

Waldimar Pelser

CURRICULUM VITAE

August 2024

PERSONAL DETAILS

Birth: 15 April 1978, Cape Town, South Africa

Languages: Afrikaans & English (first language), French (intermediate)

CAREER OVERVIEW

M-Net Director: Premium Channels [1 February 2023 ~ present]

Waldimar and his team manage the M-Net channels (M-Net 101 and the M-Net movie channels) and kykNET channels. In this capacity he looks after relationships with international studios for M-Net and with local content creators for kykNET. His team is operationally responsible for the acquisition, licencing, commissioning and scheduling of thousands of hours of Premium shows and movies every year.

Channel Director: kykNET Channels [1 February 2022 ~ 31 January 2023]

Waldimar joined MultiChoice in February 2022 to manage the Afrikaans cluster on DStv, which includes kykNET, as well as the successful kykNET&Kie channel.

Anchor, KN Verslag in Gesprek, kykNET [October 2014 ~ December 2021]

Waldimar became a trusted voice in Afrikaans households as host of *Insig* in 2014, which was later renamed *In Gesprek met Waldimar*, a late-night politics talk show which built a loyal following and helped to expand prime time on kykNET.

Editor-in-chief, Rapport [July 2013 ~ January 2022]

During Waldimar's term as editor, *Rapport* increased its share of sales in the competitive Sunday broadsheet market, gradually closing the gap with the *Sunday Times*. In these years, *Rapport* uncovered the Life Esidimeni scandal, for which it received the prestigious Tako Kuiper award for investigative journalism.

Launch editor, NewsNow/NuusNou, Cape Town [May 2011 ~ June 2012]

Launched Media24's English and Afrikaans news aggregator, *NewsNow*.

News editor, Beeld, Johannesburg [Oct. 2009 ~ May 2011]

Managed a team of 20+ journalists in the Johannesburg head office of this daily.

Africa correspondent, Media24, Johannesburg [Jan. 2008 ~ Sept. 2009]

Covered politics in Southern Africa for five Media24 newspapers.

Lagos bureau chief, Media24 newspapers, Nigeria [Nov. 2007 ~ Dec. 2008]

In 2007, Waldimar set up a West Africa bureau for Media24 newspapers. Until the closing of Media24's foreign bureaux he reported from Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Chad, Ghana, Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Senior reporter, Beeld, Johannesburg [Sept. 2004 ~ Oct. 2007]

Waldimar joined *Beeld* as a senior reporter covering broadcasting, African politics, and aviation. He specialised in elections across the continent, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Reporter, Die Burger, Cape Town & George [Jan. 2001 ~ July 2002]

CAREER

ACHIEVEMENTS

Television Before taking up a management role at MultiChoice, Waldimar received three Safta nominations for best TV presenter in South Africa for the kykNET show *KN Verslag in Gesprek* (2021, 2020, 2019), and won the ATKV Mediaveertjie for best presenter in a current affairs show in 2018, 2017 and 2015.

News media and management Under Waldimar's leadership, the national Sunday paper *Rapport* was awarded the Ton Vosloo award for best financial performance in Media24's news division in 2019. He was also member of the team that transformed the Media24 Afrikaans news division into a digital first venture in 2013, leading to the creation of Netwerk24.

OTHER

Board member: Pendoring Advertising Awards

Between 2015 and 2021 Waldimar served as board member of the Pendoring awards, which advances commercial communications in all indigenous South African languages.

Chairman: Rapport Onderwysfonds

Waldimar was chair of the Rapport Education Fund between 2013 and November 2021. The Fund has helped more than 1 600 students pursue their studies, mostly in education and mostly in Afrikaans, with loans totaling almost R60 million.

EDUCATION

M.Phil. Development Studies, Oxford University [2002 ~ July 2004]

Completed a Masters degree at Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship. Thesis (*cum laude*) on the African development plan *Nepad* and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). Courses in Development Economics, African and Indian history and politics, International Relations, and conflict studies.

M.Phil. Journalism (*cum laude*), Stellenbosch University [2001 ~ 2002]

Thesis (*9/11: Framing the Attacks in the American Press*) on coverage in US dailies of the 9/11 attacks. Coursework in journalism ethics and sociology.

B.Phil. Journalism (*cum laude*), Stellenbosch University [2000]

Finals project reviewed the launch of television in South Africa in 1976.

B.A. Law, Stellenbosch University [1997 ~ 1999]

Majoring in law (criminal, delict, constitutional law), Philosophy, Political Science and Afrikaans and Dutch.

Matric: Paul Roos Gymnasium [1996]

Distinctions in Afrikaans HG First Language, English HG First Language, Music HG, Latin HG. Also passed Biology HG and Mathematics HG.

FURTHER TRAINING

Strategic Media Management, Harvard Business School [2010]

Executive education course completed at HBS in Boston, Massachusetts.

Alliance Française, Johannesburg [2005 ~ 2008]

Completed up to intermediate level French.