Portfolio + Capabilities Deck

Graphic Design for the Film Industry



Hello!

Graphic Design is an incredibly important part of the film making process. All the best production houses use it to elevate their story, whether it's creating a narrative driven main-title design, pre and post-production visual assets, keyart and marketing materials, or the developmental stages of getting a project off the ground; implementing a designer into your team will bring a cohesive branded feel to the entire project.

This deck will give you an insight as to how I apply the craft of Graphic Design to the film industry and why it's a crucial part of both the developmental and post-production stages of a project. I have included case studies that will showcase my most recent breadth of work including how I played an integral role in helping raise the standard of a now famous production house while giving you various film titles, posters, and pitch decks to look at it so you can get an eye of how I use graphic design to truly elevate a film project to a whole new level.

If by the end you've decided that your project needs my help then give me a call or email me so we can meet to discuss how I can be involved.

My sincere best wishes,

Ross Alexander Whelan

Creative Director 250 896 9731 create@rossalexanderwhelan.com

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About



A REVOLUTION IN 4 PARTS



MGM PRESENTS EPIX ORIGINAL A DERIK MURRAY PRODUCTION "PUNK"

FEATURING IGGY POP HENRY ROLLINS MARKY RAMONE DEBBIE HARRY JOHN LYDON JOAN JETT BILLIE JOE ARMSTRONG DUFF McKAGAN

WRITTEN JESSE JAMES MILLER ERIC MACDONALD JOHN BARBISAN SUSANNE TABATA MUSIC BRENT BELKE EDITED GREAT GREA

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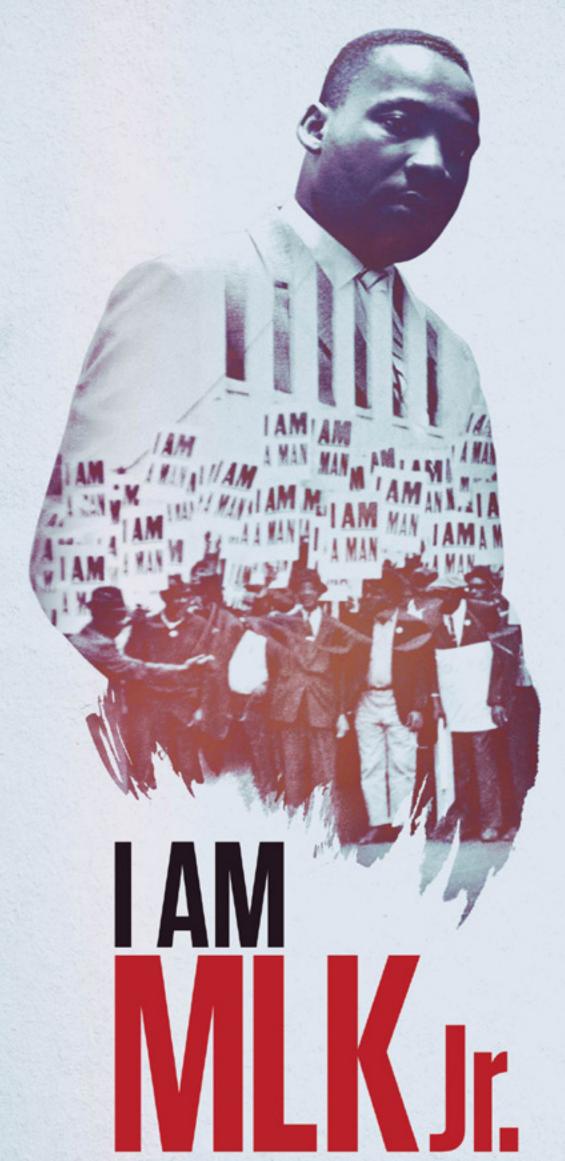
NETWORK Fremantle

What do I do?

With love, I run a solo premium creative design studio with a focus in elevating visual communication standards for the film industry community and beyond.

I specialize in visual and emotional communication, the principles of which tap directly into how we respond to sensory stimuli, and how those stimuli compel our judgments and opinions to form around our physical actions as human beings.

I aim to inspire people with graphic design so that they watch meaningful movies and documentaries instead of stories that degrade our minds. When you walk into a movie theatre what's the first thing that greets you besides the glorious smell of buttered popcorn? Movie Posters. A graphic designer created it but their responsibilities didn't stop there. If the various production houses involved in the creation of the motion picture were smart, they had them continue creating titles, motion graphics, and captivating credit lists for the whole movie. This ties the whole package together which leaves an everlasting impression on anyone who experiences it.



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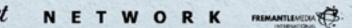
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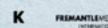
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Where have I been?

For over sixteen years I've endeavoured to master the craft of Design after starting out at The Herald & Times newspaper back in Glasgow, Scotland shortly after winning a Branding & Packaging award from the U.K. Chartered Society Of Designers.

Over the course of the last two decades my creative journey has weaved, danced, and swayed in and around creative design agencies on the west coast of Canada eventually settling into an in-house design position at the international production company Network Entertainment where I had an integral role in redesigning and elevating their brand to premium status. This attracted and retained the attention of top executives and broadcasters including HBO, National Geographic, Paramount Network, CNN, TSN, The Hockey Hall of Fame, Amazon Prime, and Netflix.

I now fly the banners of my own ship where I hope to share my talents and abilities to the people and the communities I believe in so I can bring added value to our lives as human beings on this wonderful blue marble that we call home.

ABOUT CAPABILITIES DECK

Partial Client Exposure List

HBO Canada + Crave

The Paramount Network	CNN	Bell Media
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National Geographic TSN SXSW Festival

Peacock Spike TV Fremantle

Sky Documentaries Epix Thunderbird

SNL The Hockey Hall Network Entertainment

of Fame Netflix Game 7 Media

Amazon Prime

Apple TV Hopz Productions

Sky

Capabilities & Process

CAPABILITIES & PROCESS

My Capabilities

Strategic Design Thinking is a technique that essentially establishes scientific rules to creative problem solving and how best to visually communicate the simplified solution once it's been solved. This forms the foundational framework that I use for every project which allows me to easily adapt to the demands of various industries across the market. Below is a full overview of my capabilities.

Naturally, this creative science comes with a multi-disciplinary nature where I can apply this approach to all forms of design and visual communication across both digital and print mediums. It has taught me a valuable lesson in recognising that the hardest thing to do is to make something simple and that the simplest solution is the most beautiful.

Strategy

Discovery & Research
User Experience
Brand Strategy & Architecture
Positioning
Content Strategy
Marketing Campaigns

Branding

Brand Development & Rebranding
Logo & ID Systems
Brand Style Guides
Messaging
Collateral, Print & Packaging
Iconography

Digital Development

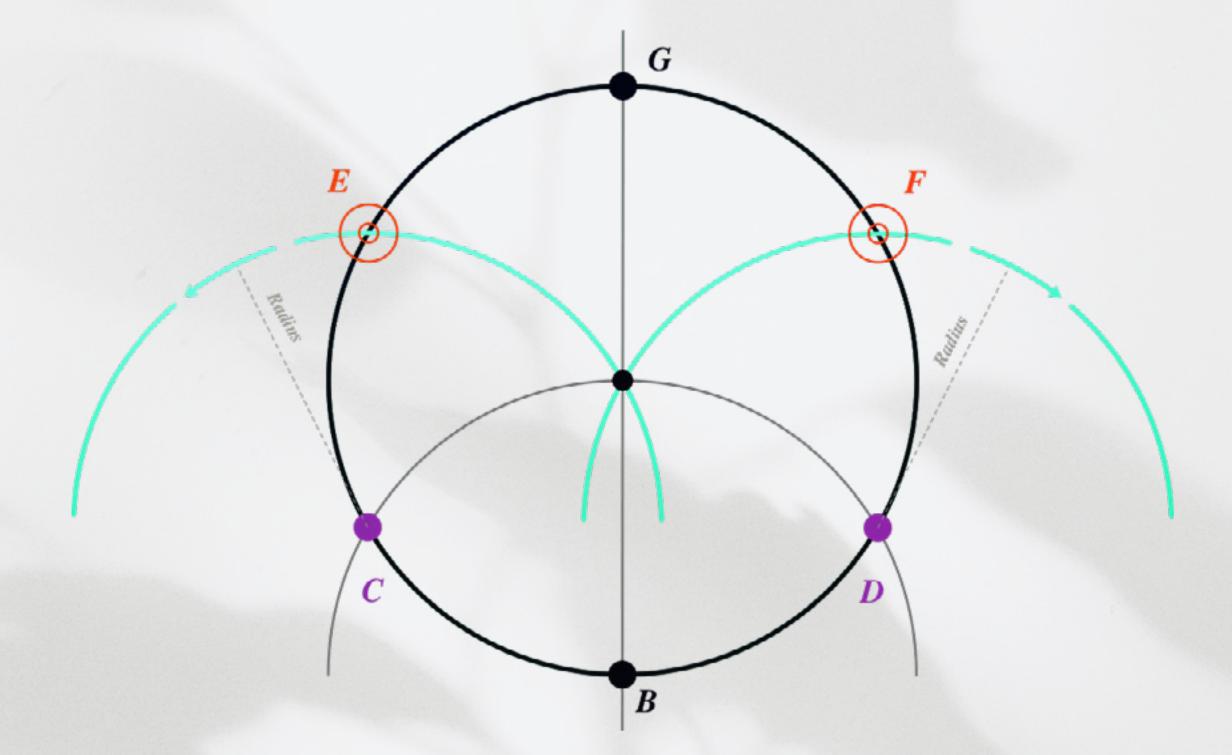
Website Design
UX/UI
Information Architecture
Wireframing
Prototypes

Film Graphic Design

Pitch Deck Design
Compositing
Key-art
Main Title Design
Photography
Copywriting
Storyboarding
Illustration
Motion Graphics
Pre + Post Production & VFX

R

CAPABILITIES & PROCESS



The Film Designer's Process

Think of a movie or a documentary as a single stand-alone brand. Its main title is the Logo, and all the other visual elements that come with it stand to reinforce the narrative of what you're trying to share.

On-screen motion-graphics, documentary lower-thirds, main titles and graphically orientated credit lists, posters, blu-ray and digital stream packages ... all of them lay within the responsibilities of a Film Graphic Designer. We design and build a branded package for your film that co-exists with your story on-screen and, most importantly, off-screen.

If it's all designed as a branded package then your communication will be consistent and the message will stand out and be remembered by the people who experience it. If it's not, then you'll end up looking like most of the junk you see on Amazon and Netflix. I'm here to make sure that doesn't happen.

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Case Studies

CASE STUDIES

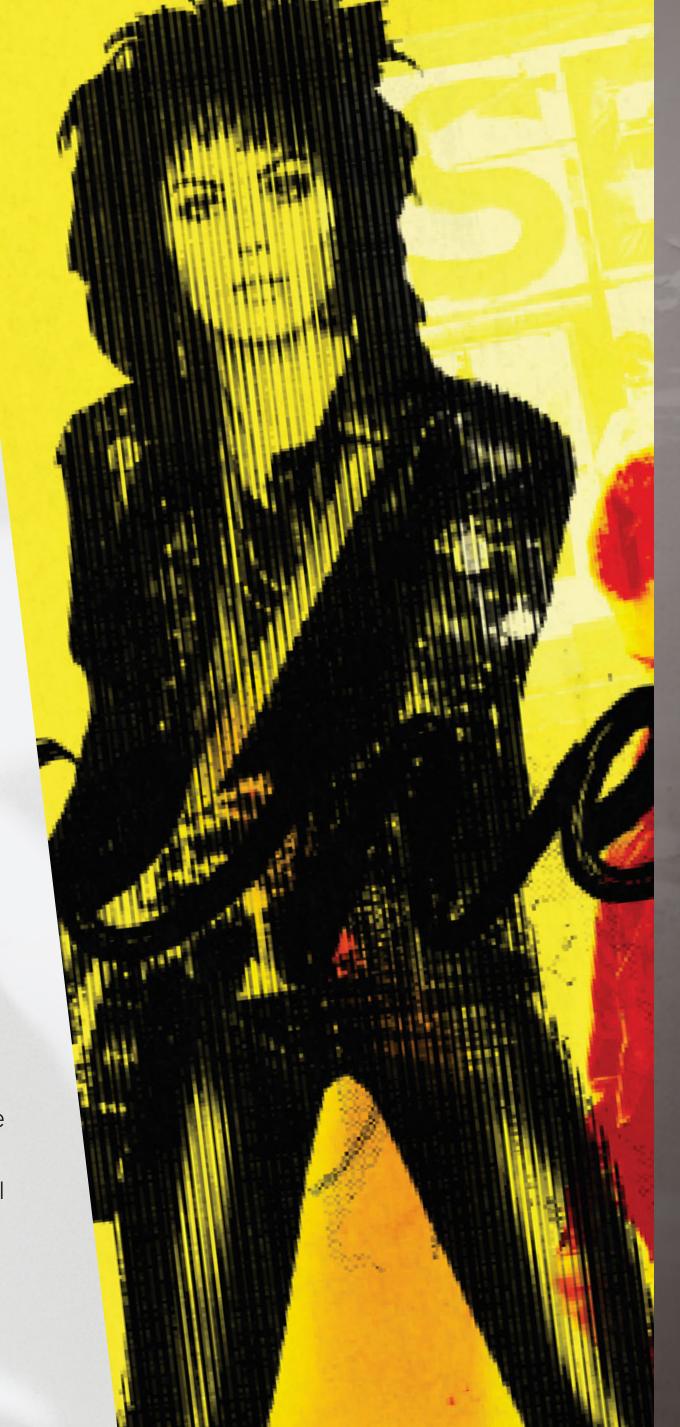
Film Title Design

Poster (Key-art)

Pitch Decks

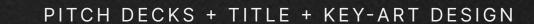
Graphic Designers are an integral part of the creative process within the film industry. Most of the low-tier production houses are missing one and this is a huge mistake. It's our job to visually brand the narrative of the project right down to the creation of the main title and keyart poster.

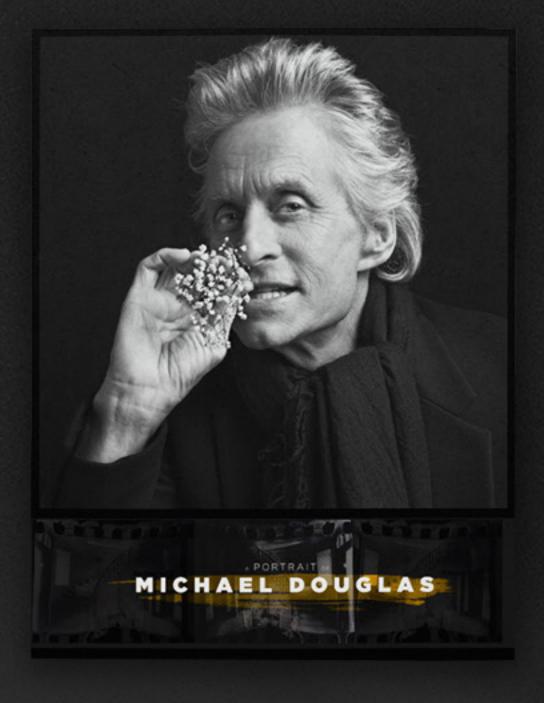
It's the graphic designers job to visually communicate the story with other means beyond what's filmed on camera. Using typography, motion-graphics, or even compositing multiple photographs to help support copy written for a pitch deck, it's our job to inspire people to want to watch your film. In short we bring creative visual consistency to the overall project. This helps elevate the material you want to share or sell to broadcast executives. It stands out more. Becomes more memorable. And brings a level of creative agency professionalism to all touch points of communication.











A PORTRAIT OF

A PORTRAIT OF

"A photographic session is a joint, interpersonal exchange, a kind of creative encounter session at a high level of intensity. For me, photography is more a process of creating an experience than one of looking for pictures."

"A photographic session is a joint, interpersonal such a post of the control of t

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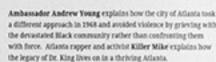












scademic and activist Angela Davis, Dr. Cornel West and Week Uprising have not significantly changed and how America remains on fire. President Barack Obama, Rev. Jesse Jackson and Ambassador Andrew Young get a last, hopeful word citing the good, ongoing work against poverty and racial inequity and the challenges the movement continues to face.

Van Jones Series Outro.









MAIN TITLE DESIGN

Turning up the volume on LGBTQ+ Music

Title + Key-art Design

This is what people see first before anything else about your film. The goal is to inspire people to watch it while teasing them with plot points that don't give the game away.

The movie on the right is a personal project that's currently being written. I created the poster so that when the time came to present we'd have something inspirational to show broadcast execs.

Look at the poster on the right. Feel it.
Can you feel that sense of intrigue wash over your mind? All of a sudden you're dying to find out more. This is what a graphic designer can bring to the table for your film. All of the typographic elements play a role in visualising the core plot points of the story, and when you couple that with photography and other graphic imagery, you end up with a poster that not only sells your movie, but stands as a collectible piece of art too.

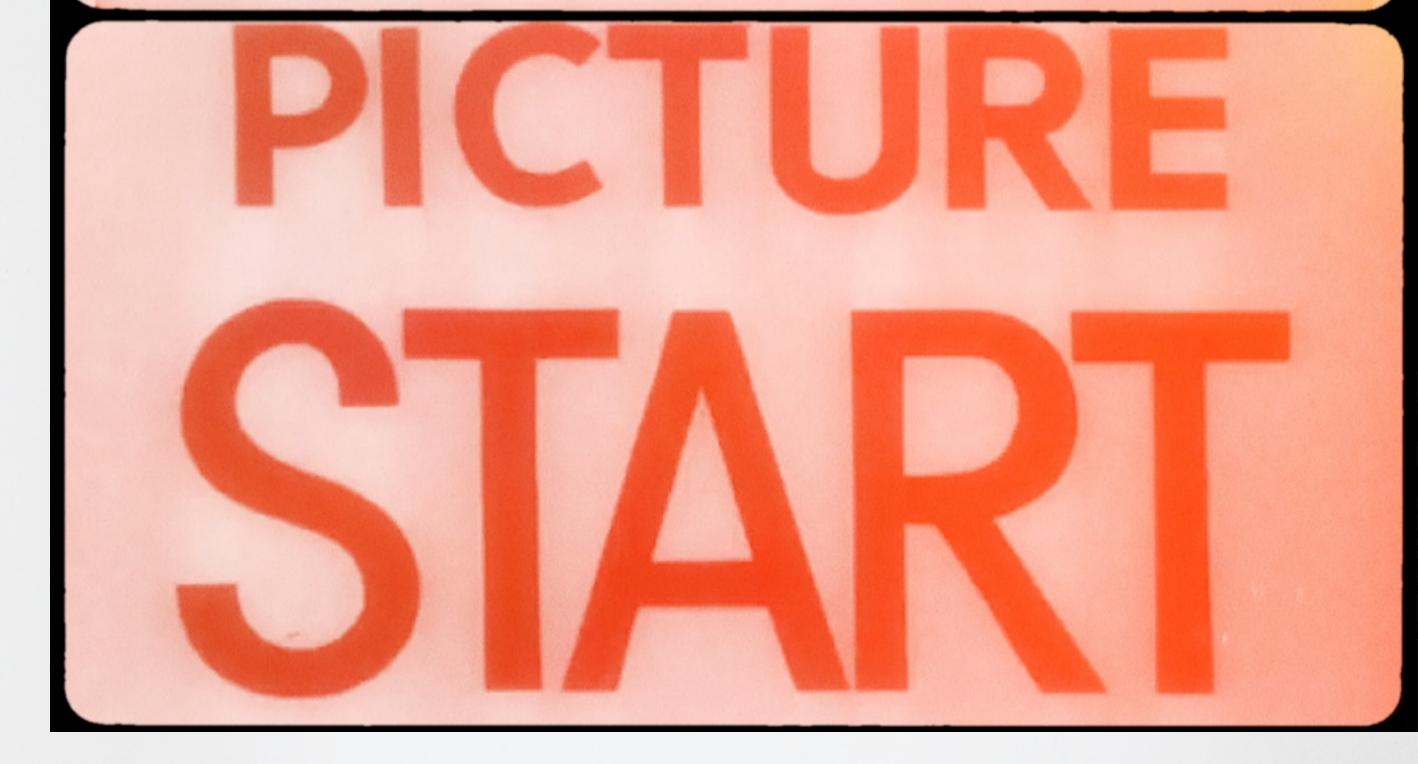


Network Entertainment

As the in-house graphic designer for five years I was tasked to establish a cohesive brand re-design across all touch points of communication that would elevate their visual brand identity to stand toe-to-toe with the top national and international production companies in the world.

Beyond my regular responsibilities of creating pitch decks, poster Key-art, blu-rays, websites, digital assets, and on-screen motion graphics I also elevated their existing brand identity which grew into a complete solo redesign of the company's website while helping creatively direct their animated logo reveal. Taking what made them unique on screen, I weaved common principles into my custom creation of the newly branded website which elevated their global positioning to premium status.

And by establishing visual graphic design standards into their pitch deck presentations, I was able to completely re-think how they approached the problem of selling an idea to broadcast executives. The goal was to design richer and more memorable experiences for the people we were pitching ideas to. The result was a richer visual experience that treated each feature documentary pitch as a unique brand identity which drew stellar feedback from broadcast executives as well as A-List stars such as Iggy Pop, famous fashion designer John Varvatos, and world renowned photographer Norman Seef.



Services

Brand Design + Strategy
Creative Direction
Brand Positioning
Pitch Deck Design
Marketing Campaigns
Logo + Title Designs
Key-Art Posters
Blu-ray and DVD Artwork
Social Media Graphics
Web Design / UI / UX
Copywriting
Motion Graphics
Photography

Impact

Established a stand-out reputation for the company's pitch presentations. This dramatically increased top broadcast exec loyalty to the company.

Enjoyed consistent rave peer reviews that elevated the company's status within the industry to match how they were perceived on screen.

Google Analytics compared the company's re-designed website 90% better at retaining visitors within the category of Movies & TV worldwide with an average session duration of 8 mins.

