Behind the Review S1E5 Chloe and Evan

Sun, Apr 20, 2025 6:42PM • 14:38

**SUMMARY KEYWORDS**

Behind the Review, journalistic work, podcast series, local voices, international news, South Korean martial law, media criticism, print features, podcast director, podcast host, magazine features, journalism industry, passion project, fashion designers, conservative outlet.

**SPEAKERS**

Chloe Kim, Evan Zeller

**Evan Zeller**

Hey everyone, thanks for tuning in to Behind the Review, a behind the scenes look at the journalistic work of our team here at the Review, this podcast series will serve as a deep dive into the reporting process of our hard working contributors. In this series, we're unpacking their work in our spring issue and why it's important to tell these stories. Now today, I'm joined by Chloe Kim our masthead's podcast director and senior editor. We'll discuss her piece about the local voices that are often overlooked in international news stories, and we also want to chat about the work we've done together on Behind the Review. Chloe, thanks for sitting with me in the studio for this final episode.

**Chloe Kim**

Thanks for having me, Evan.

**Evan Zeller**

I'm so glad that I get to actually chat with you today. This is this gonna be a great conversation.

**Chloe Kim**

I'm so excited.

**Evan Zeller**

So so Chloe, just, just to, just to ask you, how, how are you today?

**Chloe Kim**

I'm good. Things are really coming full circle, not just the podcast, but with the print issue of our magazine. I'm really excited for everyone to see.

**Evan Zeller**

Oh yes, no, that's I agree. And there's a lot of, evidently, like, a lot of hard work that went into the print features I, God. I mean, I remember looking at the word counts, of some of them, and they they're anywhere from like 2500 words to, like up to 4000 words or more so. And considering that, you know anyone who was part of the fall 2024, team at the Review, they spent like over like four months or so, maybe even more like, reporting on that so that that was, I can't imagine that. I have a lot of admiration for the work you guys did in that semester. And speaking of which can I, you know, circling it back to you, just, can I ask you what initially got you interested in writing your piece?

**Chloe Kim**

Yeah, so I wrote my piece about the missing voices in international news. And what I did in my piece was I used this case study of the South Korean martial law declaration, and the idea for this was kind of like I had it in the back of my mind, since we were assigned to pitch ideas for our features. And I guess it was just because I grew up abroad, like I didn't grow up in Canada. I grew up in South Korea, and I'm also Canadian, and so I've always been privileged enough to know what life is like in both South Korea and in Canada, a little bit at least. So like, I feel like I have, like, a sense of what it's like as a local in both places, but the same time, I would notice in the news growing up that sometimes how South Korean life is described or how Canadian life is described from abroad as well, it's like different from how it actually is. And so the idea for this piece came out of those thoughts that I've had growing up about how, yeah, what we see in international news might not exactly match up with, like, local realities and so and so. Yeah, that's what it kind of spun out from. Like, I know that there are also challenges to featuring, or like finding and tracking local voices from abroad, from, like, domestic newsrooms. Like, I know it's hard to find voices abroad in different countries when you're like, doing all your reporting from one place, and so like, I think I acknowledge that, but at the same time, I think just working in the industry as well, a little bit as a student, where I have to do some media criticism, I think that was a little bit challenging, just trying to get the wording to criticize the industry, but doing it in a fair and balanced and respectful way. But then I think it ended up working. In the end, I realized from this process, as an early career person in the journalism industry, like I didn't realize before writing this feature that so many people are involved in the writing process. And even though I didn't feel confident in my first draft or my second draft, I felt more confident afterwards, because so many people put their hearts, their minds, their willpower into helping me and everyone else like create something that they're proud of for the print issues. So I think it all came together at the end, but it took a lot to get there, and I just can't believe we're almost at the finish line now. It felt impossible at the beginning.

**Evan Zeller**

A full term, come and gone, and as I mean to reiterate your point, I mean, I can't imagine what it was like to, no, I'm sure I don't want to take away from, you know, the beauty of that process, or, like, what an enlightening and like it what an education it was to, you know, be able to spend that much time with a piece, but at the same time, for myself, being like a new addition to the team, I'm part of the winter 2025, class, so I didn't have to go

**Chloe Kim**

You're part of the team.

**Evan Zeller**

Oh, thank you. I.

