

# Doris E. Ester- Childress

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## Professional Summary

- Twenty-three years of major market broadcasting experience as a producer, anchor, and writer in commercial and public television.
- Ten years Director of Liberation Media, Inc., worship arts-based programming.
- Thirty-one years as coordinator, curriculum development chair, and event planner for youth and children's ministry.
- Ten years of community outreach for the Liberation Project Inc.
- Four years Head of School for the UBORA Academy, serving children preschool through fifth grade.
- Nine years free-lancing voice-over talent and television commercial producer and copywriter.

## Education

- Master of Arts– University of North Texas, Denton, Texas ▪ Major: Radio Television and Film
- Bachelor of Arts– Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas ▪ Major: Communications Minor: Theatre
- Associate of Arts – Lon Morris College, Jacksonville, Texas

## Professional Awards

- Five Academy of Arts and Science Television Emmy Awards
- Three National Gracie Awards
- Four Dallas Press Club Awards and Recognitions
- International Telly Award
- PBS- SECA Award
- The National Communicator Award
- Numerous Houston Press Club Awards

- 2000 AWRT National Gracie recognition for Outstanding Anchor representing major markets nationally.
- Harris County Medical Association and Anson Jones Medical Reporting Awards
- Alma Newsom Media Award
- Interfaith Peace Award

## **Professional Experience**

**Adjunct Professor** – Texas Southern University / Houston, Texas  
August 2016 – Present

- Introduction to the Documentary (RTF, 352). Instruction on the history and production of documentary film. The course required a 20-minute student-produced documentary.
- Communications Studies (COMM 130). An introductory study of the theories and practices of human communication. This course focuses on verbal literacy and critical thinking.
- Media Analysis and Criticism (RTF 331) Engages students with an intellectual approach to analyzing the mass media. The class promotes and fosters critical inquiry in contemporary culture and society: media cultural forms, practices and institutions, their relation to society, and social change.
- Public Address (SC 136) Provides students with the core skills to classical and contemporary theories of rhetoric and practical skills of public speaking.
- Documentary Production (RTF- 564) Provides graduate students with the skills to examine the documentary from the Aristotelian rhetorical appeals to logos, pathos, and ethos. Students produce a 20-minute documentary focused on a social issue based on the Aristotelian appeals.
- Media Literacy (COMM 220) The course equips students with the ability to analyze, access, and evaluate media messages. ML explores information effects of media exposure, content design strategies, the trending changes in media consumption, and the economic influences on media content.

**Liberation Media Director** – *Liberation Project Inc. and Covenant Glen UMC /*  
Houston, Texas June 2007– Present

- Director of all media relations for a 3500-member congregation.
- Produce and direct television spots for brand campaigns and seasonal events.
- Write, produce, and voice-over weekly events reel for in-house and web broadcast.
- Edit content and write copy for website and social media posts.
- Manage visual team for live worship service.
- Cast talent for commercials.
- Graphic design for events, calendar, and general ministry events.
- Manage external communications that promote the CGUMC and Liberation brand to the community.
- Consult executive team on crisis communication issues.

**Liberation Project, Inc. Covenant Glen Church** Outreach and Community  
Programs/ Houston, Texas June 2007- Present

- Design, implement, and manage community-wide events for seasonal events, including Back to School Supply Drives, Christmas assistance for section 8 apartment youth and children, Community Harvest Festivals, and Haiti mission outreach.
- Collaborate and develop relationships with area outreach programs in Fort Bend County.
- Develop narratives on Liberation events to communicate to the press.
- Recruit and train volunteers for community events.
- Solicit speakers and experts for enrichment programs for educational component of Liberation.
- Organize, manage, and host community fairs, including women's health and school readiness.

**Head of School–Ubora Academy /**  
Missouri City, Texas▪ July 2006 – May 2011

- Transformed private school from an underperforming daycare model to a center of learning. By instituting age-appropriate and integrated curriculum and consistent and increased teacher development, the school equipped students to perform above grade level.
- Developed curriculum to meet the unique backgrounds, learning styles, and cultural needs of urban elementary-aged students.
- Managed the annual \$600K school budget
- Created the PAC Parent Action Committee, which held parenting seminars as well as foster school community.
- Success resulted in the school being spotlighted on PBS community affairs show.