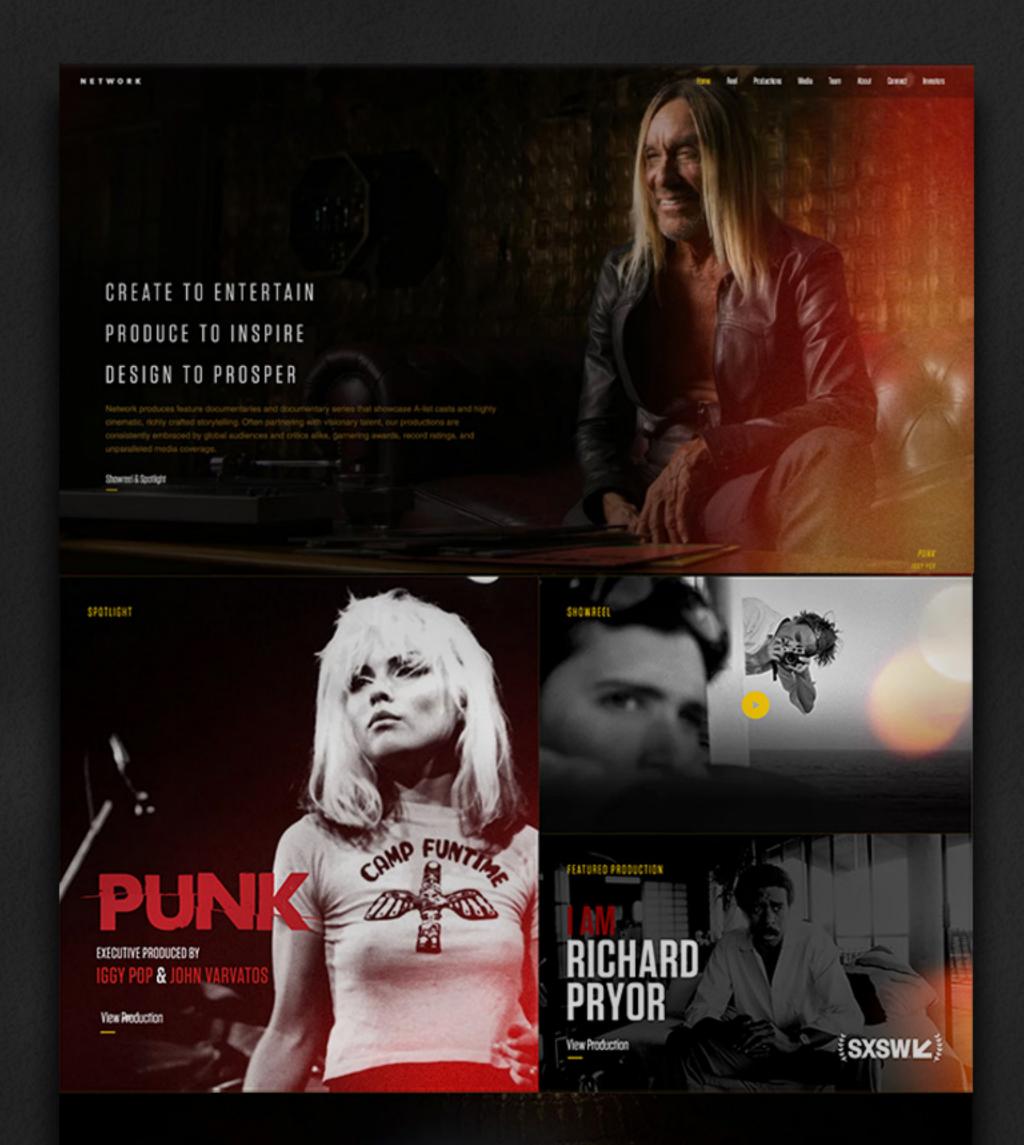
View website

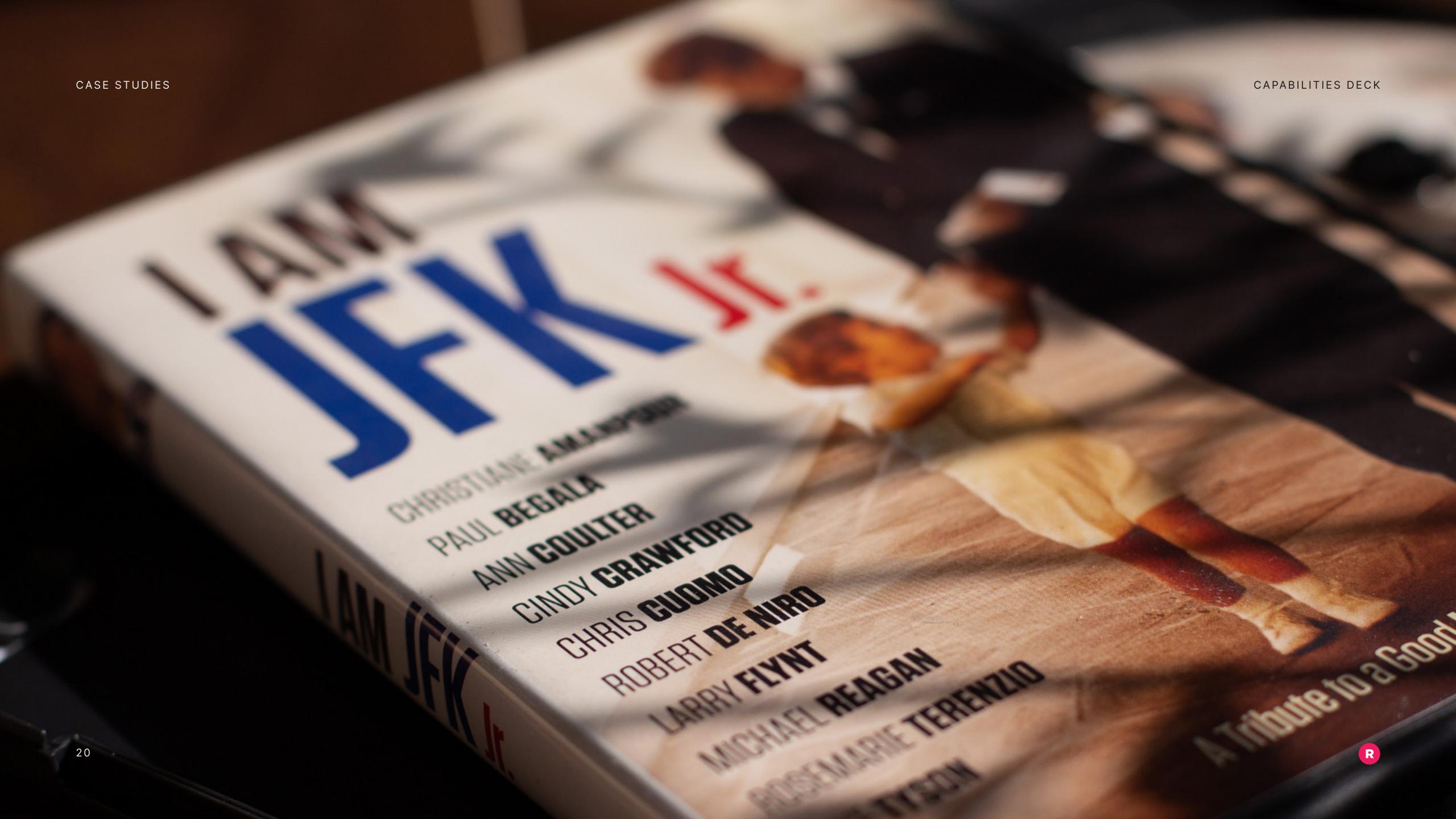


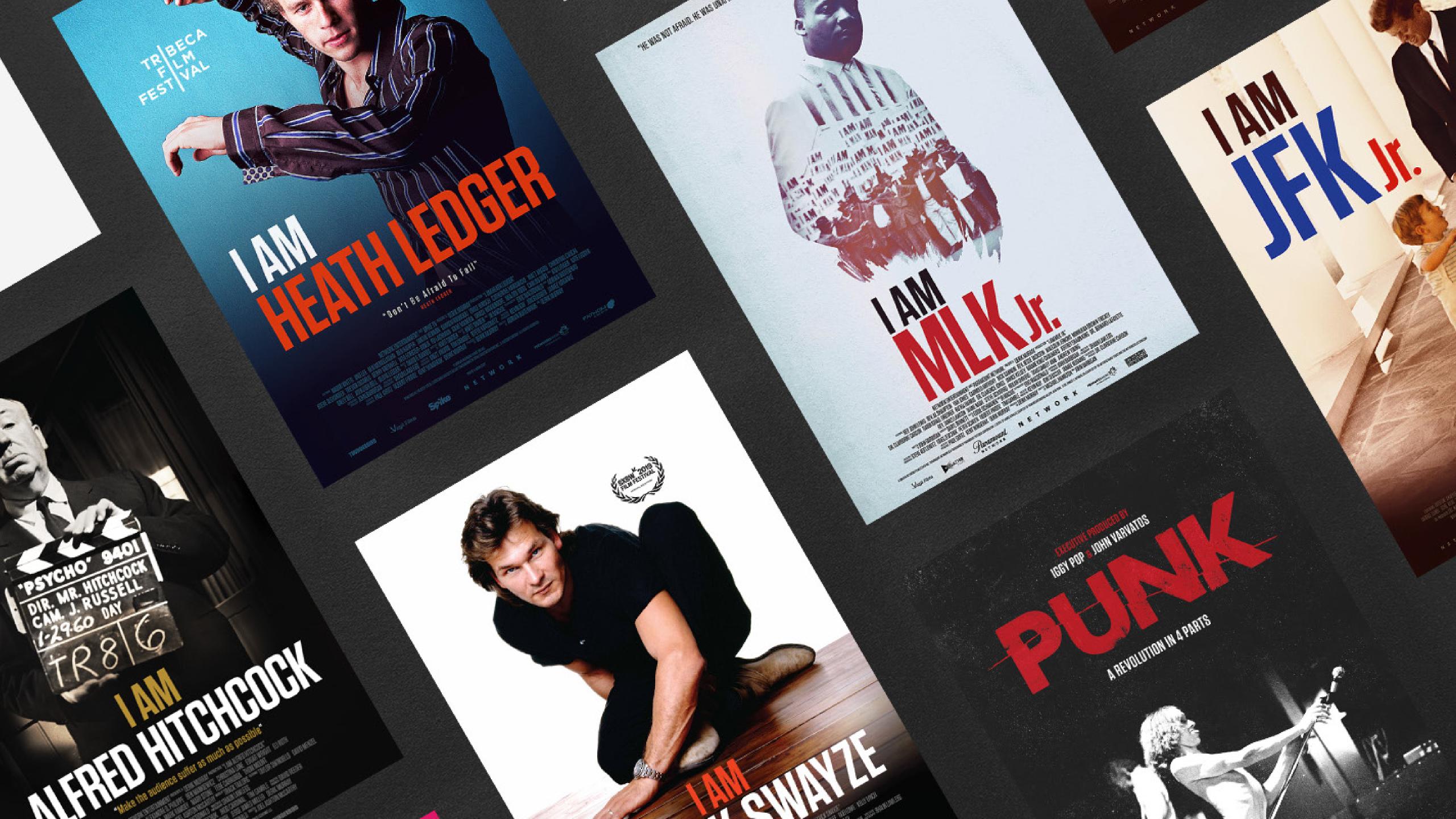
NETWORK





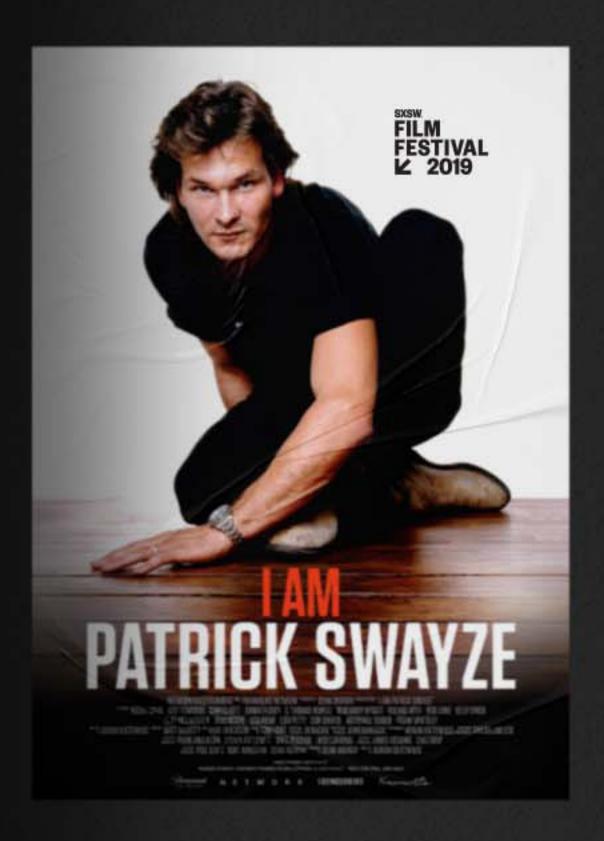










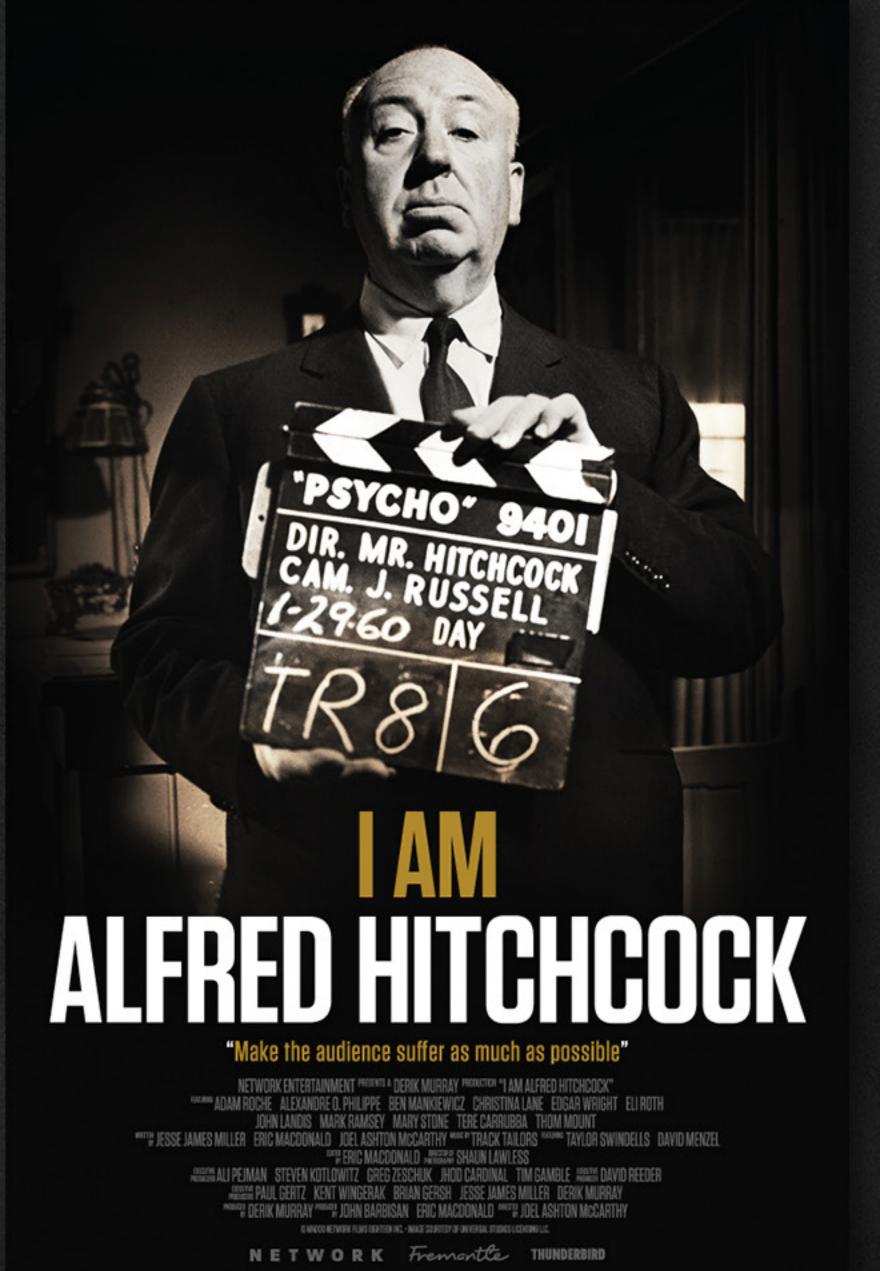


















Joe Toft

DEA SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE, COLOMBIA



VAPPS Non-Profit

For an organization I believed in I went above and beyond to re-brand Victoria Arts Promotion and Preservation society's flagship platforms, and in the process, completely rethought their online strategy and information architecture for their sites.

Final deliverables included an entire redesign of their website complete with an overarching communications strategy to engage the community into finding out more about Artists in our local town. The re-designed Brand Identity combined both Arts Victoria and Live Victoria into one consistent identity that extended itself onto social media campaign ads to help promote local businesses and event centres around town. The platform acts as a living digital archive for Victoria B.C. so the focus was creating a locally driven social media platform where people could create their own profiles and upload their own content.

Services

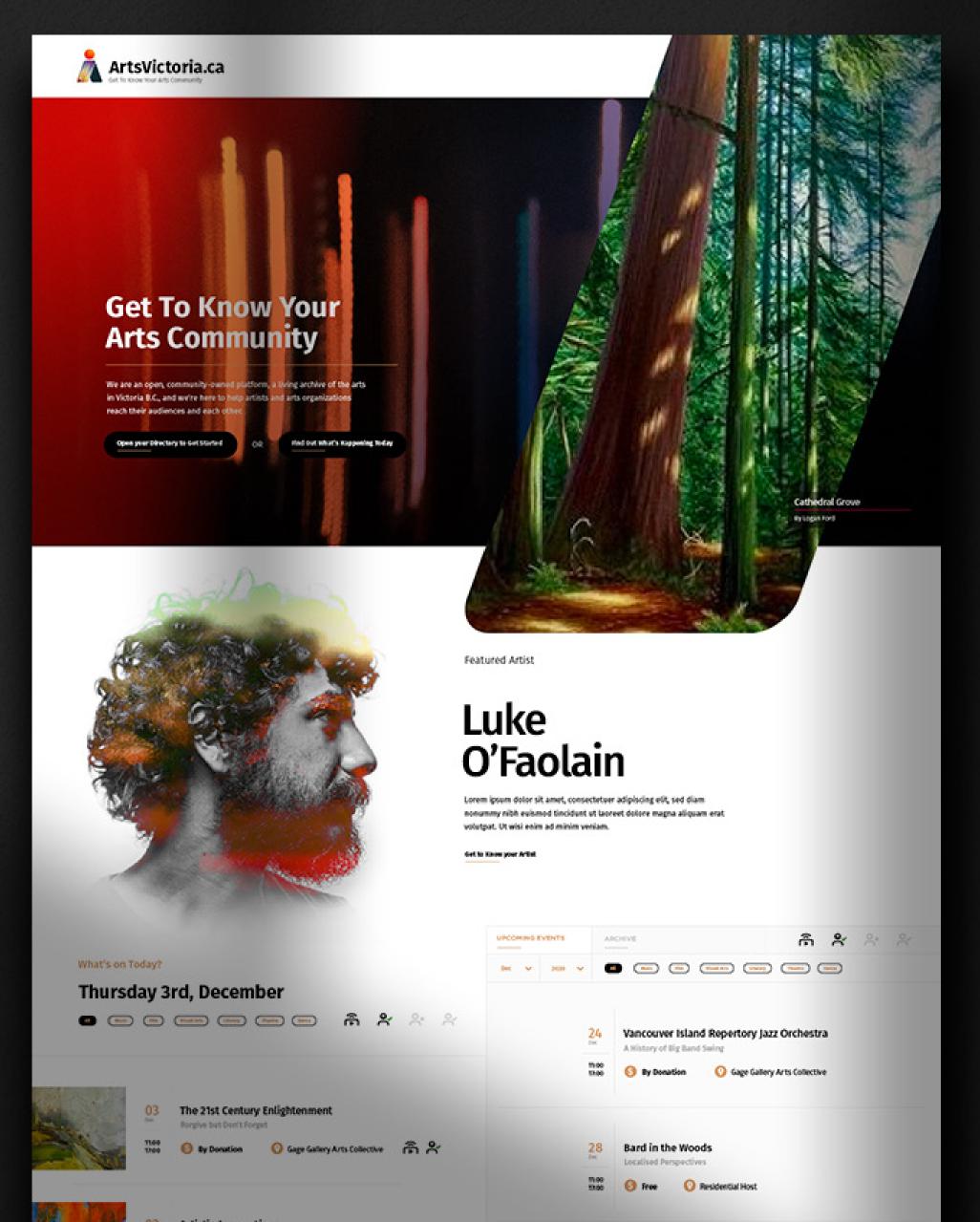
Brand Strategy & Architecture
Brand Identity & Logo Design
Web Design UI/UX
Motion Graphics & Marketing Campaigns
Copywriting

Impact

Now the Creative Director of VAPPS
Increased customer loyalty
Dramatically increased customer retention
Rave reviews from the local community
100% customers prefer new brand identity

View Website









The two platforms rely on the community for it to thrive and vice-versa. The circle stands to symbolise the togetherness of the whole community with both ArtsVictoria and LiveVictoria revolving around it.

Together they act as information directories for our community, and so the well established symbol 'i' is playfully used within the ArtsVic Logo but when flipped upside down the 'i' becomes an exclamation mark to symbolise the emotional experience of concerts and live performances that the LiveVic site focuses on.



Pickle Productions

Challenged to design a new brand identity for a product that aimed to bring the arts and comedy to the hearts and minds of people who were emotionally restricted within the office environment, I set out to achieve the liberation of their spirits by elevating the emotional and visual appeal of Pickle for their target audience.

Pickle co-creates and co-produces a comedy show with top executives and employees from large organizations in order to rebuild the relationship bonds broken by remote work. One of the overarching problems Pickle faced was the cognitive perception of their initial idea. It was cartoonish and didn't speak the language of the talented people they were targeting.

