Reporter *(working across radio, video, print and digital formats)*

- 06/2007 – Present Currently based in **Dublin (Ireland)**, covering the **Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia**
- File print, video and radio coverage of breaking news and political, economic, cultural, and development features from Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa

- Produce radio and video documentaries on a wide range of subjects from various parts of the world for clients including the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, CBC (Canada) and Deutsche Welle
- Specialise as a one-man-band multimedia reporter, filing print, photo, audio and video
- Was based in **Beirut, Lebanon** from 2009 to 2012 as a freelance foreign correspondent. Regional coverage included: the Egyptian, Libyan and Tunisian revolutions and the uprising in Syria
- Coverage beyond the Middle East includes reporting from: Afghanistan, Benelux, Bhutan, China, Ethiopia, France, India, Ireland, Nepal, and the US
- **Editorial Clients:** Agence France Presse (AFPTV), BBC, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Le Monde Diplomatique*, National Geographic, *The New York Times*, NPR, PBS, *TIME*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and others
- **Awards/Fellowships:**
 - Reporting fellow: National Press Foundation, World AIDS Summit (Atlanta, GA: Sept. 2010 and Vienna, July 2010)
 - Fund grantee, Bhutan investigative project: The Investigative Fund, The Nation Institute, New York (2009)
 - News21 multimedia fellow, Carnegie/Knight Foundations (New York: Summer 2008)
 - Travel grant: Afghanistan, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (2008)
 - Travel grant: Lebanon, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting (2007)

FILMMAKING AND DOCUMENTARY EXPERIENCE

Film director, producer, screenwriter and editor

05/2006 – Present

- Wrote, directed, produced and edited three short films, one shot in Paris (2006), one shot in Beirut (2011) and one shot in Brussels (“*A Sign*,” 2012)
- “*A Sign*,” a French-language short fiction film, has screened at over 30 festivals worldwide and received eight prizes including two for best screenplay and one for best director
- “*A Sign*” was broadcast nationally on Irish television (RTE) in September 2016

Documentary maker

05/2009 – Present

- **2012:** Wrote, produced and edited “*Democracy Derailed: Egypt’s Unravelling Revolution*,” a video documentary for the *Wall Street Journal*
- **2008:** Wrote, produced and edited “*A Journey Home: Afghanistan through the eyes of a returning refugee*,” a documentary for *The New York Times* and AFP
- **2008:** Wrote, produced and edited “*A Refuge in Ruins: Returning to Nahr al Bared*,” a radio documentary about the politics of reconstruction surrounding a Palestinian refugee camp destroyed in a conflict with the Lebanese state

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Beirut Irish Film Festival, Beirut (Lebanon)

2012

- First Irish film festival in Lebanon **Director/curator**
- Directed and curated a five-day festival showcasing 15 Irish feature films and over 20 Irish short films whose themes carried relevance to the Lebanese social context

Æ Magazine, Paris (France)

2005 – 2006

- Independent magazine dedicated to emerging talent in the arts **Founder and editor**
- Founded and edited this global quarterly magazine showcasing work from emerging artists, designers and writers around the world. Headquartered in Paris, the magazine had a core team of editors spread across three continents. Distributed to specialised stores in over twenty countries

EDUCATION

- 2012 – 2014 **INSAS – Brussels (Belgium)**
MA in Filmmaking (specialisation: directing, screenwriting, producing), graduated *magna cum laude*
- 2007 – 2008 **Columbia University – New York (USA)**
MA in Journalism and Politics (specialisation: Middle East politics), graduated *magna cum laude*
Awards: Bollinger Presidential Fellow, Arthur Harris Award for best thesis, Einhorn Family Trust research fund
- 2006 – 2007 **Columbia University – New York (USA)**
MS in Broadcast Journalism (specialisation: radio, TV and multimedia), graduated *cum laude*
Award: Henry N. Taylor Scholarship (2006/07)
- 1998 – 2002 **Trinity College Dublin – Dublin (Ireland)**
BA in English Literature, graduated *cum laude* (Grade: II.1)
Included one year of Erasmus exchange to *Université de Paris VII*, France
- Summer 2012 **Middlebury College – Vermont (USA)**
Intensive residential course in classical Arabic (Grade: A)
Award: Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace