

YJA Young Journalist Entries | Annie Means

Published Video Content From This Past Year

- [Women in Boat Building Documentary Series](#)
 - [Episode 1 Link](#)
 - [Episode 2 Link](#)
 - [Episode 3 Link](#)
 - I produced, shot, and edited a series showcasing female English boat builders, highlighting their craftsmanship and contributions to the maritime economy. This project aims to elevate the profiles of these remarkable yet often overlooked women in our marine industry. The three-part series is available on YouTube.

Published Articles From the Past Year

- [A Sailing Barge For Women, By Women](#)
 - OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - On a cold February day, muffled chatter and the sounds of swinging hammers fill the St. Osyth Boatyard. Midway down the dock, a hundred-and-thirty-two-year-old piece of history sits bobbing beneath the sheen of a clear plastic tarp. Inside its hold, women are hard at work. Wielding crowbars and drills, they pry free worn planks, strip back greasy screws, and expose the bones of this hulking ship—all in preparation for the vessel's new life as The Bread and Roses Barge, an onboard community space built for women, by women.
- [Life on Orla: Creating a Tiny Home and Social Media Stardom Amidst the Global Housing Crisis](#)
 - OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - Johnny Sturgeon is unassuming. You wouldn't look at him and think "TikTok influencer." Dressed simply in a worn sailing cap, old jeans and trainers coated in marine insulation foam, he defies traditional influencer conventions. He's warm and friendly, with none of the social media glitz and glam. And yet, in the span of just one year, Johnny, a self-proclaimed simple man, amassed one of the most popular boat renovation followings online today.
- [Building Boats, Making Waves: Where No Media Representation Exists, Women Create It For Themselves](#)

- OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - What does it mean to be seen? More importantly, what does it mean to see yourself in others? These questions, intrinsic to human nature, laid at the heart of conversations Belinda Joslin and I had about gender and the maritime sector. Belinda is the founder of Women in Boat Building, a British community interest company designed to support and inspire women in boat building and related trades. Our discussions began across the Atlantic Ocean via regular Zoom calls. On Thursdays, Belinda would settle in with her evening cup of tea, and I, being seven hours behind, would match her with a double shot of espresso (taken neat). Over the course of these talks, we began to outline The British Boat Builders 2023 Tour.
- [**A Conversation With Blue River Table: A Sustainable, Women-Led Dining and Cruise Experience**](#)
 - OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - Charlotte Whyte is one half of the dynamic team behind Blue River Table, a bespoke floating dining experience on the Cornish Coast. This distinctive venture offers a blend of river cruises and locally sourced, fine dining, all set aboard a charming Cornish Motor Launch. Charlotte and her business partner, Jess Harris, rebuilt and restored the 36-foot-long vessel to house their floating enterprise. These two women are the driving force behind every facet of the operation, from skippering to marketing to sourcing food.
- [**Learning From Our Sisters Across The Pond**](#)
 - OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - The Pacific Northwest boasts a storied history of passionate women mariners, from Thea Foss, the Tacoma-based founder of Foss Maritime, to the Sail Like A Girl team that made history when they won the 2018 Race to Alaska. Whether behind the helm or behind the scenes, women have always been a part of the tapestry of marine history. Despite such inspirational figures, however, the number of women and gender-diverse individuals in our maritime sector remains low. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) estimates that worldwide, only 2 percent of mariners identify as women. Numbers in the Pacific Northwest don't fare much better. All of which begs the question: Why aren't there more women in the industry and how do we get them there?
- [**Meet Honey Harman: Lessons From A 17-Year-Old Shipwright in the Making**](#)

- OPENING PARAGRAPH(S):
 - No statistics exist yet for the average age of boatbuilders in the United Kingdom. Take one look around any boatyard, however, and you'll be hard-pressed to find teenagers, let alone any young women. That's why I was ecstatic when I met Honey Harman. Though only a teenager, Honey has worked in the boat-building industry since she was 16. She is currently enrolled in a 40-week-long boat-building course at Lyme Regis' Boat Building Academy and Furniture School, where she is working not only to achieve her accreditations but to also build several crafts from the ground up. I had the great pleasure of dropping in on Honey during her boat-building course.
- [Building a Better Marine Industry Through Effective Outreach](#)