**Anchor/Producer**—KUHT/Houston Public Media, Houston, Texas ▪

Jan.1993 – July 2007

- Produced, Co-produced, and Anchored magazine news programs including, but not limited to *The Connection*, *The Capitol Report: the only state-based political coverage of the Texas Legislature*, *WeekNIGHT Edition (a daily show)*
- Producer and Talent for local and international documentaries including, *Bus Ride to Liberation*, *Blaxploitation*, *Israel at 50*, *Prison to Power: the Annette Lu Rise to the Presidency*, *Formosa of Democracy*, *Caring with hands and Heart*, *Between Mothers and Daughters*, *Akua; a life with ART*. Worked with community agencies to gather information on local stories for reporter assignments.
- As Sr. Producer, delegated stories to *WeekNIGHT* reporters and associate producers.
- Coordinated schedules between operations crews and field producers.
- Researcher, budget manager, writer, and talent for special projects, live broadcast specials, training videos, and special series.
- Mentored and trained college interns.

**Reporter and Alternate Anchor** - KBTX-TV—Bryan, Texas, ▪

Jan.1990 – June 1992

- Contributed stories and reports to three evening newscasts.
- Producer and reporter for 10pm newscast segment, the *NightSIDE Report*.
- Consistently worked with community leaders, business, and education institutions in three counties for community outreach and stories.
- Worked as the education beat reporter for Washington County.
- Mentored and trained college interns.

**Part-Time Assignments Desk Assistant and Intern** – KDFW –TV-Dallas,

Texas▪ September 1988 – June 1990

- Worked on assignments desk checking police scanners, file story tips and communicating with field producers
- Script and tape runner for producers, anchors, and editors

## RTV Credits

• **Television: Broadcast News and Public Affairs**

- **NightSIDE Report** – Reporter – beat reporter for the nightly news on high crime-related stories and political hot button issues for the Central Texas region.
- **COMMUNITY** – Reporter, Producer – 30 min weekly public affairs show featuring human interest stories of the day, newsmakers, and community leaders in Houston and surrounding areas.
- **The Capitol Report**-Moderator, Co-producer- weekly statewide political public affairs show covering the major topics in the Texas legislative session.
- **WeekNIGHT Edition**- Anchor, Producer – nightly newsmagazine show hitting the Houston community's pulse in the areas of art, politics, entertainment, education, and pop culture. The show highlighted touring celebrities, writers, religious leaders, and political figures. WeekNIGHT garnered over 30 individual and team Emmy Awards and presented the opportunity to be recognized as the AWRT 2000 Anchor of the Year for Major Markets, nationally. Noted interviews include President George Bush, President Jimmy Carter, General Colin Powell, Mae Jemison, Terry Bradshaw, Bill Moyers, and many more.
- **the Connection** – Anchor, Producer – biweekly public affairs show tackling themed topics and news of the week. It produced the recognized 13 part series *Faith, Religion, and Belief*.
- **Holocaust Remembrance**-Segment Producer, Anchor- a PBS special focusing on the lasting effects of one of the world's darkest points in history. The special reflects on how the Holocaust will forever shape our nation in race, prejudice, politics, and economics. *Emmy nominated*
- **Without a Home**-Producer- a Houston PBS special reporting on the growing homeless population in Houston. *Houston Press Club 1st Place Public Affairs*
- **Real Life** – Segment Producer- Houston PBS special reporting on the hustle and flow of making it in America. *Barbara Jordan Media Award for Excellence (Finalist)*
- **Breast Cancer: A Quest for Answers**- co-Producer, Anchor- special series profiling the breast cancer battle of three women. *PBS National SECA Award Honorable Mention, Anson Jones M.D Award for Medical Health Communications*
- **Violence Against Women: NOT AN OPTION** – Co-Producer, Host- the WeekNIGHT Edition special shined the light on women's growing problem in

abusive relationships. *AWRT American Women in Radio and Television National Gracie Award- Honorable Mention, Dallas Press Club Katie Award Finalist*