Their biggest obstacle was fear. Fear of taking a risk to hire Pickle and the off-chance of being embarrassed in front of peers. I solved this problem by elevating the emotional appeal of their visual identity by positioning them as the high-end Emmy Award-winning production crew that they were so that potential customers would feel confident in taking risks with them. A Brand Identity Package was delivered, 'Productions' added to the name, along with creative direction and content creation for their brand strategy, photography, and online digital assets.

Services

Creative Direction
Brand Strategy
Brand Identity & Logo Design
Website Splash Page Direction
Social Media Assets
Copywriting + Photography Sourcing

Impact

"Thanks again for the totally amazing and thoughtful work, Ross! We just love it!"

Mike and Susan McLennan





Single-Page Brand Identity Guideline



Typography

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZÅÎÓ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyzåîó 1234567890!@#\$%&*()

Brownhill Script

ABCDEFGHIJKIMNOPORSTUWWZATO



RGB: 255, 0, 98 **Hex**: ff0062 **CMYK**: 0, 100, 38, 0



Pantone: P 4-8 U **RGB**: 255, 222, 0 Hex: ffde00 **CMYK**: 1, 9, 100, 0 Logo Safe-Zone



Alternate Logos



30



order to raise the visual impact and overall result ties the whole logo together.



Logo based on Gotham Rounded Bold Italic. Customised 'I' designed to literally represent Logo tilted 15 degrees to bring back vertical have been refined for added realism.



emotional tone of the product.

R WWW.ROSSALEXANDERWHELAN.COM

CREATED ORGANICALLY WITH LOVE BY ROSS ALEXANDER WHELAN

FACEBOOK COVER PAGE



ALTERNATE IMAGE AND COPY



FACEBOOK PROFILE



INSTAGRAM PROFILE



CAPABILITIES DECK

Positive Pickle Pickle

The Harmonic Series & the Geometry of Music

Since the love for the craft of visual art and design has always been the primary driving force behind creating my work, even when I'm not getting paid, I'm creatively solving problems with extraordinary success. For the past four years I've been slowly building the foundations for a new educational tool that reveals the geometric principles that lay hidden within music.

As it turns out we're emotionally designed to respond positively to specifically balanced and compositional proportions that not only touch how we experience audible music but visual design too. Great design is essentially frozen music which uses the same geometrical principles to evoke uplifting positive emotions. Using Strategic Design Thinking I set out to solve the enormous problem of why we *feel attracted* to certain objects, sounds, and smells. It all starts with music.

