

Mike Vance

Mike Vance is the author of three novels and 11 non-fiction books on Texas and Houston history, true crime, sports, and comedy. Vance's novels are in the genre of historical fiction. He has written several articles on Texas history topics for publications including *Texas Heritage* magazine and has penned editorial essays for the *Houston Chronicle* among others.

Mike began his professional writing and creative career at age 17 when he started doing stand-up comedy professionally. He toured the English-speaking world on stages for 16 years as a solo act before segueing into media where he hosted a weekly regional history television program, co-hosted both a television sports show and an afternoon talk radio program in Houston, and performed a litany of award-winning national and regional voice over work and script and content writing. Following his solo stand-up career, Mike fronted a band that performed his original music across Texas and even in the UK and Mexico. He also won awards for a humorous magazine column.

Vance has an extensive background writing, directing and producing educational documentary videos several of which aired on select PBS television stations. His Night Heron Media is the reincarnation of Houston Arts and Media, which Vance founded in 2005. Night Heron is a non-profit organization that creates innovative ways to educate Texans about their history, culture and arts. Through NHM and HAM, Vance created feature length documentaries, short films, web content and publications on Texas and Houston.

Today, Mike Vance is one of the best history story tellers in Texas. He does the irreverent American history podcast Prick the Balloon. Vance's video work totals eight feature length documentaries and over 150 short educational videos. That work continues with Night Heron Media through the Texas History Initiative that creates videos and books to teach Texas History in 7th grade classrooms and the Postcards from Texas video series that highlights interesting stories from our past.

Mike has served on three different county historical commissions in Texas. He is a member of the Historical Novel Society. Vance has taught various Texas history courses of his design at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies since 2010.