**Chloe Kim**

You're an integral part of the team. You are our podcast host of the year, and you just care so much about everyone. I think you were a necessary, integral addition to our team, Evan.

**Evan Zeller**

Guys, I love Chloe. She just says, Oh, my God, I can always count on her for like a like, a boost, a little some, some, you know, if ever, if every you need someone to remind you of your self worth, talk to Chloe. There you go. No, but I just to that point, I just wanted to say that like I it, I admire so much, like the work that you guys did, and I'm glad to hear that you guys all kind of came together like that. And you know, you're offering your your help, or whether it was emotional support or, you know, we have, like our the different aspects of a team, whether you know, like, that's the different range of editors that we have working on it, helping you bring your piece to fruition. So let's switch gears a bit to our work at Behind the Review. Why were you interested in creating a podcast series about the features written by our Review staff members?

**Chloe Kim**

Yeah, so I think this was the only idea I had at the beginning of the year when I was assigned to be the podcast director. I knew that we would be spending months and months reporting on our magazine features, and I was kind of fingers crossed, hoping that people would have these really well reported, thoughtful pieces that they'd feel really proud of, that they would want to promote. And so I thought we should have a series that was devoted to everyone's hard work at the Review and, you know, having people like talk about topics that they're passionate about, which if you spent four months writing about something and reporting on something, then it's impossible not to be passionate about those things. So yeah, I just thought it was a good opportunity to just get people on the masthead involved in promoting our work and also doing it in a really fun way, and also somehow getting Evan one of our I'm like, highlighting you, getting like a winter student host. I think was really ideal just to incorporate, like, more people, more perspectives, into our masthead in a meaningful way.

**Evan Zeller**

Not only that, but I just, I really feel like it's given me, you know, hence the name of Behind the Review. It's given me like, a very intimate, like, behind the scenes look at the, you know, the print features and the work that that that entailed bringing those to life. Because, you know, in order to kind of be informed for this podcast, it was, you know, of course, it was essential for me to read it, and that, in itself, was just such a treat to be able to do that. It gave me a lot of like, you know, insights into, like, you know, the work that's done here, as well as just, you know, of course, the pervading question on one's mind when you when you read these pieces, it's like, why is it important to them? Because, you know, we are given some freedom here at the Review, thank God, to like, to like, actually pursue topics or stories that are, you know, that are, you know, important to us specifically? And so that's always, like, the pervading question of my mind when I read this. I'm like, okay, like okay, like, you, you learn a little bit more about the person and what's important to them. So it was just, as I say, a real treat.

**Chloe Kim**

Yay. I'm so glad. And I actually wanted to ask you, Evan, like, let's switch gears again. Let's switch gears again. What was it like? How did you feel when I told you at the beginning of your time at the Review that you would have to host five episodes of a podcast when you've never done that before.

**Evan Zeller**

Oh well, you know, I mean, honestly, I was very excited at the prospect. Because, I mean, as you say, I've never really done anything quite like this before. The nearest thing, nearest bit of experience I had to hosting and editing podcasts was when we just had to do our, our mandatory like, you know, audio editing in our early years of at the journalism school here at TMU, in our program. And that, in itself, was fun because, you know, I, you know, going out, you know, maybe not like conducting streeters when it's just when you have to approach someone in the street and ask them for like, an audio interview. That's, that's, that's a bit nerve wracking. But once you've actually gotten those interviews and, like, editing them afterwards and making them, like, precise and clean, that, that in itself, was like, you know, my I enjoy doing that. So when I, when you pitched the idea to me of, like, you know, would you like to help us with our podcast? I was like, Oh, well, yeah. I mean, you know, I've not really, you know, served as a, I have not served as a host period. But you know what, I have some experience here, and I do, like the world of, just like, it's much more organic in this way, like, you know, just, you know, this kind of, like format of, like storytelling, and you just, you get to hear the person's voice. And so I, and as, as, you know, people always tell me, I Gab, I gab a lot. I love to get I love to talk to other people. So that was also just another reason why I was excited about, you know, hosting the Behind the Review, just because I get to, I get to talk to you, I get to have conversations. I that fills me with so much joy. It's actually, it's one thing that I always look forward to, and even just like Chloe can attest to this, like, even if we're not actually like recording an episode of Behind the Review, I just, I always want to know what people are up to, not to be like a busy body, but like, you know, how is life and how, you know, I asked sometimes Chloe about her work at CBC, and how about treating her? So I'm very, just curious to know about, you know, people's this, this can, there's no way this won't make me sound like a busy body, but this, I'm very curious to know about people's lives, but just like, what's going on and like, you know, it's just a very heartening experience. I love hearing that.