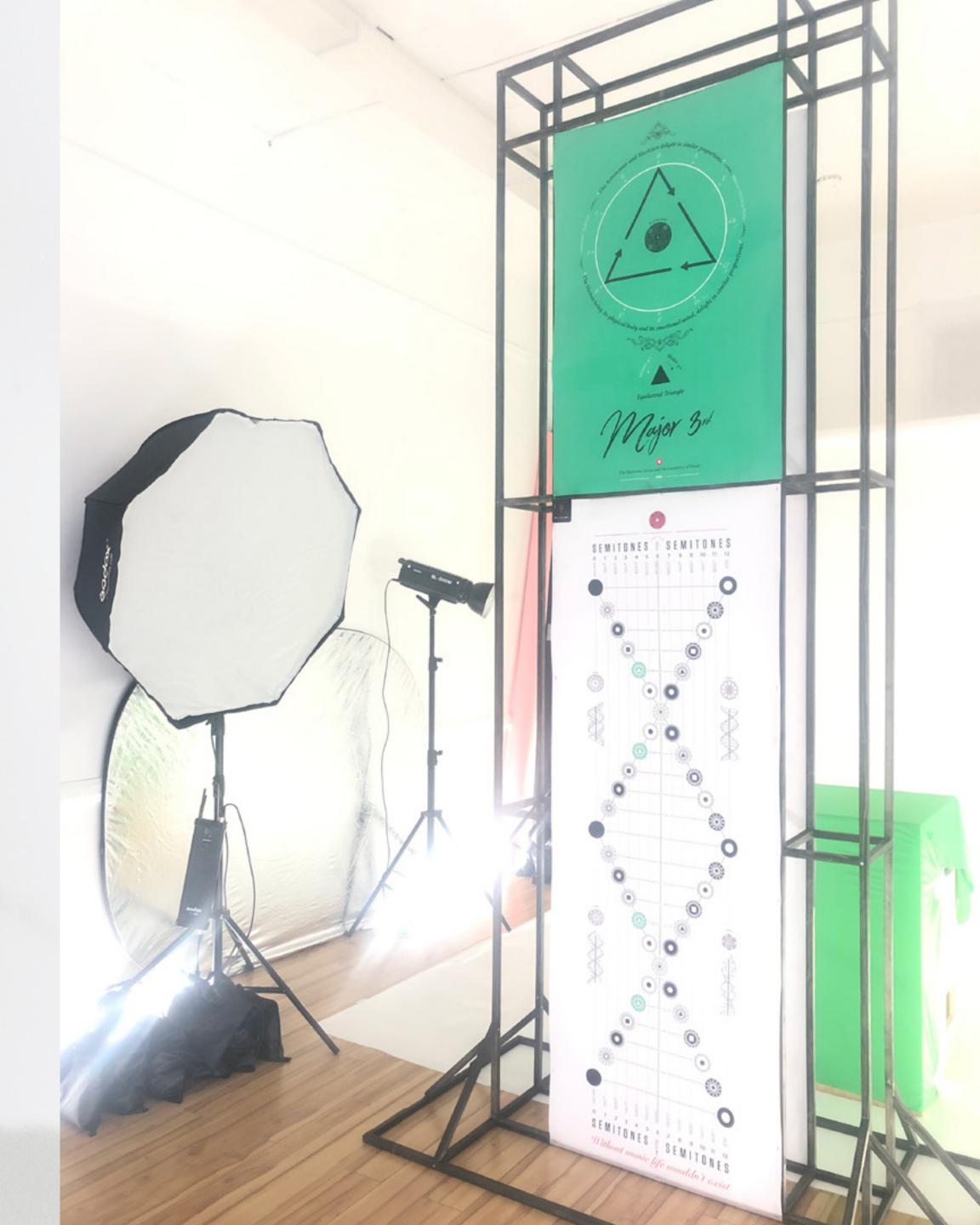
Services

Love and Passion
Historical Research
Scientific Research
Graphic Design
Composing Music

Impact

This is ongoing work. My aim is to have a branded product for schools so that children can explore music with geometry and art.

Prints available to purchase upon request.



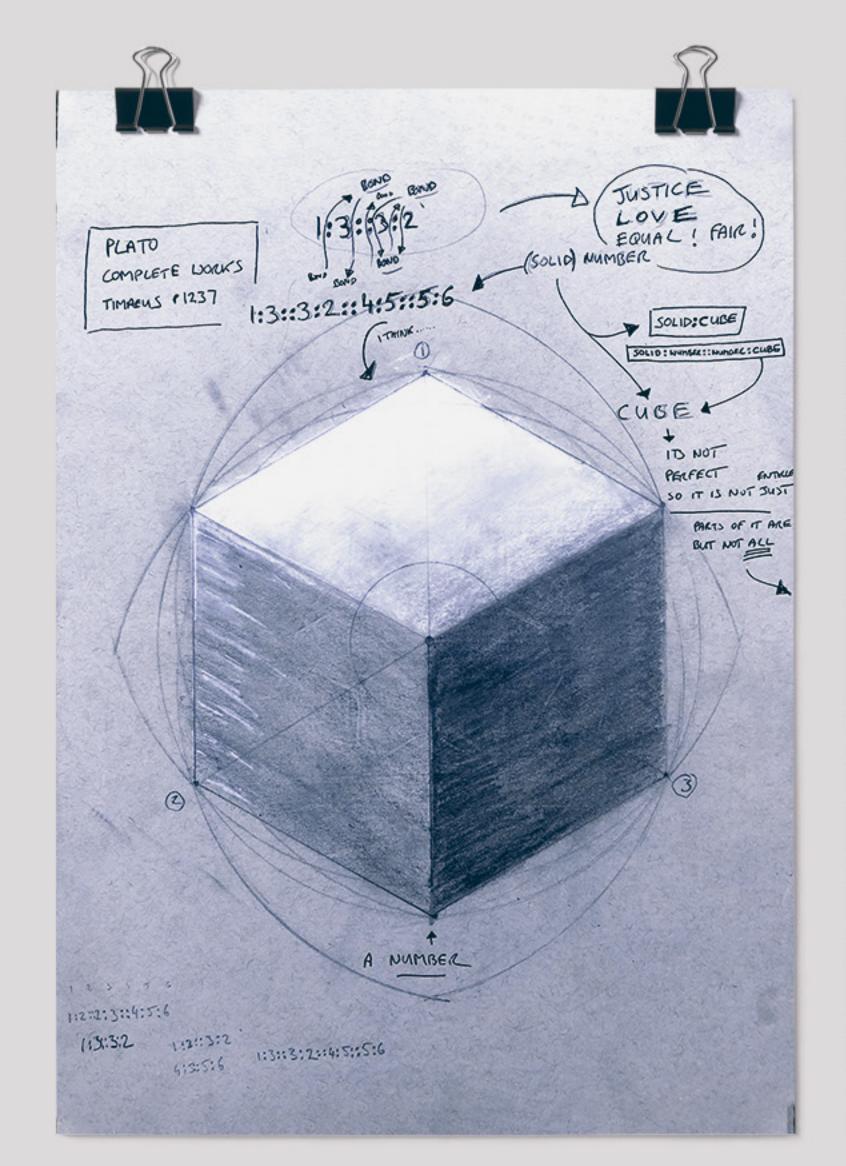
CASE STUDIES

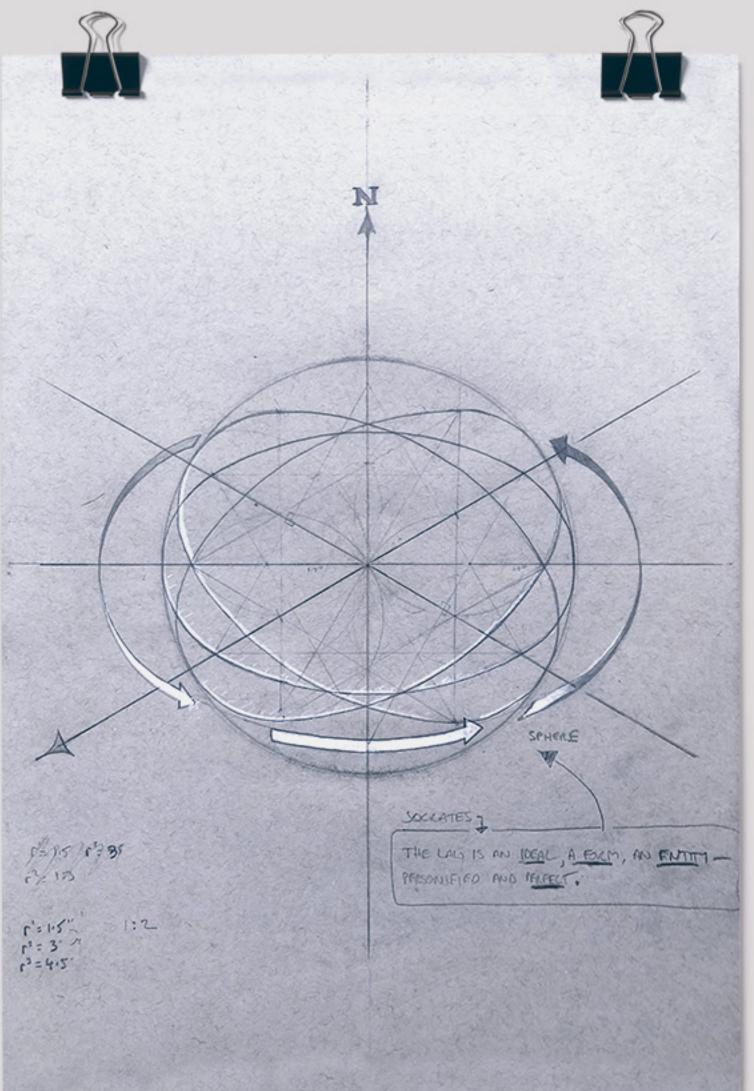


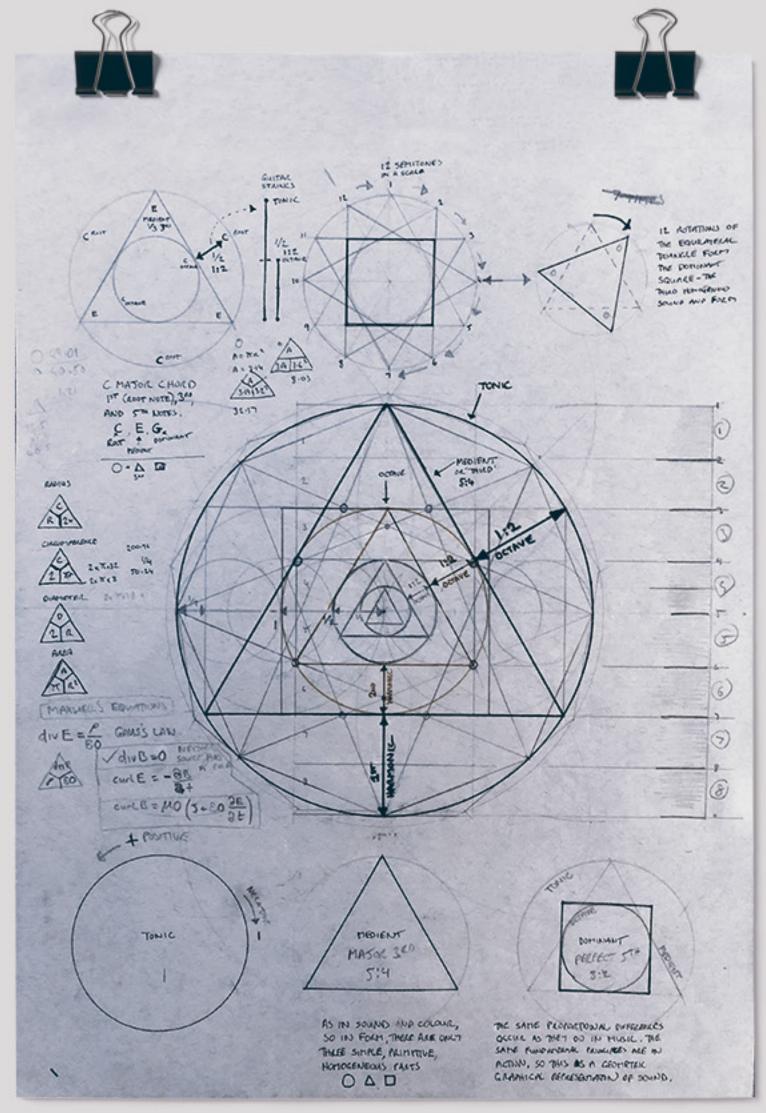
The following pages show my studies and hand drawn sketches exploring the fundamental geometric and mathematical relationships within a circle that directly apply to sound and therefore our emotions as human beings. Strategic Design Thinking provided the foundation of my entire process.

