

Michael L. Jordan

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Areas of Expertise

- Public relations and Development for nonprofits, historical organizations, and museums, press releases, emcee services, communications, speeches
- Documentary filmmaker
- Author and historian
- Television news anchor, on-air reporter, military/war correspondent

Current Employment:

1. Director of Marketing and Development, Blount Mansion National Historic Landmark, Knoxville, TN (started Aug. 2018)

- Raise funds, organize events, coordinate media relations, produce videos, write books, articles, and newsletters, generate and manage social media content, give public presentations, and other tasks as needed. Selected highlights:
 - Organized and managed recent campaigns raising \$200,000 during COVID pandemic, including a large donation from the Boyd Foundation.
 - Set up and maintained Blount Mansion's first donor management software.
 - Organized large public event on June 1st attended by Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, First Lady Maria Lee, Lt. Gov. Randy McNally, U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett, Tennessee Sec. of State Tre Hargett, Knoxville Mayor Indya Kincannon, Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs, numerous other leaders, and more than 300 members of the public. Arranged corporate sponsorship of this event from Mountain Dew and Moon Pie. Organized and managed sixty volunteers before and during the event.
 - Organized U.S. citizenship swearing-in ceremony at Blount Mansion, led by the chief federal judge and including forty participants from twenty-seven nations, on Constitution Day 2019.
 - Organized and managed ribbon-cutting event for restoration of circa-1818 house funded by Randy and Jenny Boyd's foundation.
 - Produced two local television specials including multiple Knoxville-area museums and historians on Statehood Day 2019 and 2020.
 - Coordinated live virtual events with the Tennessee State Museum, Knoxville History Project, and other partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Wrote and edited Blount Mansion's first full-size magazine-style annual report in 2020.
 - Produced professional videos of and coordinated live virtual broadcasts of numerous public lectures at Blount Mansion.
 - Organized in-person and virtual educators' professional development seminars (PDs) attended by dozens of teachers across Tennessee.
 - Designed layout and content for new museum website.
 - Project lead for re-publication of 1954 biography of William Blount.
 - Designed new Blount Mansion rack card (tourist brochure).
 - Represented Blount Mansion at Knoxville City Council meeting.

- Represented Blount Mansion in presentations to multiple Rotary Clubs and other civic organizations.
- Authored blog posts for Visit Knoxville.
- Multiple live and pre-recorded interviews on local television and radio stations.
- Presently co-authoring new Blount Mansion visitors' guide.
- Assisted in creation of new exhibit panels for museum inside Blount Mansion visitors center.
- Created and produced Blount Mansion's first regular e-mail newsletter.

2. Documentary Film Producer/Videographer

- Video production, museum videos, documentaries, and public relations videos
- Corporate and nonprofit clients include: US Army Corps of Engineers Savannah District, Savannah, Roman Catholic Diocese of Savannah, GA, Owens-Thomas house Museum & Slave Quarters, Savannah Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, Morris Multimedia, Historic Savannah Foundation, Telfair Museums, National Museum of the Mighty 8th Air Force, Isaiah Davenport House Museum, Owens-Thomas House Museum, LAMAR Institute for Archeology, and many others

Author and Historian

- Contributing author, *CSS Georgia Archaeological Data Recovery & Mitigation for the Savannah Harbor Expansions Project* (US Army Corps of Engineers archaeological report on Civil War shipwreck), 2020
- Co-author of *Davenport House Museum: Where Savannah's Preservation Began*, published by Historic Savannah Foundation, 2019.
- Author of *Hidden History of Civil War Savannah*, from The History Press, 2017.
- Author of coffee table book *Savannah Square by Square*, published by Historic Savannah Foundation, 2015.

