

Benno Schmidt Bio

Benno Schmidt's work has appeared on *Sunday Morning*, *The Early Show*, *NBC Nightly News*, *The Today Show*, MSNBC, CNN and elsewhere. As reporter and anchor for NBC's Miami flagship WTVJ, Schmidt led coverage of the defining stories of the past decade, including the Elian Gonzalez imbroglio, the voter recounts in Florida's Presidential contests, and the terrorist connections in Florida after 9/11.

Benno has reported from nearly every state in the U.S. and brings experience in Washington after field anchoring hours of live coverage of High Definition News's coverage of President Bush's 2nd inaugural. Schmidt excels at chasing hurricanes and breaking news while focusing on interesting nuances and residents rather than officials or politicians. His proven ability to take and hold air for hours makes his live coverage resonate with viewers.

Schmidt led HDNews's coverage of the record Florida hurricane season of 2005, chasing storms from Key West to northern Florida. He followed hurricane Katrina from Miami to New Orleans and led the HDNews team on the ground and in the air, bringing high-definition coverage to viewers across the country.

Benno rode with air-ambulance pilots as they landed on hospital rooftops rescuing premature babies from flood ravaged intensive care units, and joined National Guard and police units patrolling flooded New Orleans neighborhoods after Katrina. Schmidt field anchored New Year's celebrations from New Orleans's French Quarter before *and* after Katrina for HDNews, bringing viewers the different realities of both nights.

Benno led High Definition News's coverage of the Middle East, visiting every major city in Israel--- including reporting from the West Bank and settlement areas. Schmidt's Middle East coverage was showcased in an-hour-long-special on HDNews he produced and anchored.

He also reported from the Israeli/Lebanese border during the shooting war with Hezbollah, capturing some of the first war images in high definition for a U.S. network while accompanying Israeli tank movements.

Schmidt left HDNews following the Middle East special in April 2007 after nearly three years with the network, and currently contributes as a correspondent, anchor and producer to various networks.

He began reporting as a sixteen-year-old intern at CNN before the first Gulf War. The son of a famed first amendment scholar, Schmidt grew up listening to the best minds debate the challenges in ensuring a free press. Benno has won many awards, but is most proud of his 'best-reporter' honor from Miami newspaper readers. Benno is represented by Ken Lindner, President of Ken Lindner and Associates.

Benno C. Schmidt III References

Joe Long, Staff Producer, CBS News
(212) 975-2660, jdl@cbsnews.com

Greg Mirman, Staff Producer, CBS News
(212) 975-5485, gmm@cbsnews.com

Ofer Cohen, Peabody Award Winning Photographer.
I traveled to the Middle East with Ofer on two occasions.
(631) 664-4401, rabbitfootprod@aol.com

Ben Gonzalez, Former CNN Staff Photographer and current freelance producer/photographer. Spent weeks with Ben in New Orleans after Katrina.
(954) 445-5312, BLG855@yahoo.com

Don V. Browne, President Telemundo
(305) 884-8200, Don.Browne@nbcuni.com
Assistant: **Stefanie Fernandez** (305) 889-7959 / C. (305) 903-5463, sfernan@telemundo.com,
stefanie.fernandez@nbcuni.com

Barbara Fedida Brill, Vice President, CBS News
(212) 975-4321, fedidab@cbsnews.com