Following the strict rules of ancient Greece shared by Socrates and Plato I was limited to exploring geometry with a pencil, compass, and a straight edge only.

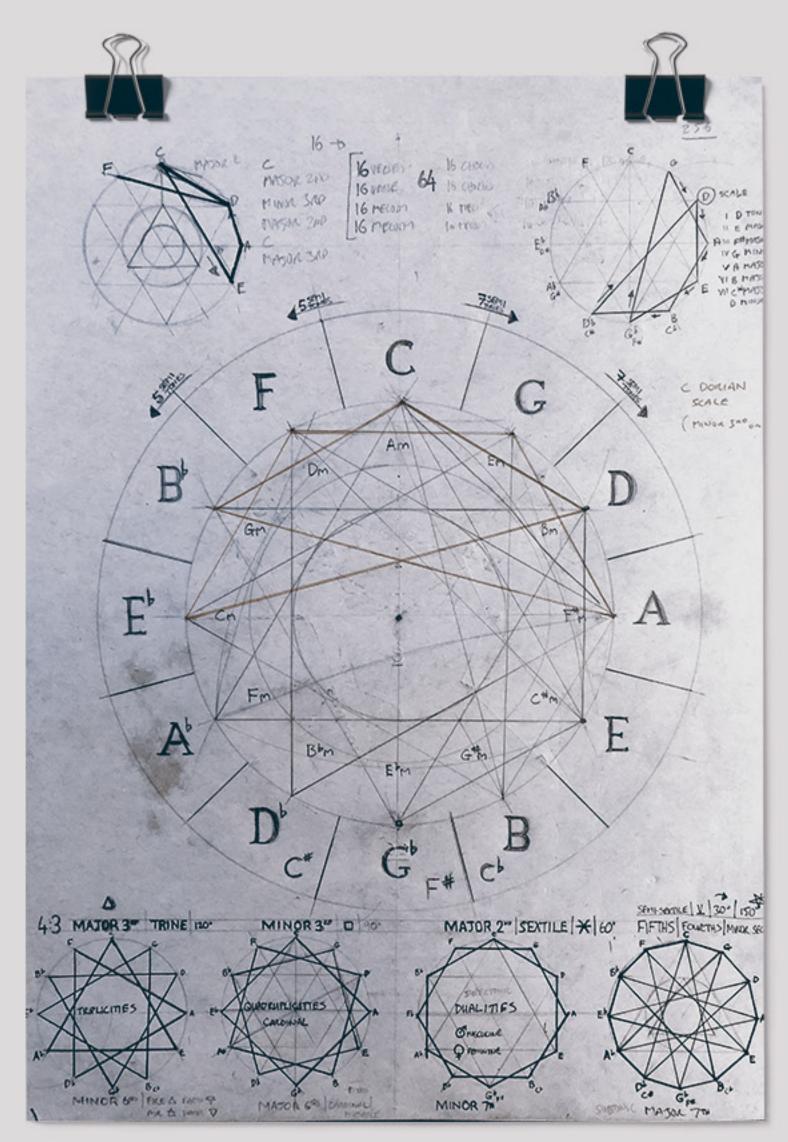




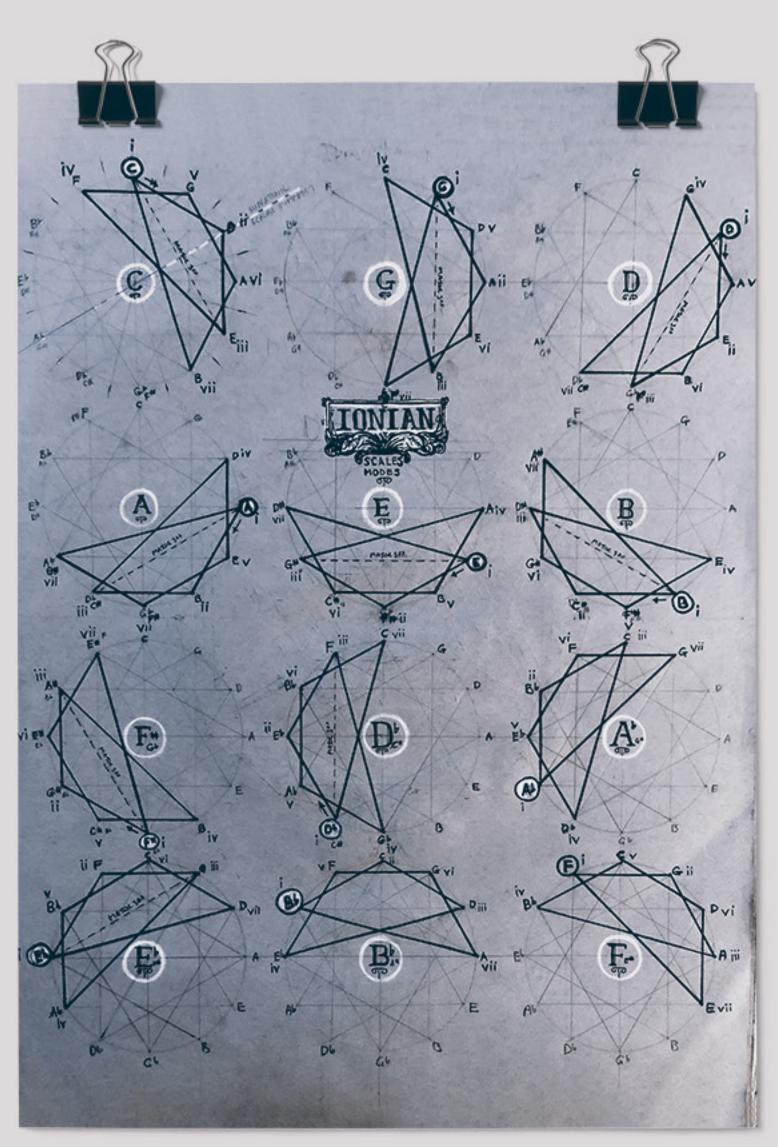




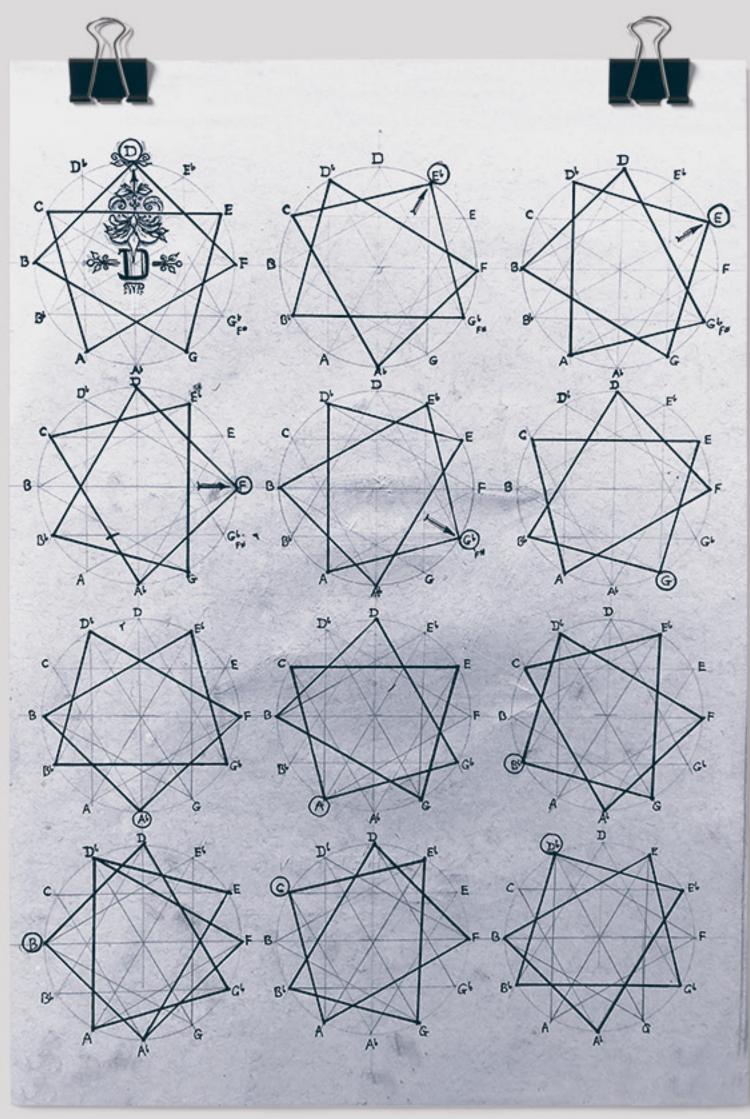
Geometric Octave



