

JILL KARNICKI

Photographer | Visual Storyteller | Editorial & Content Specialist

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PROFILE

Award-winning **Photojournalist and Visual Leader** with 20+ years of experience crafting authentic, emotionally resonant imagery that drives storytelling impact. Expert in **editorial, institutional, and digital photography** with a strong record of collaboration across creative and editorial teams.

Known for **technical excellence, professionalism, and empathy**, with a portfolio spanning portraiture, documentary, and event photography. Passionate about using visuals to **communicate complex ideas**, celebrate human stories, and elevate mission-driven organizations.

CORE SKILLS

Photography: Editorial | Content | Portrait | Environmental | Documentary

Technical: Lighting & Composition | Post-Production | Adobe Photoshop | Lightroom | Premiere Pro

Workflow: Digital Asset Management | Photo Mechanic | CCI | WCM | Visual Strategy | Workflow Optimization

Leadership: Team Mentorship | Project Planning | Collaboration | Equipment Management

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Houston Chronicle | Hearst Media Group

Director of Visuals / Senior Photo Editor & Photographer | 2014 – Present

Lead visual storytelling for one of the nation's largest metro newsrooms. Manage a team of photographers producing content across digital and print platforms.

- Oversee daily and long-term visual coverage including portraits, events, and documentary projects.

- Collaborate with editorial and design leaders to align visuals with newsroom and institutional goals.
- Plan and execute photo shoots — from concept to delivery — including logistics, location scouting, and post-production.
- Mentor photographers on visual storytelling, technique, and workflow improvement.
- Coordinate freelance assignments and manage departmental operations.
- Curate and publish visuals for web and social media, driving engagement and audience growth.

Night Photo Editor | 2007 – 2014

- Directed daily visual presentation for print and digital platforms.
- Selected, edited, and produced photo galleries, including top-performing features on Chron.com.
- Partnered with designers to create cohesive, visually rich storytelling packages.

The Washington Post

Photo Editor | 2005 – 2007

- Edited photography for A1, Metro, and Features sections.
- Collaborated with photographers to maintain narrative strength and tone consistency.

Los Angeles Times | Times Community News

Chief Photographer / Photo Editor | 1998 – 2005

- Led a three-person staff producing photography for three community newspapers.
- Shot portraits, events, sports, and features while managing workflow and deadlines.

Earlier Experience

- **Illustrator**, *Ohio University Libraries* – Created academic and research visuals.
 - **Freelance Photographer**, *San Francisco, CA* – Produced editorial and commercial imagery.
 - **Laboratory Technician**, *Brooks Institute of Photography* – Managed lab operations and equipment.
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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Illustration – *Brooks Institute of Photography*
Graduate Studies, Visual Communication – *Ohio University*

AWARDS & HONORS

- **Pulitzer Prize Finalist**, Breaking News Reporting (2017) – Led Hurricane Harvey visual coverage.
 - **Texas AP Media Editors**, Newsroom of the Year (2021) – Visual content leadership.
 - **Rotary International Cultural Exchange** (2000) – Visual journalism presentations in India.
 - **National Press Photographers Association**, Member (1995–Present).
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COMMUNITY & PERSONAL INTERESTS

Dog mom 🐶 | Foster dog photographer 📷 | Live music enthusiast 🎸 | Needlepoint artist 🧵 |
Tap dancer 🕺 | Believer in positivity & creative connection ✨