

Chris O'Connell

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Career Overview

Emmy Award winning television journalist with more than 20 years broadcast experience in the full production of television news stories. Exceptional interviewing skills enabling the production of stories filled with emotion and impact. Expert in live breaking events, social media, and video production while comfortably working under extremely tight deadlines.

Professional Experience

WTXF-TV, Fox News, Philadelphia PA

September 2010 – Present

General Assignment Reporter/Anchor

- Responsible for enterprising, researching, production and on-camera presentation of news stories for nightly broadcast in the country's 4th largest media market.
- Consistently produces lead stories on extremely tight deadlines for 5pm, 6pm and 10pm broadcasts.
- Primary reporter sent to cover national breaking news stories and stories impacting Philadelphia viewers.
- Appearances on Fox News as national correspondent for national stories like the Boston Marathon Bombing, Occupy Wall Street and the trial of Jerry Sandusky.
- Part of collaborative effort of Strategic Team that increased social media engagement by 300%.
- Frequent charity host and Master of Ceremonies for non-profit organizations and local schools.
- Recognized for Outstanding Achievement in General Assignment Reporting with Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award

KSTP, St. Paul, Minnesota

April 2007 – September 2010

Anchor/General Assignment Reporter

- Newscast anchor responsible for a 55% increase in ratings for the 11PM nightly newscast.
- Facilitated daily news story development and research for delivery for nightly newscast.
- Lead newscast reporter responsible for research, interviewing, writing and on-camera presentation of a news report breaking news on a daily basis under multiple deadlines.
- 2007 National Emmy Award winner for Outstanding Achievement of Breaking News for extensive coverage of the 35W Bridge Collapse.

Bay News 9, Tampa Florida

August 1997 – April 2007

Senior Reporter/Sports Anchor

- On-air anchor/host for nightly half-hour sports talk show

- Facilitated research, field reporting, interviewing and coverage of major sports events.
- Reported, produced and edited in-depth special reports and news style sports documentaries.
- Appeared regularly on CNN as Florida based correspondent covering more than 25 tropical storms and hurricanes.
- Flew on demonstration flight aboard FA-18 with elite US Navy Blue Angels.
- Obtained exclusive one on one interviews with Vice-President Al Gore, President George W. Bush during the 2000 Presidential Campaign
- Lead reporter for 10 Time Warner News Channels for the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles.
- Overseas assignments in Rome, Italy, Honduras, and Aruba

WTVR-TV, CBS Affiliate Richmond, VA

May 1995 – August 1997

Bureau Chief/Reporter

- Generated, research and gather daily story ideas for broadcast on 3 nightly newscasts.
- Responsible for full production of daily broadcast news stories.
- Produced and reported overseas assignments in Israel and London, England.
- Host and Master of Ceremonies for many charity events and regular visits to local schools.

WGAL-TV, NBC Affiliate Lancaster, PA

May 1994 – May 1995

Reporter

- Developed, gathered and reported news stories for 6 daily newscasts.
- Responsible for research, interview and production of news story for broadcast on nightly 6pm and 11pm newscast.
- Managed schedules and assigned news stories, equipment and vehicles for 50 person newsroom.

WLYH-TV, CBS Affiliate, Lancaster, PA

April 1993 – May 1994

General Assignment Reporter

- Development and research of news stories for broadcast on the 6pm newscast.
- Responsible for development and management of an extensive resource contact list for newsroom staff.
- Researched, shot and editing of multiple news stories for broadcast on the 6pm newscast.
- Frequent fill-in anchor for news, sports and weather for broadcast.

WAMU-FM, Washington, D.C.

December 1992 – April 1993

Freelance Reporter

- Produced and delivered radio reports for morning newscasts

- Interviewing, news gathering and audio production

WRTI-FM, Philadelphia, PA

September 1987 – May 1991

General Assignment Reporter

- Field reporting on daily news events
- Extensive live reporting on news events around the Philadelphia media market.

Education

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

BA, Radio-Television-Film