

ROBERT NILES

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PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE:

ThemeParkInsider.com, Editor

- Founded and managed ThemeParkInsider.com, an award-winning consumer's guide to the world's most popular theme and amusement parks, reaching an average of more than 300,000 visitors on the Web per month, plus more than 69,000 Facebook followers, 45,000 Twitter followers and 18,000 YouTube subscribers.
- As Editor, Robert has produced videos that have reached more than one million viewers each on YouTube and Facebook, a hashtag that has trended worldwide on Twitter, and multiple articles that have reached the front page of /r/all on Reddit.

Orange County Register, Contributing Columnist

- Writes weekly column about travel and theme parks for Digital First Media.

University of Southern California; Editor, Online Journalism Review, 2004 – 2008

- Managed all operations of this highly-respected journal, including setting its editorial direction, programming its custom content management system, hiring freelance writers and training and managing student employees.

Los Angeles Times; Senior Producer, Staff Writer, 2000 – 2004

- Designed and managed new products for the Times' website.
- Produced written and video columns and reviews for the Times' Business and Calendar sections, in print and online.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct Instructor, Annenberg School of Journalism, University of Southern California, 2002 – 2008

EDUCATION:

Master of Arts in Journalism, Indiana University

Bachelor of Arts, Northwestern University

- Elected student government Vice President

AWARDS:

Online Journalism Award for Service Journalism (Independent)

- Awarded by the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism and the Online News Association
- This was the first major journalism award presented to an instance of online, crowdsourced “citizen journalism.”

Webby Awards

- Best Guide/Ratings/Reviews Website (Finalist)
- Best Guide/Ratings/Reviews Website (Official Honoree)

PUBLICATIONS:

Robert is the author of seven books, including "Stories from a Theme Park Insider," which spent more than 50 weeks in the Amazon Top 100 for Travel Books. His freelance articles have appeared in Alta, Nieman Reports, The Masthead (National Conference of Editorial Writers), Inference Magazine (American Statistical Association), Communication: Journalism Education Today, Communicator: The Magazine of the Radio-Television News Directors Association and The Masthead (National Conference of Editorial Writers).

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS:

Robert has been a featured speaker for Six Flags, Cedar Fair, American Bar Association, National Conference of State Legislatures, James Beard Foundation, WAN-IFRA, American Press Institute, Online News Association, Knight Digital Media Center, Public Relations Society of America/Society of American Travel Writers and Association of Capitol Reporters and Editors.

He has been featured on-air as a commentator for ABC Good Morning America, BBC Radio, CBS Evening News, CCTV America, CNN American Morning and National Public Radio.