Ben Jay

benjayphoto@gmail.com │ 914.536.3940 │ benjayingly.com │ @FakeBenJay

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Cannabis Wire (Civil Media)   *June 2018 to Present*

Freelance Developer – Build internal reporting tools and provide data-oriented stories for an online startup covering cannabis policy and economics in the U.S. and around the world. Tools allow editors to monitor cannabis-related legislation and government rules, as well as social media statements from public officials, in real time.

Freelance Journalist and Photographer   *December 2009 to Present*

Work has appeared in The New York Times, Gothamist, Deadspin, City & State New York, Edible, Eater, Serious Eats, DNAinfo, Village Voice and others.

City & State   *January 2018 to May 2018*

Data Intern/Freelance Contributor – Reported on data-oriented political stories in city and state governments, focusing on public pension fund investments, congestion pricing, New York state's budget, lobbying, and water tank inspections. Scraped and analyzed government databases. Assisted staffers with data-related story elements.

Gothamist   *September 2014 to November 2017*

Contributing Writer/Photographer – Wrote, photographed and pitched hard news and feature stories. Covered food, arts, local politics and events. Attended community board meetings for story ideas and research.

The Leonard Lopate Show, WNYC   *March 2015 to August 2016*

Production Assistant – Produced and researched segments, wrote interview preps, vetted and booked guests, screened on-air callers, coordinated with publicists, worked in control room during live daily radio show.

CBS Broadcasting   *August 2012 to May 2013*

CBS News National Desk Broadcast Associate, Page – Researched and disseminated news leads and stories. Assisted producers and engineers with crew and correspondent assignments. Wrote nightly competition logs.

DATA AND WEB DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (MORE AT GITHUB.COM/FAKEBENJAY)

NYC Water Tank Inspection Results 2015-2017: http://bit.ly/2JaCKhx
• First-ever centralized directory of NYC's rooftop water tanks, which provide much of the city's water.
• Visualized tank inspection data from a FOIL request and building data from the city's PLUTO land use database.

Ratioed: https://www.ratioed.io/ (GitHub: http://bit.ly/2GDSHYn)
• Displays any Twitter user's "ratioed" tweets. Scraped tweets using Django API. Rendered JSON output with Lodash.
• Ratioed tweets have far more replies than likes or retweets, and are considered to be uniquely bad or tone-deaf.

Crowded Runways: http://benjayingly.com/crowded-runways (GitHub: http://bit.ly/2xAZkaF)
• Visualized taxiing times for domestic flights across the United States, dating back to 1995.
• Parsed CSV data from the federal Department of Transportation using Ruby. Visualized data using D3.

EDUCATION

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY (New York, NY)   M.A. Journalism, *December 2018*

SUNY Geneseo (Geneseo, NY)   B.A. International Relations, *May 2012*

Flatiron School (New York, NY)   Full Stack Web Development Immersive Program, *February to April 2017*

SKILLS

Coding: JavaScript, D3, React/Redux, Python, Django, Jupyter Notebooks, Pandas, Scraping (Nokogiri, BeautifulSoup), Ruby, Rails, SQL, R, HTML, CSS, Git, Lodash, jQuery

Software: Excel, Photoshop, InDesign, Lightroom, Premiere, After Effects, Illustrator, Final Cut Pro, Pro Tools, Hindenburg, DAVID Systems

Additional: Photography, Writing, Research, Audio production and editing, Video production and editing