

KURT ANDERSEN is a writer.

He's the author of the novels [Heyday](#) and [Turn of the Century](#). *Heyday* was a *New York Times* bestseller that the [Los Angeles Times](#) called "a major work;" the [New York Times Book Review](#) said there is "something moving, a stirring spirit, in the energy of its amazement;" and the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (and nine other papers) said it "deserves instant acceptance into the ranks [of] Thomas Berger's *Little Big Man*, E.L. Doctorow's *Ragtime*, [and] Gore Vidal's *Lincoln*." The [New York Times](#) called the national bestseller *Turn of the Century* "wickedly satirical" and "outrageously funny" and one of the Notable Books of the year, while [The Wall Street Journal](#) called it a "smart, funny and excruciatingly deft portrait of our age."

He has also written for [film](#), [television](#) and the [stage](#). He adapted *Turn of the Century* as a screenplay for the director Curtis Hanson. During the 1990s he was executive producer and head writer of [two prime-time specials for NBC](#), *How to Be Famous* and *Hit List*, starring Jerry Seinfeld and Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and a creator of three pilots for ABC and NBC. He is co-author of [Loose Lips](#), a satirical off-Broadway revue that had long runs in New York and Los Angeles starring Bebe Neuwirth, Peter Boyle, Harry Shearer and Andy Richter. And he has written [Broomhilda](#), a musical comedy for the stage, with the lyricist Martin Charnin.

He writes a column called "The Imperial City" for [New York](#) magazine, and contributes to *Vanity Fair*. He has previously been a columnist for [The New Yorker](#) ("The Culture Industry") and [Time](#) ("Spectator"). He began his career in journalism at *Time*, where during the 1980s he was an award-winning writer on politics and criminal justice before becoming, for eight years, the magazine's architecture and design critic.

He is also host and co-creator of [Studio 360](#), the [Peabody Award-winning](#) cultural magazine show produced by [Public Radio International](#) and [WNYC](#) and broadcast on 140 stations to 500,000 listeners each week. Previously he was host of the interview series [Face Time](#) on the Trio channel, and anchored a documentary, *How Brit Trash Conquered America*, on BBC4. From 2001 through 2004 he served as a creative consultant to Universal Television, helping to create the Trio cable channel and to shape Universal's TV programming.

As an editor, he co-founded the legendary [Spy](#), which transformed journalism and became profitable after three years. He also served as editor-in-chief of [New York](#) magazine during the mid-90s, presiding over its editorial reinvigoration and record profitability. In 1999 he co-founded [Inside](#), an online and print publication covering the media and entertainment industries, and in 2004 and 2005 he oversaw a relaunch of [Colors](#) magazine. In 2006 he co-founded [Very Short List](#), an online service for cultural connoisseurs who would probably never call themselves "connoisseurs." And he is editor-at-large for Random House, responsible for finding and conceiving books for other authors.

At the [Smithsonian's Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum](#) in 2004, he curated an exhibit called "[Faster, Cheaper, Newer, More: Revolutions of 1848](#)." He has since joined the board of trustees of the Cooper-Hewitt, and also serves on the board of the [Pratt Institute](#). He graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College, where he was an editor of the [Lampoon](#). He received an honorary doctorate from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2005, and in 2003, *New York* magazine named him one of the 100 People Who Changed New York. He lives in Brooklyn with his wife, [Anne Kreamer](#), and his daughters [Kate](#) and [Lucy](#).