# **MICKEY ROSSI**

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# Hello!

I'm a design professional with 20 years of experience. I've managed multidisciplinary creative teams and designed for large consumer sites like AOL and EarthLink at the heights of their influence, and I've been a creative jack-of-all-trades for startups in the entertainment and consumer spaces. I've done everything from user interface and user experience, to illustration and video, to usability and focus groups. I'm passionate about making products easier to use and making technology accessible to everyone.

## THRUST INTERACTIVE, RIOT GAMES, ETC.

#### 2013-2015

I'm currently working as a Creative Director and UI/UX resource for Thrust Interactive, Riot Games, and others, primarily focused on designing games and apps for iOS and Droid, along with video production, identity packages, website design, marketing, strategy, and other creative projects. I work with internal stakeholders, external clients, and help to manage resources domestically and abroad. Often, I'm the sole creative resource responsible for everything from user interface and flows, to graphic design and illustration, to marketing and promotion. I've recently worked on apps for the NCAA & HLN, and a recent project for Thrust Interactive, Words & Cards, got a coveted 'Featured App' position in the App Store.



## FACE THE FANS

#### 2012-2013

Creative Director at a social gaming startup. FaceTheFans combines the social gaming of Facebook with the star power of celebrity. You play with real stars in a fantasy-sports style game against real celebrities. After joining FaceTheFans, I overhauled the interface, improved the art and design, produced assets, and worked with celebrities to implement customized avatars and environments suitable to their persona. We experienced great engagement times, with players spending an average of 420 minutes per month and an average revenue per paying user of \$7.55.



## KANEVA

#### 2009-2012

Creative Director at a startup 3D virtual world and social network. Responsible for the user experience of the client application and its supporting website and tools. Kaneva has seen a number of creative directions, my task was to bring those various styles into a single cohesive look-and-feel, instituting processes to ensure greater consistency going forward and to improve overall usability. I defined consistent processes for content producers, and designed tools for the users of Kaneva to be able to participate in content creation. I worked closely with Product Management and Executives to increase acquisition and retention.



## **MODOSPORTS**

#### 2008-2009

Creative Director for a sports-themed children's virtual world played in a web browser via Flash. Responsible for creative vision, user experience, style guide, interface architecture, game design, and the asset production pipeline. Managed and directed internal resources, offshore and domestic animators, modelers and illustrators. Defined and designed several Flash-based minigames. A startup with a small in-house team meant a hands-on role. In addition to the management responsibilities, I designed, illustrated, documented, modeled, and programmed a substantial portion of the content.



Director of the Interface Design Department. Led a team of Interface Architects, Graphic Designers, Technical Writers, Markup Engineers, and built and managed the Usability Labs. Some of my responsibilities included ownership of the user experience for EarthLink's and PeoplePC's customer-facing client and web applications, collaboration with Product Management, Development, Marketing, Support and others, budgetary and resource decision making for the department, strategic participation in future product ideation and process improvement programs, and managing of third party design and development. During my tenure, EarthLink achieved the highest ranking in the JD Powers Customer Satisfaction Survey.



Art Director for the Product Design Group and responsible for many of the core products used by over 35 million AOL members. Hired, managed and mentored a multidisciplinary team. Identified requirements and defined look-and-feel of the core product line. Partnered with senior management to produce company-wide strategies. Improvements to AOL Search alone achieved a revenue jump from \$85 million to \$230 million. Products included: AOL Search, AOL Instant Messenger (AIM), AOL Calendar, You've Got Pictures, AOL's Community product line, AOL.COM, the AOL Welcome Screen, Digital City, Parental Controls and many more.

### **BEFORE THE INTERNET**

#### 1987-2000

I spent several years as part of a two-person design studio, DKG Design, and it's here that I started working with AOL on offline and online products. I met with clients, developed concepts, coordinated with vendors, designed and programmed multimedia CD-ROMs, produced illustrations and animations. Clients included: America Online, Britches of Georgetowne and STX Lacrosse.

Before that, I was part of a small in-house design team for Coming Attractions, a sportswear manufacturer. I designed and developed graphics and apparel for clients including Reebok, Adidas, Puma, New Balance, Champion, Avia, Russell Athletic, Calvin Klein, Le Coq Sportif. Izod Lacoste, Van Doren Footwear (Vans), The National Zoo, The Smithsonian Institution and MTV.

I started my design career as half of a two-person design team for a small screenprinting shop where I designed and developed graphics for t-shirts and sweatshirts. Clients included: The Washington Redskins and The 17th Street Surf Shop.







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