

Soledad O'Brien is an award-winning documentarian, journalist, speaker, author and philanthropist. She is the CEO of Soledad O'Brien Productions, a multi-platform media production company dedicated to telling empowering and authentic stories on a range of social issues. She is a thought leader whose public engagement garners wide attention.

O'Brien has had national impact with her books and speeches, and her presence on the nation's op-ed pages, including the New York Times and Huffington Post. She is very active on social media, particularly Twitter where she has over 1.3 million followers.

O'Brien currently anchors and produces the Hearst Television political magazine program "Matter of Fact with Soledad O'Brien" which is distributed by Sony Pictures. She also reports regularly for HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" and hosts a regular podcast on Quake Media called "Very Opinionated with Soledad O'Brien."

She has anchored shows on CNN, MSNBC and NBC, and hosted productions for Fox and A&E. O'Brien has contributed to the three major broadcast networks, Oxygen, Nat Geo, the PBS NewsHour and WebMD. She was a special correspondent on Al Jazeera America's news program, America Tonight, and produced several documentaries on social issues for the network.

Earlier in her career, O'Brien anchored a show for MSNBC, before moving on to co-anchor NBC's "Weekend Today" and contributing segments to the "Today" show and "NBC Nightly News." In 2003, O'Brien transitioned to CNN, where she was the face of CNN's morning news shows for many years and a frequent reporter and analyst for breaking news stories and election coverage. She also anchored the CNN documentary unit, where she created the "In America" documentary series "Black in America" and "Latino in America" which she continued to produce under Soledad O'Brien Productions as speaking tours.

O'Brien's was recognized with three Emmy awards -- for her coverage of the Haiti earthquake, the 2012 election and a series called "Kids and Race." She was also honored twice with the George Foster Peabody award for her coverage of Hurricane Katrina and her reporting on the BP Gulf Coast Oil Spill. Her reporting on the Southeast Asia tsunami garnered CNN an Alfred I. DuPont Award.

Upon founding Soledad O'Brien Productions, she continued to produce documentaries and series on topics that included youth incarceration, police brutality, veterans with PTSD and the opioid epidemic for Al Jazeera, CNN, HBO, and BET, among others.

Besides HBO Real Sports and Matter of Fact, O'Brien hosted "American Injustice" a BET Town Hall on the future of criminal justice reform and anchored their 2021 inauguration coverage. She was a host of the A&E special "Shining a Light: Conversations on Race in America." She was the Host and Executive Producer of the Oxygen series "Mysteries & Scandals" as well as "O.J. Simpson: The Lost Confession" and "Who Shot Biggie and Tupac," both for Fox. She was also host of National Geographic Channel's "Live From Space" and moderator and executive producer of the annual National Geographic Bee. She was Executive Producer of the Lifetime Billboard Music Awards.

She has served as Chair of the board of The After-School Corporation (now Expanded Schools), and as a director on the boards of the Rand Corporation and the National Archives. She was a Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Distinguished Visiting Fellow. He is a graduate of Harvard College.

O'Brien frequently speaks on a variety of social issues at college campuses and corporate events. She was named on People magazine's list of the 50 Most Beautiful People in 2001 and was on People en Español's 50 Most Beautiful list in 2004. She was named to Irish American magazine's "Top 100 Irish Americans" on two occasions, and was on Black Enterprise magazine's 2005 Hot List. Also in 2005, she was awarded Groundbreaking Latina of the Year by Catalina magazine. In 2006 she was featured in the Newsweek cover story "15 People Who Make America Great".

She is the author of two books, her critically acclaimed memoir "The Next Big Story" and "Latino in America."

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, O'Brien and her husband, Brad, created the PowHERful Foundation to help young women get to and through college. The foundation hosts the PowHerful conferences that support hundreds of young women with mentoring programs, professional advice and other services.

She lives in New York with her husband and four children.

Highlights of her accolades:

2004 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award, CNN coverage of Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami

2005: Harlem School of the Arts, Board of Directors

2005: National Council of La Raza, Ruben Salazar Award for Communications

2007: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), President's Award

2007: Gracie Allen Award, reporting from Cyprus on the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict as well as her reports from the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

2007: Bryant University, Doctor of Humane Letters

2008: Morehouse School of Medicine, Soledad O'Brien Freedom's Voice Award, first recipient

2008: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Goodermote Humanitarian Award for Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami

2008: NAMIC, Vision Award

2009: Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, Medallion of Excellence for Leadership and Community Service Award

2010: National Association of Black Journalists, Journalist of the Year

2010: Edward R. Murrow Award, RTDNA/UNITY Award for Latino in America

2010: Peabody Award, CNN coverage of BP oil spill

2011: Delta Sigma Theta, Honorary Member

2011: Emmy, Outstanding Live Coverage of a Current News Story Long Form for Crisis in Haiti on the 2010 Haiti earthquake

2011: The New York Festivals World Medal, Latino in America
2012: Emmy, Kids and Race
2012: Emmy, Election Night in America
2012: ExpandedED Schools, formerly The After School Corp (TASC), Leadership Council
2013: Cine Special Jury Award, Latino in America
2013: Harvard University Graduate School of Education, Distinguished Visiting Fellow
2013: Foundation for the National Archives (Washington, DC), Board of Directors
2014: Spelman College (Atlanta, GA), Doctor of Humane Letters
2015: Andrew Goodman Foundation, Social Justice Advocate Award
2015: Rand Corporation, Board of Trustees
2016: Vanderbilt University, The Nichols-Chancellor's Medal
Irish American Magazine, Top 100 Irish Americans" (twice)
2016: Stony Brook University, Honorary Doctorate of Letters
2016: Cine Leadership Award
2016: Cine Golden Eagle Award Finalist, Congo's Hope for the PBS NewsHour
2016: National Civil Rights Museum, Freedom Award
2018: William & Mary, Hunter B. Andrews Distinguished Fellow in American Politics.
2019: Arizona Foundation for Women, Sandra Day O'Connor Lifetime Achievement Award
2019: Harlem United, Community Champion Award
2019: Reach the World, Cronkite Award for Excellence in Exploration and Storytelling