

Christopher Wigan

Ringmaster/Creative Director

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WHO I AM

I'm an award winning entrepreneur who excels at spotting opportunities and making them happen. A creative problem solver, a proactive 'do-er' who knows how to get a job done. With over 25 years industry experience, I am a strategic, creative and commercial leader and entrepreneur with proven experience of start ups.

I pride myself on being a passionate, enthusiastic and charismatic individual and team leader who is:

- Focused: Experienced at providing direction across multi-disciplinary teams
- Organised: Adept at managing complex logistical & organisational challenges
- Motivational: A dynamic team player. Inspiring & maximising a team's potential
- Results driven: Proven delivery of commercial solutions adding to the bottom line
- Entrepreneurial: Developing businesses and turning ideas into profitable realities.

WHAT I DO

I have proven experience in the following areas:

- Developing new ideas that can transform and disrupt the status quo
- Providing innovative solutions that solve business problems and increase revenue
- Finding better ways to do things in terms of operational efficiencies
- Resolving complex organisational issues and putting systems in place
- Driving new initiatives within small budgets

WHAT I CAN OFFER

- Authentic leadership style: Leading with insight, initiative, influence, impact, integrity
- Over 25 years experience and insight gained from working with a diverse range of clients, successfully solving business challenges
- In-depth knowledge and understanding of advertising & media, brand management, design (on and offline), digital, strategy, marketing campaigns, planning & budgeting, client management, team and individual development, project and account management.
- First hand experience working both client and agency side giving a unique understanding of businesses and business requirements.

EDUCATION

- First Class BA Honours Degree in Graphic Design: Kingston University, London.
- BTEC Foundation in Art & Design, Northbrook College, Horsham, Sussex.
- Worth School, Sussex. (Lots of A levels, lots of GCSEs).

EMPLOYMENT/PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS/CAREER TO DATE

04.2011 – Present

Flying Fantastic – Aerial Fitness & Circus School: Founder & Director

Flying Fantastic is an award winning Aerial Fitness School with 4 venues across London, born from an accidental visit to a circus school in Argentina which sparked the dream of making aerial arts and circus skills as accessible to as wide an audience as possible.

We now have 2 purpose built aerial venues which I designed, implemented and managed the build. We have 40 members on the team who teach over 100 classes to over 800 students a week. (Pre COVID-19!)

More information about Flying Fantastic can be found at: www.flyingfantastic.co.uk

As the MD and Ringmaster, I am responsible for:

- The day to day smooth running of the company
- The design and build of two purpose built studios
- Managing a team of approx 40 people
- Payroll, VAT and keeping an eye on company's finances from day to day
- Company formation, registration and returns
- Annual scratch nights and other shows and events
- HR including contracts, reviews and recruitment
- Marketing, PR and branding
- Design and maintenance of website and social media channels
- Delivery of App and installation of booking system
- Operations, maintenance and day to day management of both studios

Awards

- 2013 Federation of Small Business Award for 'Most Entrepreneurial Company'
- 2015 Federation of Small Business Award for 'Best New Business'
- Telegraph Top 10 Fitness Trends
- Tatler Gym of the Year awards 2016, 2017, 2018

09.1996 – 04.2015

Creative Director / Graphic Design Roles

2013 – 2015: **Ideas Factory** – Branding & Design Agency: Managing Director

2009 – 2013: **Provokateur** – Ethical Comms Agency: Creative director & Manager

2007 – 2008: **Calling Brands** – Global Branding Agency: Creative Director

2003 – 2007: **Antidote** – Integrated Comms Agency: Design director & Cofounder

2001 – 2003: **Circus** – Advertising Agency: Senior Designer / Art Director

1997 – 2001: **Johnson Banks** – Branding and Design Agency: Graphic Designer

1996 – 1997: **Chevignon (Paris)** – Fashion Label: Graphic Designer

Leaving University with a first class degree in Graphic Design, I headed to France to embark on a Graphic Design career that would span 25 years. Working my way up from a Junior Designer, through the ranks and resulting in my running and managing the creative departments for both design and advertising agencies for over 15 years.

I have worked with clients large and small, and have extensive experience in a number of sectors including the Third Sector, the Arts, Property, F&B, Telecommunications, Oil & Gas, Professional services, Education and Retail.

An overview of my design portfolio can be seen at: www.christopherwigan.com

Awards:

Over the years my work has won a number of awards and accolades. These include: Transform Awards – Gold & Bronze, Work included in D&AD Annuals, Work shortlisted for Design Week awards, 'Design Week' Posters of the year, RSA Graphic Design Award

NOTABLE CHARITY WORK

In my role at Provokateur – an ethical communications agency – Over a 4 year period, I managed the company, as well as overseeing the creative output for charity clients, NFP companies, as well as ethical organisations and social enterprises. Clients included: Greenpeace, Tearfund, The Samaritans, Christian Aid, Marie Stopes International, IFAW, Macmillan and Oxfam.

In 2019 I cofounded Open Aerial. A charity set up to make circus arts accessible for all and to significantly improve the physical and mental health of children, young people and adults of all ages in the community. As part of our work, and in collaboration with The Arts Council, we coordinate and manage residencies for creative companies to generate performances for audiences with special needs requirements and hard to reach groups.

More information on Open Aerial can be found at: www.openaerial.org.uk

Other relevant mentions:

Safe Passage UK – Fundraising for Guatemalan Kids Charity: Trustee and Secretary

A year working with Argentinian charities – Hogar San Pablo, Habitat for Humanity

INTERESTS AND OTHER INFORMATION

I am a passionate believer that design, creativity and innovation can change the world. As a consequence, I have always been enthusiastic about good design, though my interest in new and innovative ideas extends beyond the workplace. Thanks to a new year's resolution some years back, I have a yearly commitment and a passion to take on new challenges and this has resulted in my becoming a circus performer, relocating to Argentina for a year, becoming fluent in Spanish, learning to code websites, a qualified USPTR Tennis Coach, a member of Mensa, a qualified SCUBA diver, a green belt Tae-Kwon-Do, a holder of the prestigious Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award, a vintner, a qualified first aider, and a NVQ level 1 mechanic among other things.

References available on request