

Esther Kalu

Culture Journalist. Writer.

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Profile

For me, writing & storytelling has always been as natural as breathing, hence the passion. This led me to study mass communication, majoring in print journalism. Over the years, I have learnt the art of conceptualising, writing and documenting moving stories across culture, lifestyle and the Nigerian entertainment landscape. This is largely achieved through in-depth research, mentorship & executing gigs. My bylines are published across several platforms including Premium Times, The Nollywood Reporter (TNR), The Nation, and The Liberalist. These hands-on experiences further honed my skills.

Skills

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Critical Thinking | • Time Management | • Content writing |
| • Social Media Management | • Investigative research & reporting | • Relationship |
| • Editing | • Command of English | • Leadership |

Certificates

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| • African Change Storytellers Fellowship (2023 -2024) | • The Liberalist Centre , 2-day Journalism for Liberty Training (2024) | • Child Solidarity Group, 3-day media professional training on sensitive reporting and suicide related experiences (2023) |
| • EbonyLife Media, The Art of Screenwriting (2023) | • Trino Motion Pictures, High Concept Scriptwriting (2023) | • Certificate of National Youth Service (2023) |
| • Thomson Foundation, African Stories: A guide for journalists on how to tell better stories about Africa (2023) | • SideHustle, Content Creation (2021) | • Jobberman, Soft Skills Training (2021) |

Awards & Recognitions

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| Poetry for Service Award , <i>Poets in Nigeria (PIN)</i> | 2025 |
| Rising Star , <i>Better You Africa Initiative</i> | 2023 |
| Excellence Award for Exceptional Entry in Nigerian students' Poetry Prize , <i>Poets in Nigeria (PIN)</i> | 2021 |
| Best Writer Meritorious Award , <i>Association of Mass Communication Students (AMACOS)</i> | 2021 |
| Early Bird Award for Punctuality , <i>GIZ SEDIN Employability and Entrepreneurship Development Workshop</i> | 2019 |
| Best Student in Economics , <i>C.M.S Girls' Old Students Association</i> | 2015 |
| Best Student in English , <i>C.M.S Girls' Old Students Association</i> | 2015 |

Professional Experience

ForKulture Mag., <i>Culture Editor</i>	2026 – Present
• Curate annual publication covering African culture including art, lifestyle, music and film. • Manage writers and contributors submissions.	
The Nollywood Reporter <i>✉, Film Journalist</i>	2025 – Present
• Cover news stories around the global and African cinema landscape. • Review films, write features and conduct interviews with industry stakeholders.	
RUKENNY Media & Productions, <i>Writer, Producer</i>	2025 – Present
• Conceptualise story ideas to tell emotionally resonate African stories. • Manages and sources for production budget.	
RUKENNY Inc <i>✉, Creative Lead</i>	2018 – Present
• Oversees creative and strategic planning of company. • Manages subsidiary brands to ensure creative alignment with overall goals and positioning.	
SmartIV Hauz <i>✉, Content Lead</i>	2021 – 2025
• Manage the content team, including writers, graphic designers, and video editors. • Collaborate with the content team to develop monthly brand content calendars, strategies and goals for clients.	
The Radar NG <i>✉, Entertainment Journalist</i>	2024 – 2025
• Generated innovative newsroom entertainment stories for and brand visibility. • Reviewed and covered Nollywood and Nigerian music including interviewing industry experts for feature articles.	
Premium Times <i>✉, Entertainment Journalist</i>	2023 – 2024
• Followed industry news and trends to generate captivating story ideas for visibility. • Conducted research to write daily news, film reviews, features and album reviews	
The Guild Press Limited <i>✉, Senior Correspondent</i>	2021 – 2023
• Wrote news and features based on metro and politics. • Attended and covered press conferences and events.	
Yabatech Sccop Magazine <i>✉, Editor</i>	2021 – 2021
• Worked with a team of reporters for the publication • Generated unique story ideas • Edited submitted news and feature stories	
Yabatech Herald Newspaper <i>✉, Deputy Editor</i>	2021 – 2021
• I worked with the Chief Editor to generate story ideas • I rewrote and edited submitted stories from reporters	
Lagos Traffic Radio, <i>Editorial Intern</i>	2017 – 2017
• Worked closely with news room editor to write and prepare news bulletins • Went on beat assignments to cover live events as assigned by editors.	

Education

HND, Mass Communication, <i>Yaba College of Technology</i>	2018 – 2021
OND, Mass Communication, <i>Yaba College of Technology</i>	2016 – 2018
Art of Screenwriting, <i>Ebonylife Creative Academy</i> <i>✉</i>	2023 – 2023

Workshops & Fellowships

Creative Blueprint Masterclass with Funke Akindele, <i>One Day</i>	2026
Quramo Book to Screen Creative Lab (QCL), <i>Six weeks</i>	2025
Journalism for Liberty Fellowship, <i>Six Months</i>	2024
African Change Storytellers Fellowship, <i>Six months</i>	2023
Media Professional Training on Sensitive Reporting and Suicide Related Experiences, <i>Three Days</i>	2023
GIZ Entrepreneurship Training and Coaching, <i>Three Days</i>	2021
Retreat for Young Women on Gender Equality and Leadership (Feminism 101), <i>Two Days</i>	2019

Screenplays

Mad Night Stand  , <i>Short Film</i>	2025
I Am Not Drunk, <i>Short Film</i>	2024
I Can't Breathe  , <i>Short Film</i>	2024
Offering Time, <i>Short Film</i>	2023
Crusted  , <i>Short Film</i>	2020

Script Supervision

First Puff, <i>Short Film</i>	2024
Moview Review, <i>Short Film</i>	2024
We Have Rats  , <i>Short Film</i>	2023

Publications

Cover Magazine, Detty Fusion Edition - Contributor  , <i>Accelerate TV</i>	2025
Boys Are Not Stones III: Anatomy of Boys, Men and Others, <i>Poemify Publishers</i>	2021
Love Is Not Enough (Poetry Anthology)  , <i>ArtHut Publications</i>	2020
Dear Jesse (Love Letters)  , <i>ArtHut Publications</i>	2020
We Arose At Sixty Anthology, <i>ZenPens</i>	2020

Rapporteur

Abuja Youth Dialogue 2026, <i>Writers' Coven</i>	2026
Lagos Leadership Summit (LLS), <i>Writers' Coven</i>	2026
Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Lagos Roundtable 2025, <i>Writers' Coven</i>	2025

Volunteering

SustyVibes  , *Volunteer Engagement Management* 2023 – present

Better You Africa  , *Content Writer/Program Outreach Assistant* 2021 – present

Beyond Bars Rehabilitation Initiative  ,
Scriptwriter/Program Outreach Assistant 2021 – present

References

Available on Request