



Introduction to Larissa MacFarquhar: 2:13 min. Photo & design: Raymond Elman. Music: Carmen Cicero.

Larissa MacFarquhar: Journalist, Author

By Elman + Skye + Zummar

Larissa MacFarquhar has been a staff writer at The New Yorker since 1998. Her Profile subjects have included John Ashbery, Barack Obama, Noam Chomsky, Hilary Mantel, Derek Parfit, David Chang, and Aaron Swartz, among many others. She is the author of “Strangers Drowning: Grappling with Impossible Idealism, Drastic Choices, and the Overpowering Urge to Help” (Penguin Press, 2015). Before joining the magazine, she was a senior editor at Lingua Franca and an advisory editor at The Paris Review, and wrote for Artforum, The Nation, The New Republic, the Times Book Review, Slate, and other publications. She has received two Front Page Awards from the Newswomen’s Club of New York, and her writing has appeared in The Best American Political Writing (2007 and 2009) and The Best American Food Writing (2008). — from The New Yorker

The videos below are organized by topic and run between 30 seconds and 4 minutes. Click on any video. You must be connected to the Internet to view the videos.

EXPOSURE TO BROAD INFLUENCES: 1:14 min.



What’s your earliest memory of thinking you wanted to be a writer, and thinking that you could write well?

CREATES A UNIQUE PERSONAL BRAND: 0:41 sec.



Did you like the piece about you that appeared in “The Guardian” in October 2015 ?

BREAKS THE RULES: 2:01 min.



How does your new approach to written interviews differ from Inspicio’s approach to video interviews?

CRITICAL THINKING: 1:16 min.



How do the people you profile react to your presenting their interior life?

VALUES LEARNING DISCIPLINE: 1:01 min.



Do you have the opportunity to interview everyone you profile?

EMPATHY: 1:41 min.



Of all the profiles you’ve done, which people did you enjoy the most?

EMPATHY: 3:57 min.



Do the “do-gooders” in “Strangers Drowning” become competitive or addictive about doing good?