

Amanda Putz

Producer and host of Bandwidth, CBC Radio Canada

Transcript

I'm Amanda Putz. I'm a producer at CBC/ Radio Canada in Ottawa. I host a weekly music show called Bandwidth, which is all about the Ontario music scene.

I've worked in television and radio. I started in television many years ago, but didn't tend to watch it as much as I listened to radio. I feel like radio is the medium that hits both your brain and your heart simultaneously, it makes you think. Radio is definitely an easier medium and I feel it's a wider reaching medium. It also allows a person to use their own imagination to create a character or person. It's a more emotional connection and a more emotional medium because it's not distracting with the visuals. You don't focus on somebody's hair or lips or weird way that they speak as much as you just focus on exactly what they're saying and the story that you're hearing.

For a long time, rock radio was something that was traditionally male dominated, for sure. I feel that the pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. I hear far more women nowadays hosting commercial music radio than I did when I was a kid listening to Casey Kasem's Top 40 and all that kind of stuff. It's now women that have the crazy, punch voices and for sure in public radio -- not just on the music side, but across the spectrum -- it's easily half and half and my workplace I think women actually dominate.

Gender equality does cross my mind working in the music genre and public radio but only in that I want to make sure that I'm representing women who make music as much as I represent men who make music.

I think the advice that I'd give to young women who want to pursue a career in radio would be: get your confidence up. That's the biggest thing. Some women are born with it. Some people are born with it, and sometimes it's something you really have to work on because your voice is all you have. That's what's coming out on the radio and if you're not showing the confidence behind it, people pick up on it in a second and they won't believe you. Even if it's just music that you're talking about and certainly if it's news, if it's current affairs and if it's an in depth story, you have to put the punch behind it so that they know they can trust you and believe you. If you have that, you can really do anything because I've had people that maybe don't even have the sharper skills, they haven't even finished school, but they have so much confidence that that comes first and forward and I know they're going to go really far. If you don't have the confidence, take the time and build it up. Do whatever it takes to get it because that's all you need.

Hi I'm Amanda Putz from CBC Radio in Ottawa wishing you a very happy World Radio Day.