

# Ben **TO** Smith

Event Producer & Professional Music Enthusiast

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## EXPERIENCE

### **LIVE NATION/AC ENTERTAINMENT, North America — Production Manager, Promoter Representative**

January 2015 - PRESENT

Produce and settle 90+ events at 20+ venues across the Southeast US annually. Advance with tour managers and venues to fulfill artist contracts while managing multiple budgets. Hire, train, and schedule event staff. Negotiate vendor contracts. Maintain good relationships with tours, agencies, venues, vendors. Additional experience with admin, signage, waste management, volunteers, vendors at the Bonnaroo, Forecastle, and Highwater Festivals.

### **GEZELLIG RECORDS, Knoxville, TN — Founder, Manager**

July 2015 - PRESENT

Work with artists to release their music to build a roster spanning the globe, including Serbia, China, Japan, the U.S., Taiwan, France, and Brazil. Handle all physical production, including tapes, CDs, and vinyl. Designed album art and release packaging. Settle and reconcile all finances.

### **BIG EARS FESTIVAL, Knoxville, TN — Special Projects Manager**

March 2014 - March 2020, Freelance 2022-23

Booked, advanced, and stage managed the 12 Hour Drone, an overnight concert. Manage signage across venues. Arranged rehearsals and backline. Arranged and archived recordings for all performances. Organized and advanced panels, discussions, and workshops, including Hans Joachim Roedelius, Ben Ratliff, Laurel Halo, Roscoe Mitchell. Booked, advanced, and produced secret shows, including SUUNS, Xylouris White, Jessica Moss, Claire Chase, The Comet Is Coming.

### **WUTK, Knoxville, TN — Music Director, DJ**

August 2010 - May 2016

Reviewed and added music into music rotation. Maintained music database for college radio station. Maintained good relationships with radio promoters and local concert promoters. Hired and trained volunteer staff. Established recording and podcast system for the station. Hosted prime time radio show for five years.

## SKILLS

- Knowledge of standard office software and accounting principles
- Ability to work flexible schedule
- Strong hospitality experience, ability to interact professionally with all levels of management, crew, vendors, guests, patrons
- Ability to use discretion concerning artist information and professionalism around artists and celebrities
- Organizational skills to handle multiple projects with varying deadlines and budgets

## ADDITIONAL INFO

- Served on the board of directors of the Joy of Music School in Knoxville, TN. 2017-2022
- TN ABC On-Premise Permit, exp. Sept 2027
- Dual US-UK Citizenship
- Tennessee Notary Public, exp. Oct 2025
- Certified COVID Compliance Officer

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### **Tour Manager, Voices of Mississippi, 2021-22—** *Advanced production and itinerary for award-winning multimedia presentation*

Advanced production and artist needs with multiple venues, including Lincoln Center, Savannah Music Festival, and UNC. Tech for the video portion of the performance.

### **12 Hour Drone @ Big Ears 2018, 2019 —** *Curated, Handled contracts, Advanced, Stage managed, Settled*

A twelve hour, overnight concert celebrating ambient drone music to create an unbroken, meditative experience, featuring up to two dozen musicians, like Stephen O'Malley, Kara-Lis Coverdale, Rafiq Bhatia, Steve Gunn, Clarice Jensen.

### **Bonnaroo Volunteer Manager 2017 —** *Hired, Scheduled, Trained and Deployed Volunteers*

From reviewing applications to scheduling to on boarding to deploying, part of the five-person team who hired and managed 2000 volunteers as part of the 2017 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival.

## EDUCATION

### **UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, Knoxville, TN —** *B.S. Journalism & Electronic Media, Science Writing focus*

August 2010 - December 2014

### **HU UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES, Utrecht, NL —** *European Culture & European Journalism*

August 2012 - June 2013

## REFERENCES

**Available upon request.**