Broadcast & Journalism Experience

Contributor/Freelance Reporter, 2004-

- WGCL-TV 46 (CBS), Atlanta, GA
- WSAV-TV 3 (NBC), Savannah, GA
- WJCL-TV 22 (ABC), Savannah, GA
- WJXT News 4, Jacksonville, FL
- Georgia Public Broadcasting (statewide)
- South Carolina Public Broadcasting (statewide)
- SGTV-TV 8, government TV, Savannah, GA

Producer and Television Host, television series on international military deployments, 2004-

- *No Higher Honor*, a TV series shot aboard the frigate USS *Samuel B. Roberts* off the east coast of Africa, WJXT News 4, Jacksonville, FL, 2011
- *Rock of the Marne*, a TV series featuring 3rd Infantry Division soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, WTGS-TV 28 (FOX), Savannah, GA, 2010-11
- *A Call to Arms*, a TV series about Georgia National Guard troops deployed to Afghanistan, WTGS TV-28 (FOX), Savannah, GA and Georgia Public Broadcasting (statewide), 2009
- *Life on the Big E*, an Emmy-nominated TV series shot aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Enterprise*, WJXX-TV 25 (ABC)/WTLV (NBC), Jacksonville, FL, WSAV-TV 3 (NBC), Savannah, GA, and WCIV-TV4 (ABC), Charleston, SC, 2006

Television News Anchor/Reporter, 1994-2004

- WSAV-TV 3 (NBC) Savannah, GA, 1997-2004
 - Anchor of 5, 6, and 11 pm Monday-Friday newscasts, 2002-2004
 - Anchor of Monday-Friday 5 pm newscast, 2001-2004
 - Anchor of weekend 6 and 11 pm newscasts, 1997-2001
 - Military correspondent, 1997-2004
- Weekend Anchor/Reporter, WGXA Fox 24, Macon, Georgia, 1995-1997
- Reporter, WJHL-TV 11 (CBS) Tri-Cities, TN/VA, 1994-1995

Other Broadcast and Journalism experience

- Host of syndicated television program *Carolina Cooking*, 2004-2005
- Substitute host, morning talk show, News Radio 1290 WTKS Savannah, 2005-present
- Writer for *Scuba Diving* magazine, *The South* magazine, and *Connect Savannah*
- Contributor to *Savannah Morning News*

Public Relations Experience (prior to Blount Mansion)

- Public Relations Director, Coastal Heritage Society (nonprofit history museum group), Savannah, GA, 2004-2009
- Communications, Board Member, Savannah Council, Navy League of the US, 2009-12
- Nuclear Ships Savannah Historical Marker Dedication, 2012
- Liberty Ships Historical Marker Dedication, 2013
- CSS *Georgia* Historical Marker Dedication, 2014

Documentary Filmmaking Experience

The following is a selection from more than 30 historical documentaries produced 2004-present:

- 2021 official videographer for major US Army Corps of Engineers maritime archaeological project in Savannah, Georgia (details not revealed to public until later this year)
- 2021 **[Untitled]** 30-minute broadcast documentary about interactions between Spanish Franciscan friars and members of the vanished Guale tribe in present-day coastal Georgia in 1597
- 2021 *Birth of Tennessee*, half-hour local television special on the beginning of Tennessee statehood in 1796
- 2021 short video series celebrating fiftieth anniversary of national academic organization Women in Cell Biology
- 2020 *Virtual Statehood Day*, featuring Blount Mansion and five other Knoxville-area local historic house museums
- 2020-21 annual feature videos on award-winning alumni of Maryville College
- 2018 *Urban Slavery at the Owens-Thomas House Museum and Slave Quarters*, short film included in museum installation at the museum
- 2018 *Lafayette's Struggle to Bring Freedom to All*, short film included in installation at Owens-Thomas House Museum & Slave Quarters in Savannah, GA
- 2017 *From Ironclad to Artifact: the Journey of the CSS Georgia*, official US Army Corps of Engineers documentary film about the archaeological recovery of the Civil War ironclad warship *CSS Georgia*
- 2017: *Richmond Hill Plantation: Henry and Clara Ford's Southern Home*, a short educational film for the Richmond Hill, GA Historical Society
- 2017: *Savannah's Garden Gem*, a short film about the Savannah Botanical Gardens

