

STEVEN VARGAS

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EXPERIENCE

Los Angeles Times, Arts Reporter (*August 2022 – January 2024*):

- Launched [L.A. Goes Out](#), a weekly things-to-do newsletter that outlined the top arts and entertainment events in L.A., from screenings to live performances, garnering over 30,000 subscribers in less than a year.
- Reported on dance and social issues — from the [formation of the Choreographers Guild](#) to a nationwide voguing protest in response to [O'Shae Sibley's death in Brooklyn](#) — to expand the diversity in arts stories covered by the paper.

Los Angeles Times, Entertainment and Arts Intern (*June 2022 – August 2022*):

- Uncovered unique stories about TV and film, including how the team behind [“Rap Sh!” mimicked phone cinematography](#), the origin of [the new A in “Pretty Little Liars”](#) and the [rise of Rachel Sennott](#).
- Collaborated with the design team to develop a story on [the impact AI-generated art](#) has on ownership issues in the art world, developing an interactive page that would provide readers with a digestible narrative of AI technology.

E! News, Writer (*February 2022 – June 2022*)

- Published four to five articles a day, turning around drafts within an hour to get the latest celebrity updates out to E! News’ audience of 12 million on X and 24 million on Instagram.
- Contributed to event reporting including the 2022 SAG Awards, 2022 Oscars and 2022 Met Gala — which was the [highest-viewed coverage ever](#) for “Live From E!,” drawing in 444 million total multi-platform engagements.
- Gathered [half a million views](#) in 24 hours on an article announcing Nick Jonas and Priyanka Chopra’s baby name.

Final Draft, Blog Freelancer (*March 2021 – June 2022*)

- Interviewed screenwriters and dug into the writing development of new films, from [“Mogul Mowgli”](#) to [“The Voyeurs,”](#) offering insight into the strategies and structures of the modern-day screenplay.
- Explored trends and stories about filmmakers from underrepresented communities, including the realities of [being Latina in entertainment](#) and the importance of the [WGA Middle Eastern Writers Committee](#).

Entertainment Tonight/CBS Interactive, ET Live Digital Production Intern (*Summer 2019*)

- Produced broadcast packages alongside other producers for our 24/7 online entertainment news broadcast and ET Live YouTube channel with 104,000 subscribers.
- Paired with the social media team to photograph celebrities like [Megan Thee Stallion](#), [Priyanka Chopra](#) and [Hayley Williams](#) at the 2019 Beautycon in Los Angeles.

Annenberg Media, Equity Board (*Fall 2020 – Spring 2022*), Managing Editor (*Fall 2019 – Spring 2020*)

- Managed a student newsroom with about 400 journalists covering over 10 different reporting sections.
- Co-founded and developed the [Equity Board with a Poynter Media Project](#) grant, an entity in the newsroom that ensured respectful reporting of diverse communities across broadcast, social, radio and digital.
- Coordinated with 12 of the cultural centers and assemblies on campus to develop a [guide on diverse reporting strategies](#) that outlines ethical reporting practices and embraces diversity in sourcing. It is now included in USC Annenberg syllabi.

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

- **Computer/Technical Skills:** Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook), JavaScript, HTML/CSS, CMS, Adobe Creative Cloud (Photoshop, Premiere, Audition, InDesign, Lightroom, Illustrator), social media
- **Personal Interests:** Dance (Hip Hop, Contemporary, Modern), Acting, Playwrighting, Video Production

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
Master of Arts in Specialized Journalism (The Arts)

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre (Acting) & Journalism, Minor in Dance

Globe Education, Shakespeare’s Globe – London, United Kingdom, Fulbright Summer Institute
Studied and practiced Shakespeare at the historical Globe Theater as part of a Fulbright Summer Institute.

AWARDS

16th National A&E Journalism Awards, LA Press Club, (*December 2023*)

Received third place in the “Diversity in the Entertainment Industry” category for a long-form story about the state of transgender representation in TV and film told through the voices of LGBTQ+-friendly acting class in Hollywood.

Life in the Time of the Coronavirus Contest, 1st Place Student Category, LA Press Club (*May 2020*)

Received first place for [“Dancing at Home,”](#) a short documentary about the life of dancers while in isolation through a personal perspective as a dance student.