**Chloe Kim**

Yeah, no, I'm glad that it made you excited and not, like, overwhelmed. At first.

**Evan Zeller**

I knew that things were gonna be okay, and you seem like a very approachable person. I'm like, okay, Chloe is my person, I can talk to you.

**Chloe Kim**

Because, I mean, yeah, I think it can be a little bit daunting to, like, suddenly host and suddenly be in the studio. And you've never been been there before, but you were, you were great.

**Evan Zeller**

Oh, thank you.

**Chloe Kim**

Seriously.

**Evan Zeller**

Hey, I appreciate that.

**Chloe Kim**

And yeah, so what was it like hosting five episodes?

**Evan Zeller**

Well, being at the end of it, now we're like, we're wrapping this project up. It was, I can say that it was, it was an absolute, it was, it was a pleasure to be able to do this, to talk to, um, I think it's actually the reason I got to, like, know, some of the people in the Review better, or, like, become like, like, closer, like, like, friends with some people there. I think that was like, that was something I really enjoyed about hosting and and also, just like, you know, the setup it, you know, after you've done it, like, once or twice, it just becomes, like, a natural, kind of comforting atmosphere, and so, and it was a very like, as I say, it was like, it's a very like, intimate conversation. It's just like, you know, it's just you and the other person and and it's just, it's, it's nice, it's really, when we, as soon as we start recording, I forget that there's anyone behind, like this, this glass, like, this window here, like, it's just, it just becomes an organic conversation between two people, two friends, about the work we do. And it's and it's great. It's been a real I know I said treat many times, but it has been a real treat.

**Chloe Kim**

Awesome. And yeah, what did you learn from chatting with all of these writers, or friends, about their magazine features?

**Evan Zeller**

What did I learn? Oh, my, what didn't I learn? Well, you know what I mean, I learned, I know I'm just reiterating like, points that I previously made, but I learned like, about, like the hard work and like, just exactly it. I learned about how, what it takes to kind of, like, produce this, you know, this such a passion project as this, you know, print feature piece that you know, as we as we know, it took like, four months or more to work on. I I think it really, it really comes down to, you know, having a passion for this subject which you're reporting on and and, of course, you know, I know some of the people that we interviewed. I already knew them from my previous years of journalism, so I knew that, like you know, they were already, I already had so much respect for the work they did. And so I definitely, you know, with speaking to each of them, there was always, you know, we tried to keep the focus of each feature varied. So there was, you know, a wide like range of like subject matter to talk about, which was, which is great. And so I learned, when I spoke to Neda, for instance, I learned a little bit more about the world of like fashion, specifically, like, you know, the work of homegrown designers in Toronto.

**Chloe Kim**

She's so knowledgeable about

**Evan Zeller**

So knowledgeable, and so that was, and then for Matthew, I, you know, I'm glad that I got to, kind of, like, I learned something about, you know, his work at the National Post, and how, you know, losing your voice a little bit, you know, if you're reporting for, like, a conservative outlet, and I think you know, you have to be in two minds if you're in a space like that. You know, you know, with your with your What are your own personal values? How are you going to represent that through the work you do? And also, you know, how do you kind of, like, establish yourself in this, this space?

**Chloe Kim**

His was really special. I mean, yeah, all of them are special, and

**Evan Zeller**

They're, they're all very special.

**Chloe Kim**

Yeah, I'm so glad that, yeah, you had an overall great experience. Thank you, Evan, thanks for being the host of this episode, for most of this episode, and for the rest of the episodes in Behind the Review.

**Evan Zeller**

Thank you, Chloe, it's been a, it's been a it's been a great experience. And I love that we got, got to, like, reverse our roles here. It's interesting being in, like, the the interviewee seat. And, but, you're a great thank you. Thank you so much.

**Chloe Kim**

Thank you. Thank you.

**Evan Zeller**

I'm your host. Evan Zeller, this episode was produced by me and Chloe Kim. If you enjoyed this episode, explore all of our podcasts at the podcast tab at reviewofjournalism.ca. Thanks for listening.