- 2016: Directory of Photography & Video Editor for *Uncommon Grace: The Life of Flannery O'Connor*, syndicated on public/educational television stations nationwide
- 2015: *Documenting the Battle of Purysburg*, a grant-funded education film about an archaeological dig on a Revolutionary War battlefield
- 2014: *Pirates of Savannah and Beyond*, an original film; *Hidden History of Richmond Hill, Georgia*, educational film produced for the Richmond Hill, GA Historical Society
- 2014: *In Search of Carr's Fort*, a grant-funded education film about a LAMAR Institute archaeological dig on a Revolutionary War battlefield
- 2013: *Charleston, South Carolina: A Video Tour*, *Lighthouses of the Southeast: From Northeast Florida to South Carolina*, an original film
- 2012: *Savannah's Famous Ships*, an original film; *Savannah in the Civil War*, an original film; *In the Footsteps of Juliette*, an original film; *Isaiah Davenport: Portrait of a Master Builder*, educational film produced for the Isaiah Davenport House Museum; *The Story of Historic Preservation in Savannah*, educational film produced for Historic Savannah Foundation
- 2011: *Savannah Square by Square*; *French Fries and Freedom Toast*, an original film
- 2011: *Battle of Monteith Swamp*, a grant-funded education film about a LAMAR Institute archaeological dig on a Civil War battlefield
- 2010: *Savannah's Historic Graveyards*, an original film
- 2009: *Savannah's Historic Homes*, an original film
- 2008: *Atoms for Peace: The Nuclear Ship Savannah*, an original film; *Ships for Victory: Liberty Ships of the Georgia Coast*, an original film which aired statewide on Georgia Public Television; *A Tale of Two Georgias*, an original film about the Civil War ironclad warship CSS Georgia and the nuclear submarine USS Georgia
- 2007: *Jane Yarn: Marsh Lady of the Georgia Coast*, an original film which aired statewide on Georgia Public Broadcasting; *Friends in the Fight: US Marines on the Aircraft Carrier HMS Illustrious*, an original film

Honors

- Excellence in Education and Interpretation Award from Coastal Museums Association, 2020, 2014
- 2016 Roger K. Warlick Award for Excellence in Local History from the Georgia Historical Society
- Eight 2014 Telly Awards
- Award for Excellence in Research using the Holdings of Archives, Georgia Historical Records Advisory Board (GHRAB), 2012
- Winner, Visit Savannah Video Contest, Convention and Visitors Bureau, 2012
- Mackie Award, *Savannah Steamer*, Savannah Council, Navy League of the US, 2010-11
- Notable Alumnus of Armstrong State University, 2011
- Navy Leaguer of the Year, Savannah Council, Navy League of the US, 2008
- Nominee, Regional Emmy Award, 2007
- Edward R. Murrow Best Documentary Award for special report *Freedom Fighters: In Harm's Way*, 2004
- Georgia Dept. of Defense Commendation Medal for reporting on Georgia troops, 2004
- Georgia Associated Press Class B TV Best Documentary/News Special Program Award for a special report on local troops in Afghanistan and Kuwait, 2002

Education

- MA, Public History, Armstrong State University, Savannah, December 2006
Fall 2006 Roger K. Warlick Fellow
- BA, History, minor in Music, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, TN, 1994

Volunteer/Community Involvement:

- Knoxville Choral Society, 2020-present
- Board Member, Historic Ramsey House, Knoxville, TN, 2017-2018
- Board Member, Island Home Park Neighborhood Council, Knoxville, TN, 2017-2021
- Neighborhood Representative, South Knoxville Business & Neighborhood Coalition, 2020-2021
- Education Committee Member, Church St. United Methodist Church, Knoxville, TN, 2020-present
- Introduction to Knoxville Fall 2015 Class
- MgGhee Tyson Airport Aviation Academy Fall 2016 Class
- Member, Visit Knoxville Marketing Committee