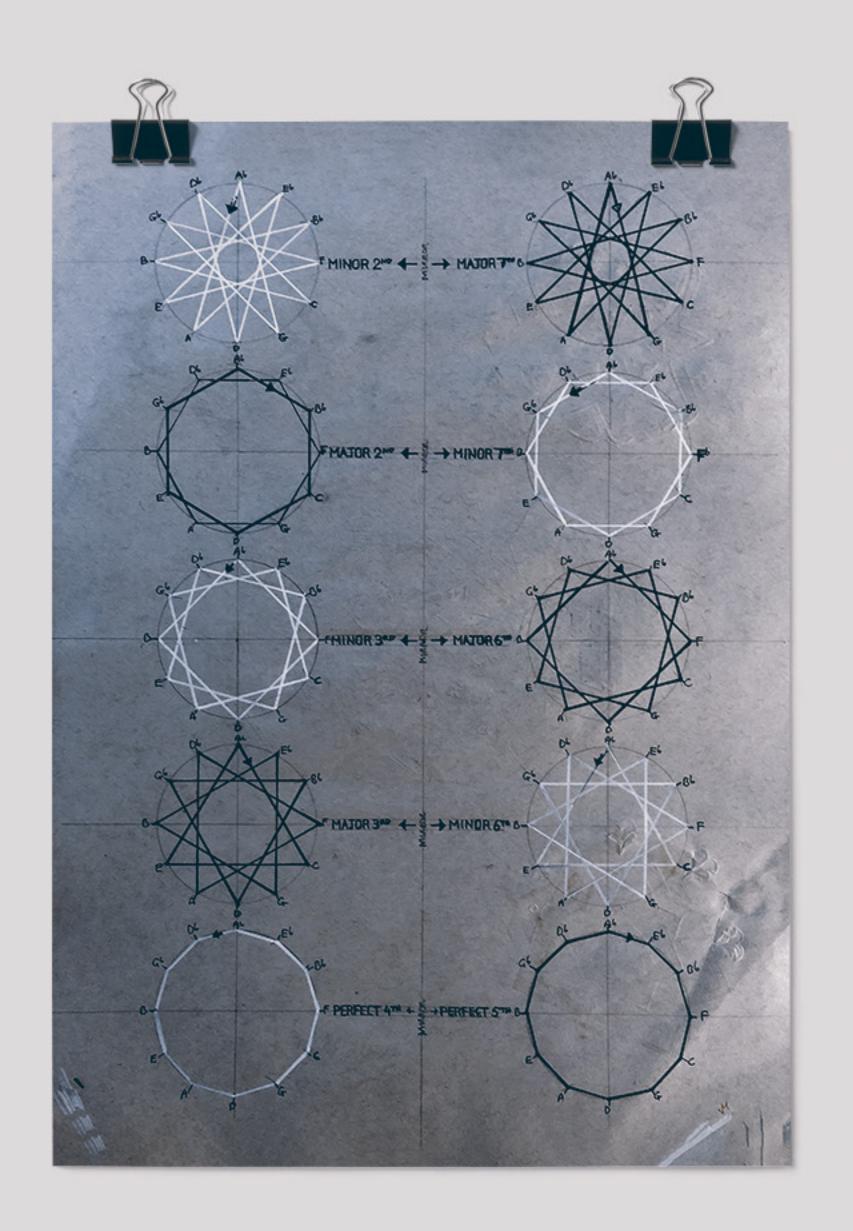
Pythagorean Wheel

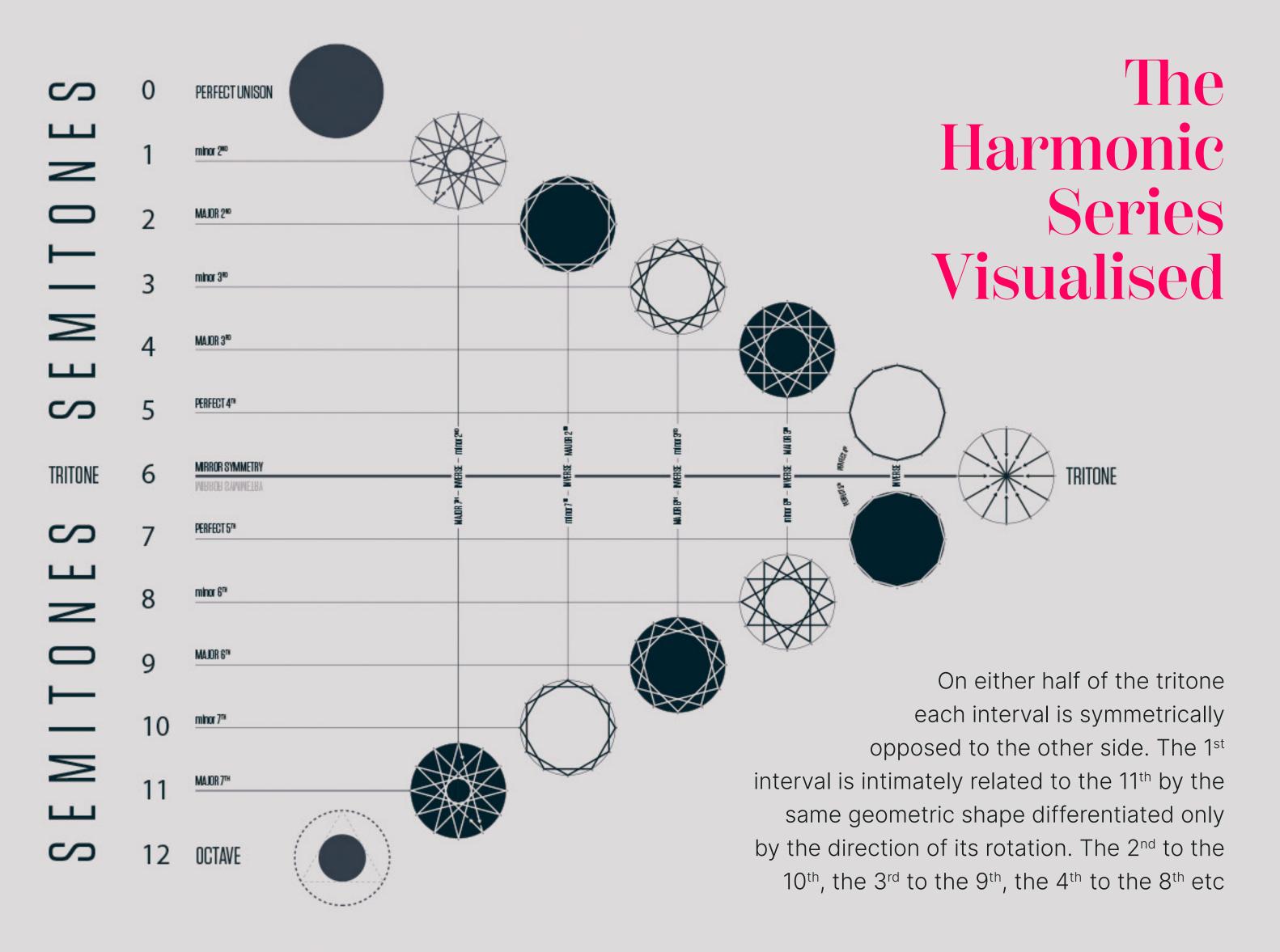


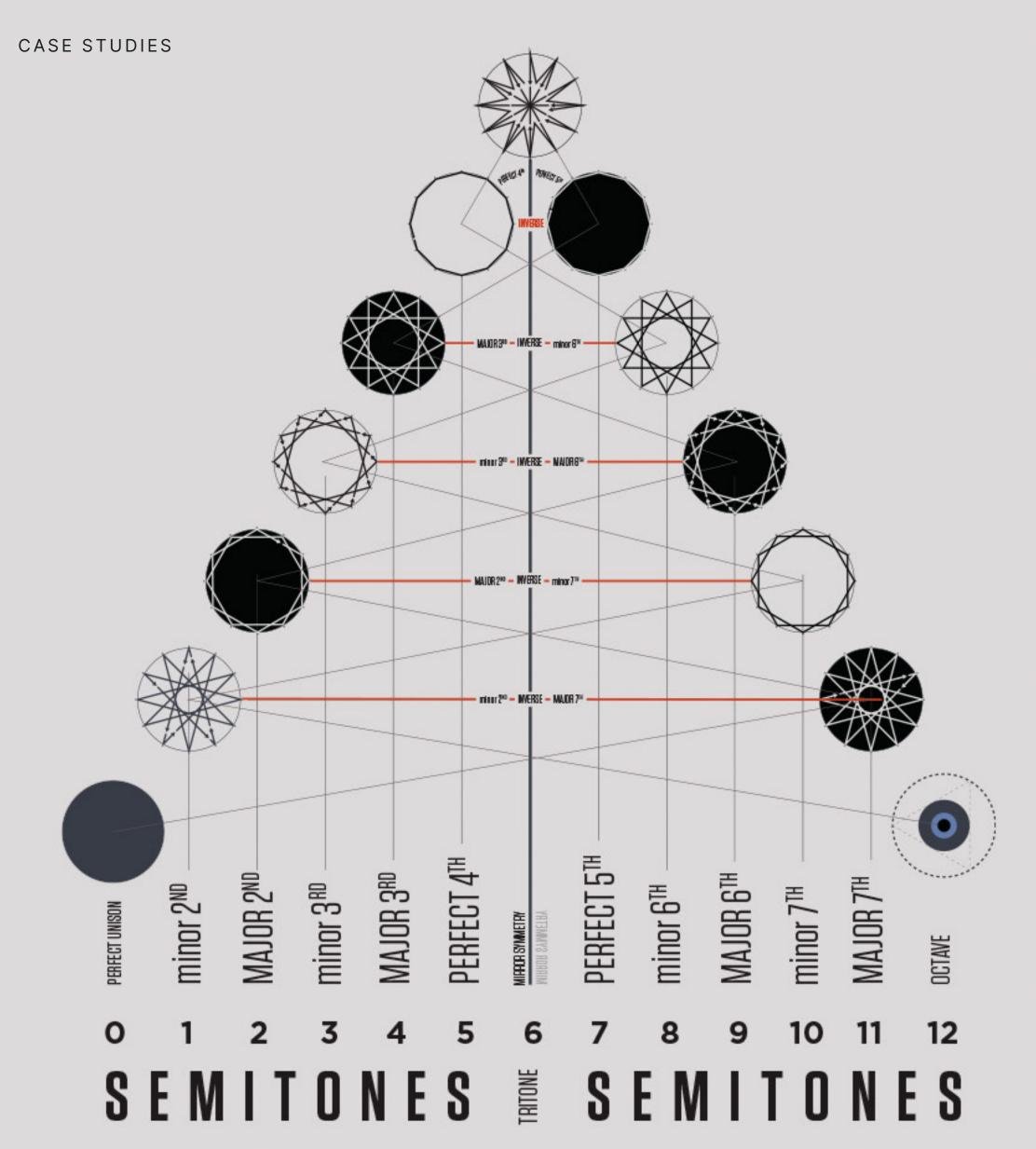
Geometric framework for the Ionian scale in music.

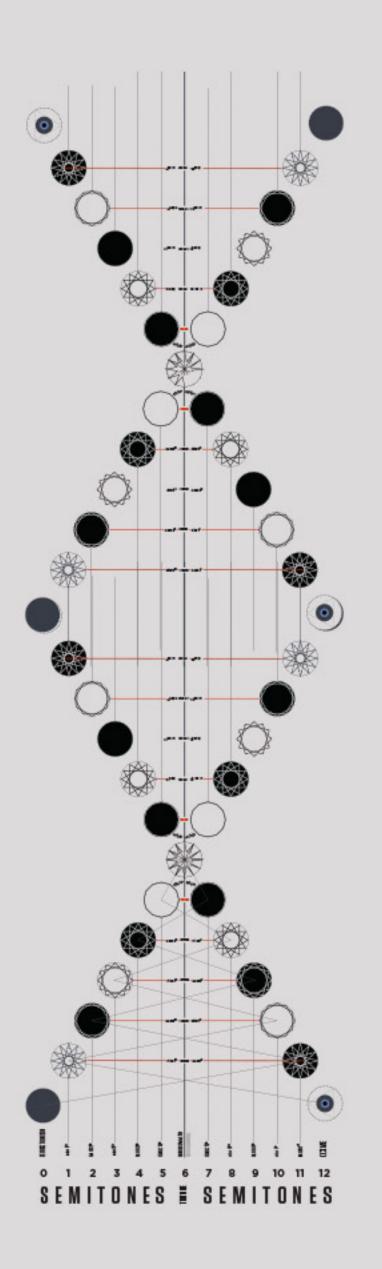


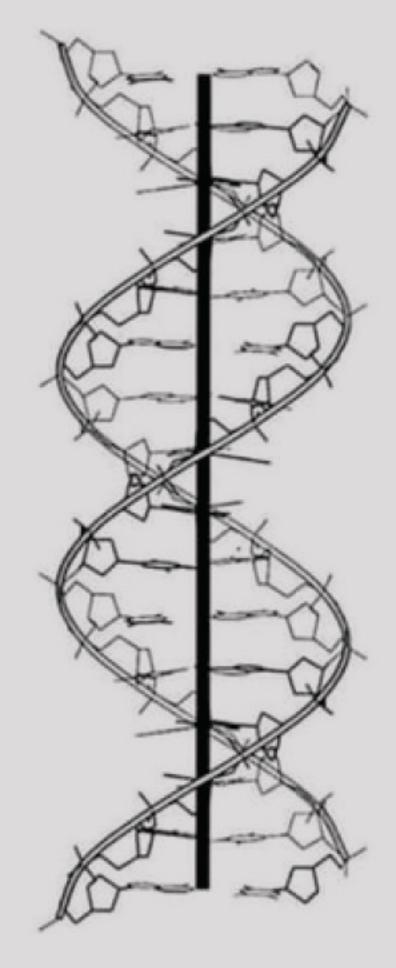
Geometric framework for the Dorian scale in music. Chromatic layout.



