

PROFESSIONAL PORTFOLIO

MERCY TIMILEHIN KELANI

WRITER • JOURNALIST • LITERARY PROFESSIONAL • PROJECT COORDINATOR

Stories are my medium. People are my focus. Ideas are my material.



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01 PROFILE

A creative professional built around the power of clear, human-centred storytelling.

I am a writer, journalist, literary professional and creative practitioner whose work sits at the intersection of storytelling, media, literature, community engagement and creative production. My experience spans news writing and presentation, literary reviewing, editing, project coordination, community literacy, hybrid event production, digital media support and audience engagement.

Across journalism, literary programming and creative conversations, I am drawn to the same question: how can an idea be made clear, memorable and meaningful to the people who encounter it? That question shapes the way I research, write, organise, collaborate and communicate.

“I find the human angle, shape the message and build a form people can connect with.”

CREATIVE PRACTICE

- Journalism and current-affairs storytelling
- African literature and literary criticism
- Creative-industry conversations and live moderation
- Community literacy and cultural programming
- Storytelling-led digital communication
- Literature, fashion, film and culture

02 THE VALUE I BRING

The strengths underneath the work — expressed through how I think, create and collaborate.

CURIOSITY	I ask the questions that help a story move beyond the obvious.
CLARITY	I turn research, ideas and information into communication people can understand.
HUMAN-CENTRED STORYTELLING	I look for the people, experiences and meaning behind the subject.
CREATIVE INITIATIVE	I enjoy finding fresh angles, formats and ways to make ideas engaging.
COLLABORATION	I am comfortable working across teams, speakers, stakeholders and audiences.
ADAPTABILITY	My work moves between journalism, literature, live events, digital media and creative projects.

03 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Experience across journalism, literary culture, events, research and digital media.

ASKNIGERIA

News Anchor / Writer | 4+ years of experience

- Research, write, edit and communicate news and current-affairs stories for a Nigerian audience.
- Turn researched information into clear, engaging and accessible stories while maintaining accuracy and professional presentation.
- Work remotely with editors, manage multiple assignments and meet publication deadlines.
- Cover political, social, city and public-interest developments through audience-focused reporting.

COMMITTEE FOR RELEVANT ART (CORA)

Project Manager / Coordinator / Marketing Contact / Media Report Team Lead | 4+ years of experience

- Coordinate literary and community-literacy activities through CORA Monthly BookTrek.
- Support planning, delivery, communication and documentation for the Lagos Book & Art Festival (LABAF).
- Lead media-report writing for festival activities and contribute to programme documentation.
- Coordinate with teams and stakeholders to deliver literary and cultural programmes.

LAGOS STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Tech & Media Staff / Hybrid Event & Digital Media Support | 3+ years of experience

- Supported more than 50 hybrid academic sessions across physical and virtual formats.
- Provided digital-media, broadcast, virtual-engagement and audience-management support.
- Supported conference coordination and academic event production.
- Worked collaboratively while independently handling assigned technical and media responsibilities.

BOOKARTVILLE

Reviewer of African Books | Literary content and reviews

- Written reviews of African novels and poetry, including works by Odafe Atogun, Ifenna Grace Okeke, Chigozie Obioma, Ibrahim Babangida and Wale Adeduro.
- Research literary works and develop analytical, reader-focused written content.

04 SELECTED WORK

A portfolio shaped by research, language, people and the movement of stories across formats.

RESEARCH WRITING

Research-driven news writing covering Nigerian politics, public affairs, and social justice. The work focuses on turning complex or fast-moving information into accessible, impactful stories.

Analytical reviews of African books, demonstrating close reading, research, and critical thinking. Selected subjects include *A Journey in Service*, *The Road to the Countryside*, and *Obalende*.

DOCUMENTATION

Festival and programme reporting through CORA, including documentation and communication of programme highlights.

CONVERSATIONS

For CORA's Lagos Comic Con panel, *The Power of Story: From Book to Screen*, developed audience-friendly questions, shaped the conversation and guided the discussion.

05 CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS & PROJECT WORK

Where ideas become programmes, discussions and experiences for real audiences.

THE POWER OF STORY: FROM BOOK TO COMIC TO SCREEN

Lagos Comic Con / CORA — Panel Moderator

- Researched the panel theme and developed questions that could be understood by a broad convention audience.
- Created a clear structure for a multi-speaker conversation.
- Connected literary ideas with contemporary visual and screen forms.
- Kept the discussion focused, accessible and engaging for a live audience.

COMMUNITY LITERACY & CULTURAL PROGRAMMING

- CORA Monthly BookTrek — project coordination, communication, logistics and programme support.
- Lagos Book & Art Festival (LABAF) — planning support, marketing contact responsibilities, media reporting and documentation.
- Lagos Studies Association Conference — digital media, broadcast, virtual engagement and audience support across 50+ hybrid academic sessions.

A CREATIVE THROUGHLINE

Whether the format is a news story, a book review, a live conversation, a festival report or a digital programme, my approach remains consistent: research deeply, find the human angle, make the message clear, and give the audience a reason to care.

06 SKILLS & PROFESSIONAL TOOLKIT

A practical toolkit for turning ideas into polished communication and well-run projects.

Writing & Editorial

News writing • Creative writing • Copywriting • Editing • Proofreading • Literary reviews • Report writing

Research & Analysis

Information research • Critical thinking • Literary research • Fact-focused writing • Content development

Media & Communication

News presentation • Media reporting • Audience engagement • Digital media support • Communication

Project & Event Work

Project coordination • Event production • Hybrid event support • Stakeholder communication • Team leadership

Digital Tools

Google Workspace • Google Meet • Zoom • Video editing • Digital event platforms

Administrative Strengths

Microsoft Excel • Microsoft Word / Office • Records and document organisation • Scheduling support • Email follow-ups

Working Style

Organisation • Time management • Teamwork • Independent work • Problem-solving • Attention to detail

07 EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The academic and practical foundations behind the work.

- University of Lagos — B.A. (Hons.), English | 2019–2025
- 120-Hour TESOL/TEFL Certificate | 2026
- Filmmaking Workshop Certificate | 2026

COMMUNITY & CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

- CORA Youth Creative Club (CYCC) — Member
- Society of Young Nigerian Writers (SYNW), UNILAG Chapter — Former Member
- Transcultural Writers' Network (TWN), UNILAG — Former Member

LANGUAGES

- English — Proficient
- Yoruba — Proficient
- Chinese — Basic

THE NEXT CHAPTER

**Stories can inform.
Stories can connect.
Stories can create movement.**

My work is about finding the story, shaping the idea and creating a meaningful way for people to encounter it.

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