

# Richard George Mooney

## BA Journalism

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### Personal Statement

I am a recent Journalism graduate with a great passion for writing news, features, storytelling and the internet. As the current content developer for Digital Media department of Scottish & Universal Newspapers (S&UN) and as an award nominated creative writer I have strong web journalism skills, an imaginative approach to creating articles and an ability to work towards tight deadlines. During my extensive tuition on the BA Journalism course at the University of the West of Scotland's Hamilton Campus my newsgathering, news judgement and multimedia skills were refined to a quality calibre.

### Relevant Skills

**Online:** I have written several news and feature articles for a number of websites, including Glasswerk Glasgow, YoungScot North Lanarkshire, the Entertainment Guide, icScotland and icLanarkshire. I am currently responsible for the administration, editing and publishing of articles for the Scottish division of Trinity Mirror's icNetwork. This includes icAyrshire, icDumfries, icDunbartonshire, icLanarkshire, icPerthshire, icRenfrewshire, icStirlingshire, icWestlothian and the national entertainment website icScotland. I am also one of the few people within S&UN who can operate Trinity Mirror Content Management System competently on a daily basis. What's more I am the one of the first employees within S&UN to utilise the CMS's multimedia capabilities for the frequent use of online videos, podcasts and image galleries. These videos are produced, directed and written by myself. Furthermore I am skilled in Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) as most of the articles I write for icScotland have appeared on the first page in Google search results and as most relevant on Google News (at the time of publishing).

**Print:** I am inventive and innovative in my writing methodology. My sub-editing and news writing skills are proficient, with published articles in S&UN's newspapers and their respective websites. Additionally I am in constant contact with the editors and reporters whenever a major local story breaks. I have a firm knowledge of all S&UN's seventeen newspapers and their respective areas. Furthermore I possess a steadfast ability in writing advertorials gained from my work placement at The Entertainment Guide and Word's Out magazine. As well as this experience, at University I worked on a weekly newspaper; produced in one 8-hour day. During this time my roles included sub-editor, reporter, features writer, photographer chief sub-editor and editor.

### Multimedia Capabilities

I am skilled in and proficient in the following applications:

*Microsoft Office (Publisher, PowerPoint, FrontPage, Excel and Word) Microsoft Works, Windows Movie Maker, iMovie, Adobe Photoshop, Safari, Adobe Imageready, Adobe Reader, Quark Xpress, Macromedia Dreamweaver, Windows Media Player, Trinity Mirror CMS, Winrar, Quicktime, Omniture traffic and statistical analysis, Mozilla FireFox, Media Converter SA Edition, Winzip*

### Journalistic Skills

My interview and questioning techniques are of an effective and precise standard. These skills were developed through interviews with people such as Roy Stride, Amy MacDonald, Jeff Wayne and Kevin Keegan. As a result of my Teeline shorthand training in University I can now write at 80 words per minute. In addition to this I have recently developed a keen interest in photography which has proven to be a success for the image galleries on icScotland. Video journalism is a huge passion of mine, so I have no problem in using a digital or video camera to interview and make a short online highlights package about news or feature items. I made two full length broadcast quality documentaries in University and have made a number of online videos for icScotland. My combination of multimedia and journalistic skills are commendable for a journalist of my age, however I know I still have much to learn and I am very eager to do so.

## **Employment and Work Experience**

### **September 2007- Present                      S&UN Digital Media, Hamilton**

After two months of work experience here I obtained the content developer position on a short-term basis until the overall S&UN Digital strategy is complete. My responsibilities here include the editing, publishing of newspaper articles online and general administration of all the S&UN icNetwork websites. I upload, edit, schedule and publish over 500 articles a week here from local newspapers. In addition to this I also take the time to regularly update icScotland with my own articles.

### **July 2007- September 2007                      S&UN Digital Media, Hamilton**

During this time I did unpaid work experience two to three days a week mainly writing content for icScotland and received on-the-job training for the Trinity Mirror CMS, newspaper article uploads, search engine optimisation, HTML, graphic design and image enhancement.

### **March 2007- April 2007                      The Word's Out Magazine/The Entertainment Guide**

On my University work placement here my responsibilities included writing advertorials for client restaurants, bars, shops and many other leisure facilities. Having only received University training previously, this experience greatly aided the development of my writing ability.

### **March 2007- June 2007                      Glasswerk Glasgow, Glasgow ([www.glasswerk.co.uk](http://www.glasswerk.co.uk))**

During this time I freelanced, unpaid, as a music journalist for Glasswerk. I mainly wrote local entertainment news, reviews of singles, albums and gigs. My understanding of review and feature writing were greatly enhanced at this point.

### **November 2005- September 2007                      Comet, Hamilton**

Working part time as a salesperson in the multimedia section my knowledge of customer service, product support computer hardware and software were all improved to a high standard.

### **August 2003- September 2003                      BBC Radio Scotland**

Volunteering for this work experience, I observed the production, scripting and airing of the live radio show, *Off The Ball* and also partook in a live radio debate.

### **September 2001- October 2001                      Hamilton Advertiser, Hamilton**

Through my Highschool work experience, it was here that I found my passion for writing and where I was given my first taste of journalism. During this time I spent a day in every department learning about the newspaper; how it is put together, how the stories are written and how the paper is finally published.

## **Education**

### **September 2004- July 2007                      University of the West of Scotland, Hamilton Campus**

BA Journalism Degree (inc modules in feature writing, newspaper production, news reporting, sub-editing, online journalism, digital video and broadcast journalism.)

### **August 1998- May 2004                      Bellshill Academy**

6 Highers at BBBBCC (inc. English, Graphic Design and Information Systems)

**References available on request**