

Ali Lightfoot

Ali Lightfoot began her career in community radio at the tender age of 2. Her mother, Marty Durlin, has had a life-long career in the field including 20 years as the General Manager at KGNU in Boulder - so Ali's childhood consisted of wandering stacks of records and CDs, answering phones during pledge drives, watching live music performances and observing heated conversations about US foreign policy.



Ali went on to study theater in New York City and work in TV and film production. She worked for documentary filmmaker Michael Moore as well as the Olympic Profiles Division at NBC Sports. Ten years later she moved back to Colorado to have kids and became involved once again in community radio. This time she was on a committee working to diversify the volunteer base at KGNU as they opened a satellite studio in Denver. She produced a live program called "Live at Cafe Nuba," featuring spoken word artists. She covered Republican luncheons and events throughout the Denver metro area during George W Bush's second term and was the editor and manager of Alternative Radio where she listened to hundreds of speeches by people like Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn and Angela Davis and gained a great appreciation for the ideas and public discourse that is allowed to flourish in community radio.

In 2009, she went on to become Program Director at KVNF in the small town of Paonia, Colorado. At KVNF, she created several youth radio programs including a multimedia youth storytelling and news corps program called "Pass the Mic," where kids reported on their local economy.

She produced a music video series called The KVNF Field Sessions where local and visiting musicians performed in unique locations in western Colorado. Her work was awarded Best Public Affairs Program by the Colorado Broadcasters Association several times for Local Motion, the weekly public affairs program she produced.

In her spare time she likes to make short films and enjoys incorporating documentary and multimedia projects into her radio work any time she can.

Her work in community radio has been endlessly fascinating, educational, challenging and above all fun. Some of the most amazing mentors and teachers in her life happen to be GMs at community radio stations and she is honored to now be among them.

She believes community radio is one of the best mediums for people to come together to learn, entertain and build bridges in their community.