- ***Behind Closed Doors***- Segment Producer- the WeekNIGHT special report examines the secrets hurts of people never seen in our daily functioning lives. The segment, *HARM*, was included in the series, which reported on the psychology behind the ritual of self-cutting. *Dallas Press Club Katie Award Finalist, National Communicator Crystal Award of Excellence*

- **Television: Documentaries**

- ***Our Elderly at Stake*** – Producer, Host- a 30 minute nationally carried program in the Public Broadcast system focusing on aging America's hardships. The program follows three elderly Houstonians in their battle with finances, Alzheimer's disease, and family connections. The show is logged with Harris County Health and Human Services as a teaching tool for social workers. *Houston Academy of Medicine Media Award, Houston Press Club Winner*

- ***Bus Ride to Liberation*** – Producer, Host- this 30 minute local and national documentary chronicles the creation of the first black-owned bus service noted in the nation. As a part of the Acres Homes history, the documentary brings light to the business savvy of those fighting still to be recognized as a group of people deserving equality in America. The program also served as the project for my Master of Arts degree. *Houston Press Club Winner*

- ***Blaxploitation***-Producer, Host- a 30 minute special on how some credit black Film as saving Hollywood.

The special interviews historians and filmmakers on how black audiences flooded theaters to see images of themselves on the big screen and generated revenue that helped Hollywood in a period of a financial crisis. *Blaxploitation* examines the cost of the images portrayed in the films on the Black community.

- ***Israel at 50***- Producer- a 30 minute documentary of the celebration of Israel's 50th year of statehood. The program asks the question; where does the country go from this point to flourish amid the ongoing Middle East conflict? Traveled to Israel for production. National syndication. *Emmy Nominated*

- ***Prison to Power: the Annette Lu Rise to the Presidency*** - Producer, Host- the nationally-distributed documentary tells the story of Annette Lu, the first female Vice President of Taiwan. Imprisoned for years for her outspoken stand on inequality, Lu rises to power under death threats, political sabotage, and poverty to become one of Taiwan's most powerful women. After an in-depth interview, Lu invited me to be a special guest at the inauguration, seated on the main stage platform with Lu and President Chen Shui-bian. *Emmy nominated, Houston Press Club Winner*

- ***Formosa of Democracy***- Producer, Host- a 30 minute nationally-distributed documentary on Taiwan's changing democracy through the rigor and savvy the international business industry. The program looks at the political strife between mainland China and Taiwan and the cost of big business to residents' environment and health. *Dallas Press Club Katie Award Winner –Documentary, Houston Press Club Documentary 1st Place*

- ***Caring with hands and Heart***-Producer – a 30 minute nationally-distributed documentary on Houston's premier children's outreach organization, KID CARE. *National Gracie Award-Public Affairs Documentary,*

- ***Between Mothers and Daughters***- Producer – nationally distributed 30-minute documentary profiling a mother and daughter's struggle to live life while facing breast cancer. *Emmy Award, National Gracie Award*

- ***Akua: a life with ART***. Producer- the 30-minute documentary is a follow up to *Between other's and Daughters*. It details how Akua emerges as a leading artist due to coping with her daughter's cancer battle. *Emmy Award*

- ***Struggle Makes You Stronger*** - Co-Producer – the 30-minute documentary profiles three Houston women's lives fighting to make life better in business, through faith, with family, and amid a health crisis. With the camera lenses on the most human points in these women's lives, their stories speak to all women's struggles. *International Telly Award, Emmy Award*

- **Commercials**

- ***First Visit*** –Producer- 30-sec. spot Covenant Glen Church- Houston, airing on Comcast

**Why Church** – Writer, Producer – 30-sec spot Covenant Glen Church – Houston, airing on Comcast

**Get Connected** – Writer, Producer- 1:00 spot Covenant Glen Church – Houston, airing on UHN

**This is the Place for You**- Writer, Producer- 30-sec spot - Covenant Glen Church- Houston

**Drive Challenge** – VO Talent- KTSU Radio