

KAREN CATCHPOLE

914-619-5468

karen@globalfeatures.biz

APRIL 2006 to PRESENT

TRANS-AMERICAS JOURNEY/ FREELANCE TRAVEL WRITER

In April of 2006 I embarked on the Trans-Americas Journey (www.trans-americas.com), a three to five year, 200,000 mile working road trip through North, Central and South America during which I am contributing stories about travel, outdoor adventure, the environment, hotels, and destinations throughout the Americas to magazines including *Travel & Leisure*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *National Geographic Traveler*, *Men's Journal*, *Outside*, *Elle*, *Allure*, *Every Day with Rachael Ray*, the travel section of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and *PC Magazine* as well as high-end travel web sites including www.fodors.com, www.itravelishop.com, and www.indagare.com. I have also been published in *National Geographic Traveler on Campus*, *Utne Reader*, *Women Outside*, *Escape*, *Asian Diver*, *Asian Geographic* and *Action Asia*. To read recently published work, go to <http://www.transamericas.com/work.html>.

JULY 2004 to APRIL 2006

DEPUTY EDITOR SHOP ETC. HEARST MAGAZINES

As the number two to the editor-in-chief, I generated story ideas, planned lineups, managed and assigned staff writers and a stable of freelancers, top-edited all copy, managed deadlines and budgets, liaised with our web staff and wrote cover lines for this monthly fashion, home and beauty shopping magazine startup for 25-49-year-old women.

MAY 2001 to JULY 2004

SENIOR EDITOR JANE FAIRCHILD PUBLICATIONS

I conceived, wrote, assigned and edited news and current events features and oversaw the work of staff writers and freelancers who I recruited and fostered. I also wrote the monthly Athletic Guinea Pig column, created and edited the Drive column, and worked on cover lines, display text and overall issue lineup planning for this ASME-nominated general interest magazine for 18-34-year-old women.

NOVEMBER 2000 to MAY 2001**SENIOR EDITORIAL PRODUCER
"TRACKERS"
OXYGEN MEDIA**

I was responsible for defining the editorial content, look, feel, voice, vision and attitude of "Trackers," a live, daily two-hour, magazine format television show for 16-20-year-old women. I approved, focused, assigned and supervised stories for field and in-studio segments and worked with producers and the show writer to ensure the most creative content was achieved on time and on budget. I oversaw a television production staff of 60 and also worked with the staff of our web site to find ways for the television content to converge with the web content. In December of 2000, I also co-created and served as a supervising producer on "Trackers Connects: A World AIDS Day Special" which utilized then-new technology to connect a group of young people in New York City with a group of young people in Cape Town, South Africa for a live and interactive discussion about sex and AIDS.

JULY 1999 to NOVEMBER 1999**TRAVEL CHANNEL PRODUCER
DEJA.COM**

I produced the Travel, Health & Fitness and Lifestyles channels for *deja.com*, a web site which combined consumer ratings and reviews with a comprehensive and practical buying comparison tool to help consumers make educated shopping decisions. I was responsible for locating, acquiring, editing and organizing content from outside vendors—in some cases spearheading business development deals with content providers. I was also responsible for improving the flow and display of information within my channels and showcasing the most compelling content on my channel homepages each week.

JUNE 1995 to JUNE 1999**TRAVELER**

I spent four years trekking, rafting, diving and backpacking through South and South East Asia including eight months in India, two months in Northern Pakistan, six months in Nepal, three months in Western China and Tibet, one month in Sri Lanka, one month in Burma, two weeks in Cambodia, one month in Vietnam, one month in Laos, five months in Thailand and six months in Malaysia and Borneo. During the course of this journey I wrote regularly about travel, outdoor adventure, local cultures and the environment for *Escape*, *Action Asia*, *Asian Geographic* and *Asian Diver*.

APRIL 1995 to JUNE 1995**CONSULTING EDITOR
JANE
TIME INC.**

I was hired to provide overall editorial direction and generate content ideas and principles during the development and initial proposal stages of *Jane* magazine. My responsibilities included overseeing and working with a freelance art director to design logos and a set of seven distinct covers with cover lines for focus grouping. I also came up with titles and content descriptions for the magazine's regular fob and bob columns as well as detailed synopses of features to create complete tables of contents for three well-balanced launch issues.

JANUARY 1995 to JUNE 1995

WEB SITE PRODUCER

“SMART MOUTHS”

NEW LINE TV AND AMERICA ONLINE

I created, cast, wrote, produced, managed boards and mediated a weekly roundtable discussion and live online chat shows for teenagers, which took a frank look at everything from sex to anti-Semitism to eating disorders.

FEBRUARY 1994 to JUNE 1995

FREELANCE WRITER/EDITOR

I wrote stories about beauty, health, current events and entertainment for national and international women’s magazines including *Mademoiselle*, *Allure*, *Self*, *Zest* (UK) and *Elle*. I was also a freelance top editor of several issues of *Swing* magazine.

AUGUST 1993 to FEBRUARY 1994

SEGMENT PRODUCER

“THE JON STEWART SHOW”

PARAMOUNT TELEVISION

I researched and pre-interviewed celebrity and non-celebrity guests, cleared music and wrote scripted introductions and interview questions for Mr. Stewart for at least one live-to-tape five to seven minute interview segment for each nightly episode of this nationally syndicated talk show.

JANUARY 1993 to AUGUST 1993

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR

TELL AND MOUTH 2 MOUTH

HACHETTE FILIPACCHI AND TIME INC.

I wrote features, fashion text and beauty copy and provided overall editorial guidance for the start-ups and subsequent issues of both of these general interest magazines for teenage girls.

OCTOBER 1992 to AUGUST 1993

**STORY COORDINATOR/SEGMENT
PRODUCER**

MTV

I cast and produced pre-taped field pieces for programs made by MTV’s specials department including “24 Hours in Rock and Roll” for which I was responsible for generating each segment story idea, finding, casting, pre-interviewing and briefing the real people involved in each shoot, writing a segment outline and shoot script, and overseeing each shoot on location across the country.

APRIL 1991 to MAY 1992

**STORY EDITOR/HEAD WRITER
“JANE PRATT” & “JANE”
FOX & LIFETIME TELEVISION**

I worked with the segment producers to generate show ideas and define the tone, attitude and vision of each episode of this daily talk show for 18-25-year-olds. I also wrote Ms. Pratt’s script.

SEPTEMBER 1991 to APRIL 1991

**HEAD WRITER/STORY COORDINATOR
“LIKE WE CARE”
MTV**

I generated story ideas, researched and reported those stories, pre-interviewed and cast the real people involved in my stories, wrote the shoot script and briefed field producers to create at least one five minute field piece for each episode of this Cable Ace Award winning daily, half hour magazine-format show for teenagers.

OCTOBER 1987 to SEPTEMBER 1991

**FOUNDING EDITOR/STAFF WRITER
SASSY
MATILDA PUBLICATIONS & LANG
COMMUNICATIONS**

I was hired at the magazine’s inception to help define the unique editorial voice that made *Sassy* one of the most successful new magazine launches in American publishing history at the time, achieving a national circulation of 500,000 in its first year. As one of only three staff writers/editors, I was responsible for generating overall editorial ideas and writing and editing copy. This included at least one feature as well as all the fashion, sex, and beauty copy, and nine full-page columns for each issue of this ASME-nominated, general interest magazine for teenage girls.

References available upon request.

To read recently published work, please go to: <http://www.trans-americas.com/work.html>