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# Table of Contents

Who is Nick Shinn?	1
Merlin Typeface	2,3,4
Shinn's Education	5
Fontesque Typeface	6,7,8,9
Speak Up Interview	10,11
Alphaville	12,13
Conclusion	14

# Merlin Regular

Aa Bb Cc Dd  
Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii  
Jj Kk Ll Mm  
Nn Oo Pp Qq  
Rr Ss Tt Uu  
Vv Ww Xx Yy  
Zz

“Dude, time for  
a kickass Goth  
monstrosity”.

-Nick Shinn

## Who is Nick Shinn?

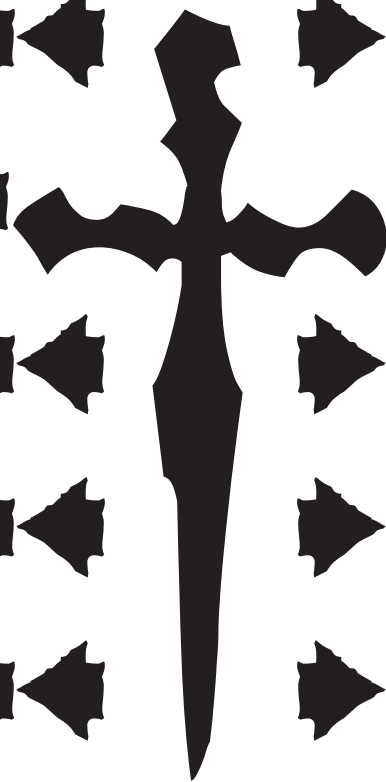
Nick Shinn is a Canadian typeface designer who has created many fonts and has created a name for himself in the graphic design/typography community. He has created stunning fonts such as Fontesque, Paradigm, Gambado, Boxley, Alphaville, and many more. He still makes many typefaces to this day and is constantly pursuing his passion as a type designer. He has had a lot of experience in the digital world of media, and a lot of his past careers and experiences have led him to become who he is today.

## Merlin Bold

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk  
Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu  
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

## Merlin Italic

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll  
Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww  
Xx Yy Zz





## Shinn's Education

Shinn went to Bedford School in England. It is a public school, and he acquired a Dip.AD in Fine Art in 1974. He also received education at Leeds Art University in England, but it is not clear how long he was there or what kind of degree he pursued. Shinn taught a type design course at York University and Humber College in Toronto. Shinn has spoken at design conferences such as ATypI, TypeCon, Graphika, TYPO Berlin, and the TYPO San Francisco conferences.

# The Fontesque Family

## Fontesque Regular

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

## *Fontesque Regular Italic*

*Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

## Fontesque Bold

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

## Fontesque Extra Bold

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

## *Fontesque Bold Italic*

*Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm  
Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz*

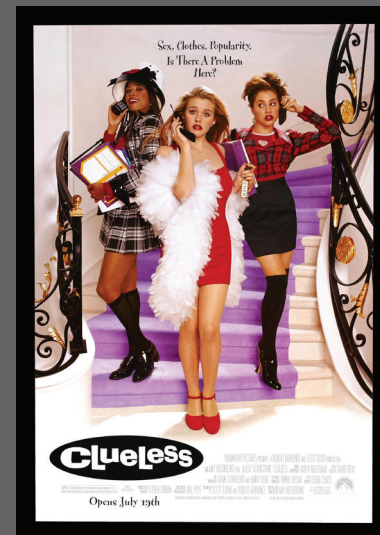
# Fontesque History

Fontesque, being one of Shinn's most popular fonts, has been seen across many products, titles, and advertisements. Shinn mentions, "Seeing my typefaces in real applications makes me high". The way that Fontesque came to be was a spark of inspiration of others works. Shinn was at an event that was held up by David Michaelides of FontShop Toronto in the Fall of 1993 (Nick Shinn). British designer and typographer Neville Brody and type designer Matthew Carter presented the work they have made. It was very motivating for him to see such contrasting versions of type design, and it looked like they were just doing whatever they wanted. He then asked himself why he couldn't also do his own thing. He then sketched out the beginning of what Fontesque came to be. It was supposed to be very quick and in one "performance". He wanted to show an intuitive sense of letter form.



Theatrical release poster. The tagline "Sex, Clothes, Popularity. Is There A Problem Here?" is set in FF Fontesque

"Interview with the typographer", from Graphis Digital Fonts, 1996



# An Interview with Speak Up

**Speak Up:** Do you have any new projects you are currently working on?

**Shinn:** Death to Helvetica!

**Speak Up:** Could you fill us in on this?

**Shinn:** Helvetica is the #1 selling typeface at MyFonts. It's given away with every operating system. It's the corporate face of the multinationals, be they the Gap or Getty Images. But it's only one of the many old sans fonts that dominate today's typography. What does this say about the present age, when its spirit is best expressed by vintage and traditional sans faces? It speaks of a fascist aesthetic—banal, conventional, monolithic and utilitarian. In 1923 Paul Renner designed Futura, which he termed “The Typeface of Our Time” The typeface now known as Helvetica is a rip-off of Akzidenz Grotesk (1898), itself derived from faces originally designed in London in the 1830s: it a typeface of the 19th century, not the 21st.

Helvetica must die!

From <https://www.underconsideration.com/speakup/interviews/shinn.html>

die! must die! mus  
etica Helvetica Hely  
die! must die! mus  
etica Helvetica Hely  
die! must die! mus  
etica Helvetica Hely  
die! must die! mus  
etica Helvetica Hely



## Alphaville Regular

Aa Bb Cc  
Dd Ee Ff Gg  
Hh Ii Jj Kk  
Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr  
Ss Tt Uu Vv  
Ww Xx Yy  
Zz

## Alphaville Bold

**Aa Bb Cc  
Dd Ee Ff Gg  
Hh Ii Jj Kk  
Ll Mm Nn  
Oo Pp Qq Rr  
Ss Tt Uu Vv  
Ww Xx Yy  
Zz**

# Alphaville

Another one of his popular typefaces is Alphaville. This font has a futuristic, technologically advanced, and curvy look. It combines digital and print aspects into the font, which match very well and add a lot of contrast. It has minimal stroke weight variations, which also tie in nicely with the technological feel of the font.

The rounded edges and subtle amount of sharp edges also give it a humanistic approach.

It is a clear monoweight font.

# Conclusion

Nick Shinn has been able to prove himself with all the experiences he has had. His background as an artist, writer, teacher, art director, and graphic designer is represented throughout his decades' worth of work. He enjoys experimenting with new technology. Shinn has been able to keep the balance between the new technology we see in society and traditional styles he has done well in the past (Shinn). Shinn's main motivation to create all these typefaces is that typography has been dominated by old sans serif faces (Shinn). The passion he has to create is very obvious, and he is driven to be a problem solver. He continues to create and share his work in the digital world and does not seem to be stopping anytime soon. He works to inspire other type designers and see what they will bring to the table.



