

MICHAEL QUINTANILLA



San Antonio journalist Michael Quintanilla has sat front row at runways in New York, Milan, and Paris, writing about international fashion weeks for the Los Angeles Times and his hometown's San Antonio Express-News. His work has won awards, including his impromptu coverage for the Los Angeles Times of the 9/11 attacks in New York. He contributed reporting about the 1992 Los Angeles riots and the 1994 Northridge earthquake, works that earned the staff of the Times two Pulitzer Prizes.

Michael is a Burbank High School graduate and earned his journalism degree from Trinity University. He is the author and performer of his acclaimed one-man show about writing that has taken him from Hollywood to Harvard, performing before college audiences and fellow journalists.

Many of his newspaper stories (L.A. Times, Dallas Morning News, Dallas Times-Herald, El Paso Herald-Post, Express-News), including investigative reporting (early in his career he returned to high school as an undercover student for a series about drugs in schools) and feature writing, have been published in journals, books and turned into a feature film and optioned for others.

Locally, he is "Mr. Fiesta," known for wearing his elaborate over-the-top handcrafted hats and costumes that have been exhibited at the former Institute of Texan Cultures. In 2022 he organized more than 300 frontliners and health care workers to march in the Flambeau Parade (his favorite Fiesta event), an idea sprung from his annual scholarship dancing video the year before where he honored frontliners during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Always the entertainer, he also is Hasbro's Mr. Monopoly, decked out in the well-known tuxedo and top hat costume that promotes the international brand. He also is recognized as a San Antonio ambassador having traveled with Visit San Antonio, promoting the Alamo City's diversity, culture, and charm. He works with many local nonprofit organizations and contributes his time, talent and energy as a popular emcee across the Alamo City.

Michael was named feature writer of the year by both the Los Angeles Times and the California Newspaper Publishers Association. He also has been recognized by the San Antonio Association of Hispanic Journalists as a Lifetime Achievement honoree and was the first San Antonio Fashion Week Icon Award of Excellence recipient. In 2024 he is among the cast of the forthcoming film, "The Answer to My Prayer."