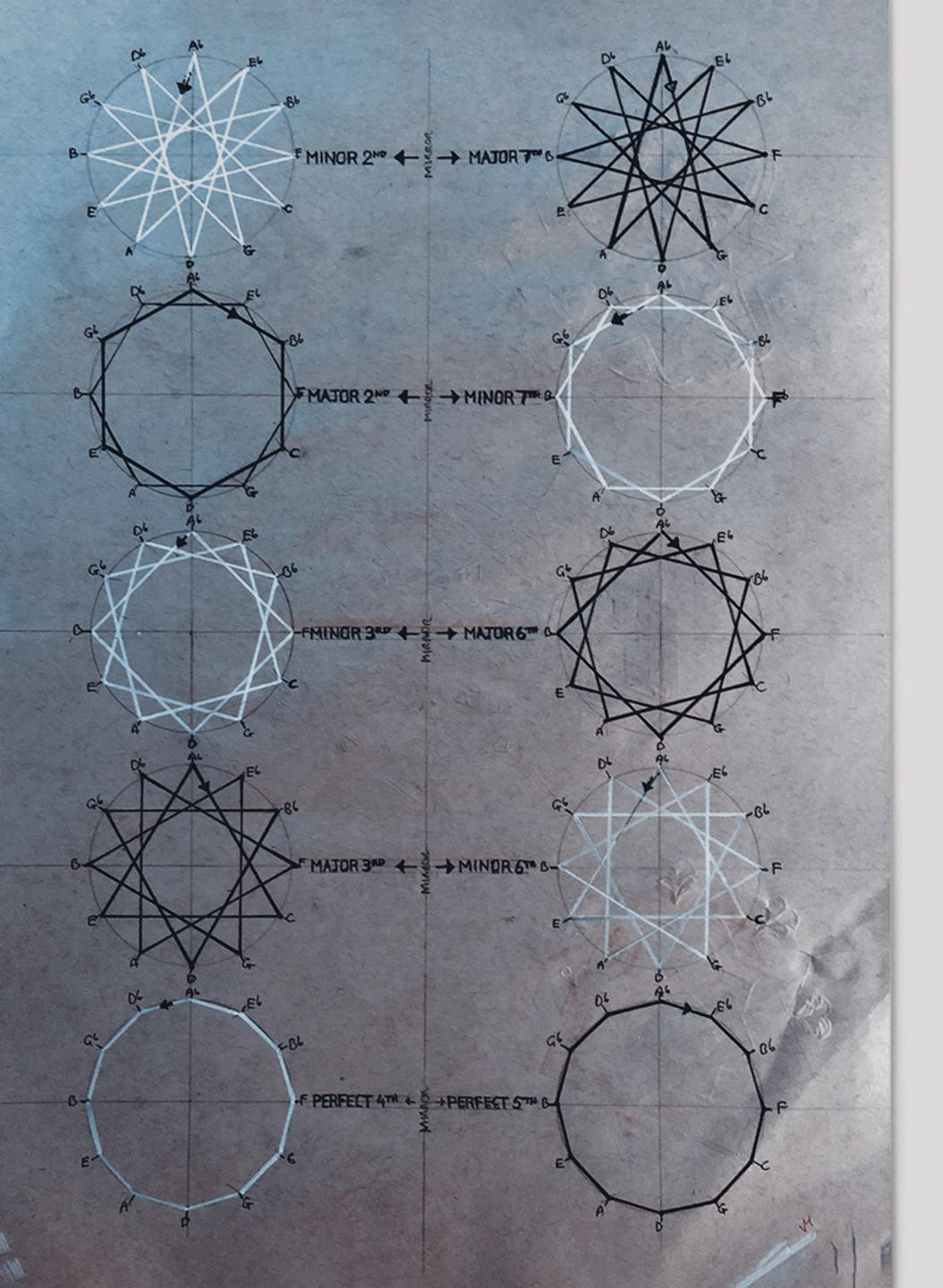


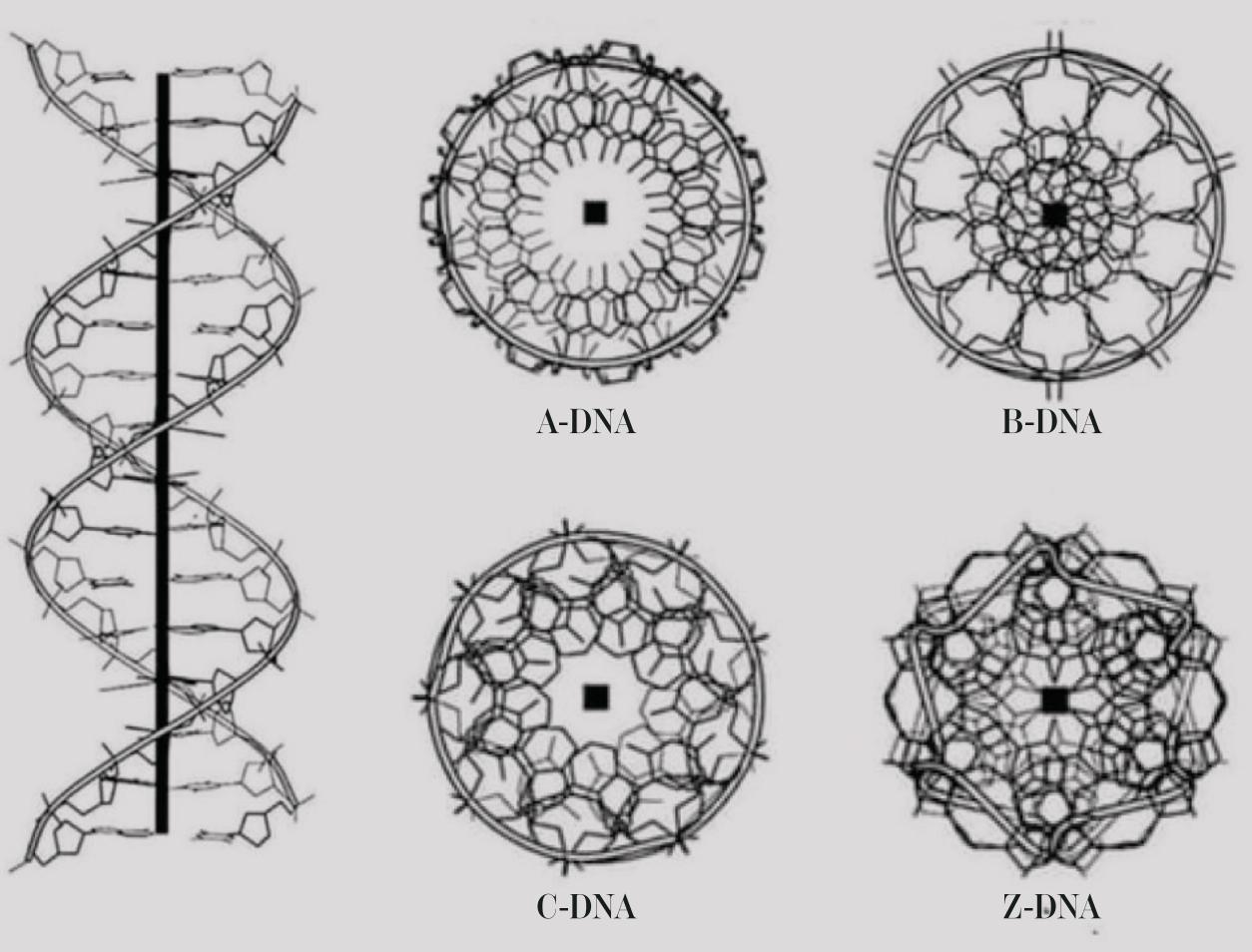






The Harmonic Series is a cross section of a Fibonacci spiral. The pattern is instantly recognizable. The same harmonic principles govern both forms!





Musical DNA

Harmonic Physics merges with Quantum Physics and Genetics!

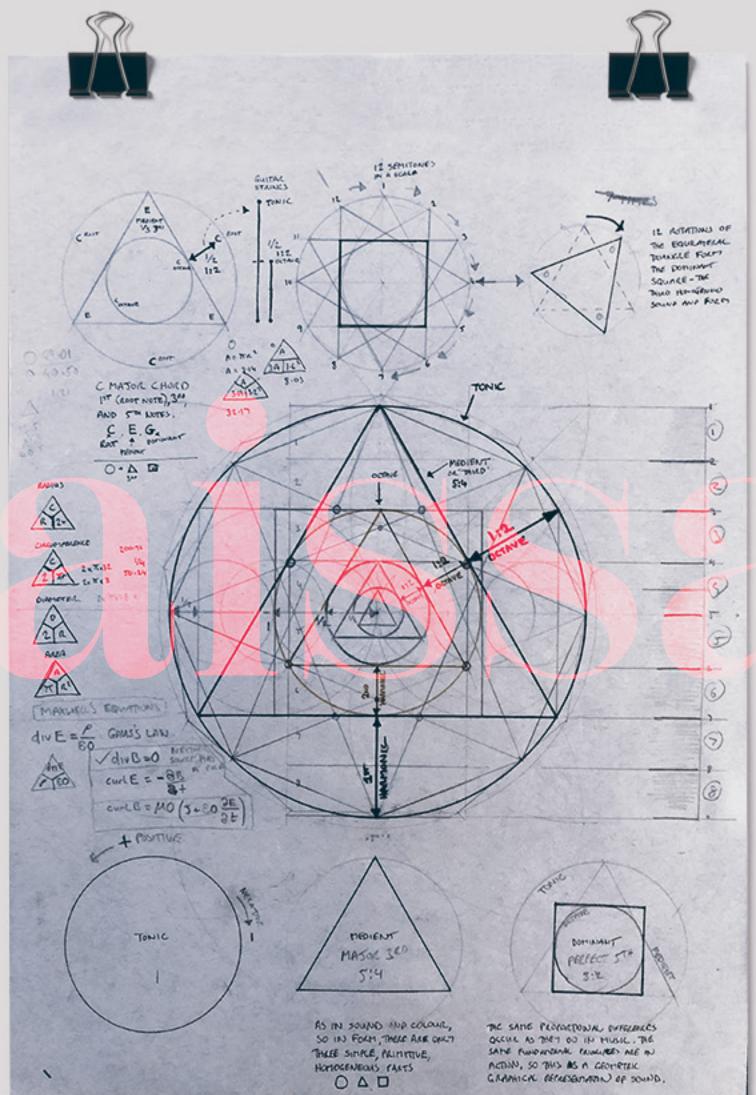
CASE STUDIES CAPABILITIES DECK

Where have we seen these Harmonic Principles before?

Graphic created by hand and guided with a compass









Catholic cathedral tracery windows are Cymatic patterns of sound! St. Andrews Cathedral in Victoria uses the geometrical octave for its composition.



Testimonials

TESTIMONIALS CAPABILITIES DECK





We hired Ross to do a visual redesign of our community arts calendar and directory ArtsVictoria.ca. Ross went above and beyond of what was requested of him and not only solved all of our design challenges with thoughtful and insightful solutions but he developed a simple but beautiful brand identity and a powerful and unique visual language that integrates into every aspect of the site. As someone who has worked closely with many different designers I can safely say that I have never been so impressed with the quality and thoughtfulness of Ross's work.

Nev Gibson

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

LIVEVICTORIA.COM / THE INDIVISION NETWORK

TESTIMONIALS CAPABILITIES DECK



For the last several years, Ross was the Graphic Designer for our company, Network Entertainment, an international film and television production company. Over the course of Ross's employment, he built multiple websites for the company, designed and produced sales pitch books for the development team, key art, posters, and digital assets, along with providing on-screen graphics for over eleven of the company's films and series.

Ross's involvement with the sales and development team spanned multiple creative projects, and his dedication to

consistent company branding was key. His photography skills were also occasionally enlisted for promotion and media, including the red carpet premiere of *I Am Heath Ledger*, in Los Angeles. Ross's role required flexibility, working overtime, multi-tasking, delivering within tight deadlines, and taking direction from key creatives at the company.

Ross is an exceptionally talented graphic designer who takes great pride in his creative work, and we wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

Paul Gertz

PRESIDENT & COO

NETWORK ENTERTAINMENT

Now you know what a Graphic Designer can do for the film industry.

Let's take your project to the next level.



Let's create something memorable.

Ross Alexander Whelan

create@rossalexanderwhelan.com



