

Matt Taibbi is an award-winning investigative reporter and one of America's more recognizable literary voices.

The son of a television reporter and a lawyer, Taibbi grew up admiring Russian writers, which led him to spend most of his early adult life in the former Soviet Union.

After studying in Leningrad and graduating from Bard College in New York in 1991, he worked as a freelance reporter for a number of years in and around Russia, including a period in Uzbekistan. He returned to the United States in 1994 and worked for a time as an investigator in a Boston-based private detective agency.

In 1996 he moved to Mongolia and played in the Mongolian Basketball Association, where he was known as the "Mongolian Rodman."

Taibbi eventually resettled in Moscow, where he co-founded an English-language newspaper called the *eXile*, a satirical biweekly known for investigative journalism and practical jokes.

Taibbi in his time in Russia focused on participatory journalism, working in a series of jobs to show ordinary Russian life. He worked as a bricklayer in Siberia, a migrant farm laborer, a moonshine dealer, a professional clown, a keeper in an elephant cage, a security guard, and a construction worker in an Orthodox monastery. He also played baseball for CSKA, the Red Army team.

Taibbi returned to the U.S. in 2002 and soon began work as a contributing editor for *Rolling Stone*.

At *Rolling Stone*, Taibbi won the National Magazine Award for commentary. He is best known for his coverage of four presidential campaigns, of the 2008 financial crisis, and the criminal justice system.

He has written ten books, including four *New York Times* bestsellers: *The Great Derangement*, *Griftopia*, *The Divide*, and *Insane Clown President*.

His book, *I Can't Breathe*, about the police killing of Eric Garner, was named one of the year's ten best books by the *Washington Post*. His latest book about media division, *Hate Inc.*, has been hailed by everyone from Joe Rogan to *Publishers Weekly*, and called "The best explanation of media behavior since *Manufacturing Consent*" by Glenn Greenwald.

In 2020 he moved full time to the subscription platform Substack, where he is one of the most popular independent columnists in the

country, with tens of thousands of subscribers.

Taibbi and his wife Jeanne have three sons, Max, Nate and Zeke. They live in New Jersey.