# LAURIE BENNER

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## SUMMARY

Inventive storyteller with extensive experience driving success for television programs such as *Chopped* on the Food Network. In July 2025, the audience demand for *Chopped* was 16.3 times higher than the average TV series. Strategic thinker with an ability to gauge what will intrigue and hold the attention of an audience. Team-oriented professional who takes pride in guiding others as well as eager to learn. Highly organized individual efficient at driving several projects forward at once. Known for navigating complex challenges with utmost professionalism.

## SKILLS

Storytelling | Writing | Researching | Video Editing | Project Management | Critical Thinking | Booking | Client Relations | Social Media | Data Entry | Interpersonal Relationships | Mentoring | Managing Multiple Projects

## EXPERIENCE

**STORY PRODUCER for competition reality series:**

**CHOPPED** Seasons 35-47 & 57-62 for Food Network |Notional Productions

**WORST COOKS IN AMERICA** Season 25 for Food Network | Bright Road Productions

**THROWDOWN WITH MICHAEL SYMON** Season 2 for Food Network | Rock Shrimp TV

**THE GREAT SOUL FOOD COOKOFF** Season 1 for OWN & Discovery+ | Good Egg Entertainment

Chose the most compelling content from filming to create cohesive and compelling storylines in post-production. Collaborated with an editor to create an exciting and intriguing program. Managed up to four episodes and at a time. Received and addressed feedback both internally and externally. Delivered final product on tight deadlines.

**STORY PRODUCER for documentary-style series:**

**THE MEGA-BRANDS THAT BUILT AMERICA** Season 1 for History Channel | Lucky8 TV

**THE FOOD THAT BUILT AMERICA** Season 4 for History Channel | Lucky8 TV

**THE FAST HISTORY OF** Season 2 for History Channel | Lucky8 TV

**MYSTERIES AT THE MUSEUM** Season 8 for Travel Channel | Optomen USA

**BRAIN GAMES** Seasons 3-4 for National Geographic Channel/National Geographic Studios

Wrote voiceover narration for the host of the program in the host's voice. Researched and annotated facts to ensure accuracy of content. Crafted a compelling tale to keep the audience interested and engaged. Explained complex topics into clear, digestible narratives. Collaborated with an editor and supervisor to perfect the final product.

**STORY PRODUCER for design and renovation series:**

**LIL JON WANTS TO DO WHAT?** Season 2 for HGTV| NorthSouth Productions

Crafted segments for design and renovation program in a way that it balanced take-home information for the audience, relationships between the designers and the homeowners, and entertaining moments.

**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

**GREY ADVERTISING** for 2016 Cannon Rebel with a Cause Campaign

Created and managed a schedule and travel for a multi-location film shoot. Communicated the filming plans to crew, vendors, and location staff. Ordered equipment for filming and managed changes throughout filming.

**EVENT PLANNER**
**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY** for Spring 2016 Semester
Hired vendors, planned program timelines, managed logistics, and wrote content for speakers at NYU alumni events.

**SEGMENT PRODUCER and CASTING PRODUCER for documentary-style series:**
**HACK MY LIFE** Season 2 for TruTV | True Entertainment
Pitched ideas for segments for how-to program. Conceptualized approved episode segments before filming. Cast experts and actors for filming. Prepared talent for filming.

**POST-PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE PRODUCER for documentary-style series:**
**BRAIN GAMES** Season 3 for National Geographic Channel | National Geographic Studios
Fact-checked and annotated episode scripts. Coordinated third-party material licensing with Rights and Clearances department. Coordinated with Standards and Practices department to ensure all legal standards were met.

**FIELD ASSOCIATE PRODUCER for documentary-style series:**
**MYSTERIES AT THE MONUMENT** Season 1 for Travel Channel | Optomen Productions
Pitched ideas for stories to film, organized and planned film trips around the US for up to 6 segments at a time. Secured permits and permissions for filming locations. Managed actors, guests, props, and costumes on set.

**POP CULTURE SEGMENT PRODUCER for news and entertainment series:**
**GOOD MORNING AMERICA** Seasons 40-42 for ABC NEWS

- Creative Producing: Pitched and produced over 50 live segments in the areas of cooking, fashion, consumer, and home decor. Prepped celebrity chefs, editors-in-chief of magazines, consumer experts, and celebrities for their role in the live segment. Wrote script intros and questions for guests. Briefed the anchor leading the segment.
- Managed Logistics: Booked experts, managed their travel, organized delivery of props and costumes, communicated sets and props needs with the crew, ran rehearsals with the crew and talent, and managed live segments in the control room.

**WEATHER STUDIO PRODUCER for news and entertainment series:**
**GOOD MORNING AMERICA** Seasons 37-40 for ABC News

- Anchor Producing: Consulted with overnight meteorologist about breaking weather stories. Prepared anchor Sam Champion for his segments. Pitched, organized, and wrote segment content pertaining to weather and environment. Traveled with Sam Champion to cover weather events when travel producer was unavailable.
- Managed Logistics: Booked talent for segments, arranged weather segment guests' travel, arranged Sam Champion's travel, and reconciled travel expenses.

**SALES ASSISTANT in syndication sales:**
**DISNEY*ABC DOMESTIC TELEVISION**

- Coordinated contracts for sales of Disney programming such as *Regis and Kelly* and *Grey's Anatomy*.
- Managed client relations.
- Prepared ratings materials for sales team.

## EDUCATION

**Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Communications: Television & Film**
**Minor in English: Theatre**
**Honors: Cum Laude**

Marist University| Poughkeepsie, NY