

Nick Blackford

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PROFILE

I've been obsessed with digital design since I discovered Jasc Paint Shop Pro in 1997. Things have moved on a lot since then and today I'm a Product Designer with experience working in-house at Disney, Pottermore, Sony PlayStation and D.C. Thompson's Findmypast. I love to problem-solve, make things look beautiful and improve user experiences. I also love to read, write, play videogames and watch movies. When there's time I enjoy a bit of drawing too.

SKILLS

- Adobe Creative Suite
- Sketch
- Invision
- Final Cut Pro
- Strong copy writing
- Highly proficient in hand drawing
- Strong communication skills
- Creative all-rounder
- Team player
- Self motivating

EXPERIENCE

January 2017 - Current



Product Designer | Findmypast

I've specialised in discovery along with user-centered and agile design processes. I've worked by hand, with Sketch, Invision and the Adobe Creative Suite to produce design concepts at a varying degree of fidelity. I've been more involved in the discovery process in this role, interviewing users to prove or disprove assumptions and design accordingly.

October 2014 - January 2017

Digital Designer | Playstation (SIEE)



At Sony Interactive Entertainment Europe I created, managed and delivered creative content for playstation.com and for all supported European territories. I helped to maintain the high level of creativity, consistency and quality expected from the PlayStation brand.

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July 2012 – October 2014

Designer | Pottermore



I joined Pottermore as their first in-house designer. My responsibilities included using Adobe Fireworks and Photoshop to design for Pottermore and its retail platform, the Pottermore Shop. I created brand guidelines and implemented them across all channels. I also managed a Junior Designer, worked across physical poster campaigns, presentations, and video production.

May 2011 – July 2012

Creative Producer | Disney



Seven months after joining Disney as an Assistant Creative Producer I was promoted to Creative Producer. My responsibilities included designing and managing all online creative content for the UK, French and German websites for Disney Store. I also managed a Junior Designer.

April 2008 – May 2011

Junior Digital Designer | KEO films



I was promoted to a position as a designer for KEO digital after eight months. I created the graphics for and authorised retail DVDs for River Cottage and worked in promoting various TV productions through online channels.

EDUCATION

University of Sussex | 2004 – 2007

BA 2:1, English Literature & Media Studies

Central Saint Martins College of Art & Design | 2002

Foundation Diploma, Fine Art Moving Image

Hampstead Secondary School | 1997– 2002

A LEVEL, English (A), Media Studies (A), Art (A)