

# J.P. BERNBACH

Writer / Editor / Producer

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2015 – present

## Writer & Producer - Feature Films

Executive producer on *Citizen K* (2019), directed by Academy Award-winner Alex Gibney (*Taxi to the Dark Side*, 2007). Writer and researcher in collaboration with Academy Award-winning screenwriter Ronald Harwood (*The Pianist*, 2002), developing a “story bible” based on archival research for *Appeasement*, an upcoming feature about the 1938 Munich Agreement.

2006 – present

## Independent Writer, Editor & Producer

Perform lead roles in all aspects of writing and video production. Notable projects include: **Google** (2019) - conceper/writer for an in-house project to imagine “the future of work”; **USC** (2019) - lead researcher and writer for a masters curriculum at Bovard College; **NATO** (2014) - lead writer and co-producer of *Return to Hope*, an award-winning multimedia narrative about the war in Afghanistan, presented at the 2014 summit. Projects in the US, Belgium, France, the UK, Switzerland, and Italy for clients including SAP, Pfizer, and Toyota.

2023 – 2024

## Writer, Editor & Producer *Not Impossible Labs* (Venice, CA)

Conceived, developed, and produce a podcast exploring groundbreaking discoveries and innovations that expand the boundaries of what’s possible. Wrote a book commemorating the company’s first ten years. Ghostwriting tasks include op-eds, LinkedIn posts, newsletters.

2012 – 2016

## Author

*Pack of Lies: debunking the 40 most destructive conservative myths in America*, vols. 1-3 (Astor & Blue Editions, 2012, 2013) and *Beyond Reason: Debunking Conservative Lies, Delusions, and Falsehoods* (Astor & Blue Editions, 2016). Titles are self-explanatory – each book thoroughly refutes a series of false right-wing claims across the full range of socio-political categories, including economics, culture, foreign policy, security, environment, and law.

2007 - 2014

## Activist & Spokesperson

*Democratic Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century - DL21C* (New York City)

Served as board member and chair of the Environmental Affairs and Foreign Affairs committees of a progressive activist organization in New York City. Devised, organized and hosted debates and public forums featuring, among many others, Corey Booker, Hakeem Jeffries, Elizabeth Warren, Jay Inslee, Rebecca Traister.

2007 – 2011

## Co-founder and Managing Partner *C2C - Concept to Content LLC* (Brussels)

Built and managed a network of English-speaking writers throughout Europe. Responsibilities included assigning and overseeing projects, editing and providing feedback, ensuring deadlines were met. Our agency provided a full range of communications services for non-Anglophone clients such as Toyota, InBev, Fortis, and NATO.

2007-2010

## Managing Editor *Join2Grow* (Brussels)

Helped launch and oversaw all activities of an online magazine for entrepreneurs in Europe. Assigned, edited, and revised articles and interviews. Wrote articles and conducted interviews. Created and commissioned original audio and video content including podcasts and a series of short documentaries.

2003 – 2007

## Interviewer and Writer *Center for Advanced Emotional Intelligence (AEI)*

Conducted hundreds of in-depth interviews and wrote confidential “360” reports for high-achieving leaders in the corporate, institutional, and academic sectors undergoing coaching and leadership development training. Clients included WPP, Campbell’s Soup Company, Novartis, Lazard Frères, and the University of Vermont.

1998 - 2006

## Freelance Writer and Segment Producer

Wrote and produced scripts for “Behind the Screen” on the American Movie Classics network, as well as synopses, miscellaneous scripts, and copy for AMC, MSNBC, and Court TV. Worked as a “script doctor” for producers in Los Angeles, New York, and London – this work involves re-conceptualizing and rewriting pre-existing material.

## EDUCATION

### Columbia University

B.A. *magna cum laude* in Classics, Phi Beta Kappa

## Testimonials

In my capacity as a film producer, I have collaborated closely and regularly with JP for almost nine years on a number of projects with Academy Award winners and nominees, including Alex Gibney, Ronald Harwood, and Dror Moreh. He is a superlative writer, with a particular talent for turning extensive research into compelling and coherent storytelling... I would not have engaged JP to collaborate with writers and directors of such high calibre if I was not deeply impressed with his competence and rigor as a researcher, not to mention his literary talent and creativity, and fully confident of his professionalism.

- P.J. van Sandwijk, film producer (*Citizen K*, *Thirteen Lives*, *Ferrari*)

J.P. is a creative, talented, and highly intelligent individual with a love of learning and a deep commitment to investigating and interpreting the complex and compelling stories of our world... JP proved to be the consummate, conscientious professional who pushed himself to go above and beyond what was expected. His open style of communication, academic rigor, innate curiosity, and passion for storytelling were qualities that shined in every interaction.

- Michael Bodie, Assistant Professor of Cinematic Practice, USC

## Some other things my resume doesn't tell you:

### **I was born at a crossroads in a village on an island**

Specifically, the intersection of 12<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Greenwich Village on the island of Manhattan. I was raised in New York, Paris, and London.

### **I used to be a shepherd**

At the age of 18 I spent six months working as a "jackeroo" (basically, a ranch hand) in Australia. Duties included getting up at 5 a.m., mending fences, herding sheep (both on foot and on a motorbike, though not at the same time), driving a fully-manual 1972 Toyota Land Cruiser, not shaving. Here's a story I wrote about a harrowing encounter I had with a kangaroo: <http://pology.com/article/051212.html>.

### **I helped to edit an epic Jimi Hendrix concert film**

I spent four months piecing together the original 16mm footage of Jimi Hendrix's performance at Woodstock into a concert film, *Jimi Hendrix Live at Woodstock* (1999), while working as an assistant editor for the legendary, Academy Award-winning documentary filmmaker D.A. Pennebaker. This was a very cool (and very loud) puzzle, since it involved matching random snippets of unlabeled footage from six different camera angles to the soundtrack.

### **I'm an adventure traveler**

I've traveled extensively in East Africa, India, China, Tibet, and Pakistan. I drank honey-beer and ate barbecued goat with Masai warriors in Kenya. I traveled on a donkey for three days to visit a Tibetan village where I ended up dancing to German techno music for a Buddhist Lama who wanted to see how westerners dance. I spent my 31<sup>st</sup> birthday crossing a snow-covered 16,000 foot pass in the Himalayas. Here's a pic of me hanging with Muhajideen near the Afghan border in the '90s: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BU0XIY1t1lc/>.

### **I'm a teacher**

I've been a teacher and lecturer for twenty years. In 1999 I was classicist-in-residence at Exiles Theatre in Cork, Ireland, where I lectured on Ancient Greek drama. In 2014 I co-taught *Sensational Cinema*, a course in the sensory aspects of film, for The School of Making Thinking at the Abrons Art Center in New York City.

### **I'm an amateur philosopher**

I'm interested in how we can use philosophy to help human beings to thrive and to lead the best lives we're capable of living. I'm not so interested in how we can "understand" reality in some final and comprehensive sense. I post some excerpts from my philosophical writings on a blog which interested parties, insomniacs, and masochists can access here: <http://ignorantphilosopher.tumblr.com>.

### **I once had to clean out a septic tank with a shovel**

This was a pretty disgusting job, but far from the worst job I've ever had. It only took a day, and it was honest manual labor. The worst jobs I've had, hands down, involved using my skills as a writer to promote things I didn't agree with or believe in, just because I needed the money.

### **I once gave Clint Eastwood a single red rose**

It's a long story, but a true one. Buy me a beer sometime and I'll tell it to you.