Harnish Ambaliya - Portfolio Website

Complete Management Guide
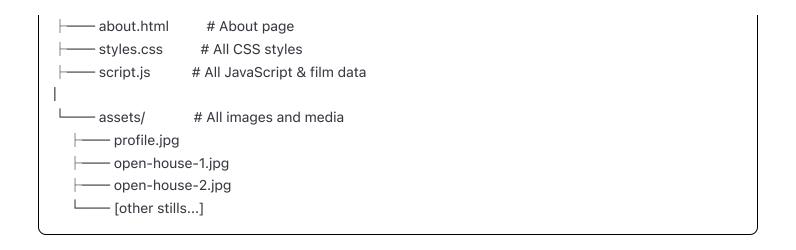

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Project Overview

This is a portfolio website for cinematographer Harnish Ambaliya. The site features:

- Portfolio gallery with filtering by category
- Individual film detail pages
- About page with biography
- Responsive design for all devices
- Image modal/lightbox functionality
- Support for YouTube, Vimeo, or stills-only projects

Tech Stack: HTML, CSS (vanilla), JavaScript (vanilla) - No frameworks required

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File Structure

```
project/
|
├─── index.html      # Homepage with portfolio grid
├─── film.html       # Template for individual film pages
```

```
├──── about.html        # About page
├──── styles.css        # All CSS styles
├──── script.js         # All JavaScript & film data
|
└──── assets/           # All images and media
    ├──── profile.jpg
    ├──── open-house-1.jpg
    ├──── open-house-2.jpg
    └──── [other stills...]
```

Adding New Projects

Step 1: Prepare Your Assets

1. **Gather images** (minimum 2 stills per project, recommended 3-6)

2. **Name consistently:** `project-name-1.jpg`, `project-name-2.jpg`, etc.

3. **Optimize images:**
   - Recommended width: 1200-1600px

   - Format: JPG (quality 85-90%)

   - Keep file sizes under 500KB each

Step 2: Add Images to Assets Folder

Place all project images in the `assets/` folder.

Step 3: Add Film Strip to Homepage (index.html)

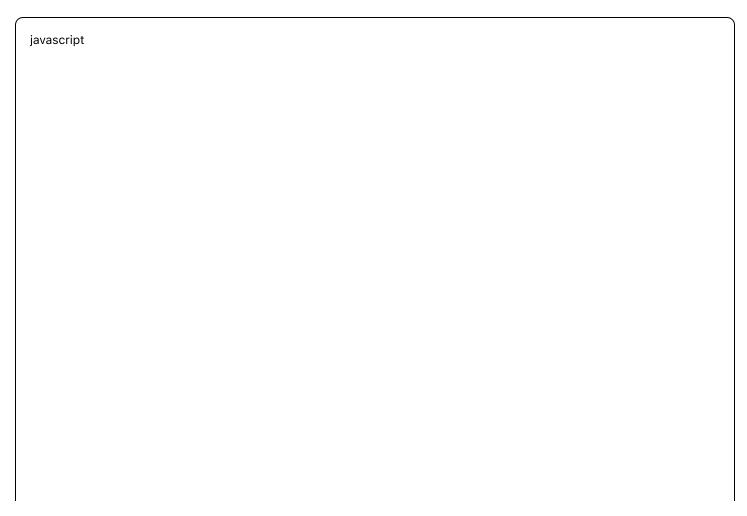Find the appropriate category section in `index.html` and add:

```html

```

```html
<!-- Example: Adding to Short Films section -->
<div class="film-strip" data-category="short" data-film="your-project-slug">
    <div class="film-frame">
        <img src="assets/your-project-1.jpg" alt="Your Project Frame 1" class="film-image">
        <img src="assets/your-project-2.jpg" alt="Your Project Frame 2" class="film-image">
        <div class="film-info">
            <h3>Your Project Title</h3>
            <p>Director Name • Production Company</p>
        </div>
    </div>
</div>
```

Important Notes:

- `data-category` must be: `feature`, `tv`, `short`, or `commercial`
- `data-film` is the unique slug (use lowercase, hyphens, no spaces)
- Use only 2 images in the film strip (these appear on hover)

Step 4: Add Film Data to script.js

Open `script.js` and find the `FILM_DATA` object. Add your new entry:

```javascript

```

```
'your-project-slug': {
    title: 'Your Project Title',
    type: 'Short Film',  // or 'Feature Film', 'TV Pilot', 'Commercial', 'Music Video'
    year: '2024',
    duration: '12 min',

    // VIDEO OPTIONS (choose ONE):
    // Option A: YouTube video
    youtubeId: 'dQw4w9WgXcQ',

    // Option B: Vimeo video
    // vimeoId: '123456789',

    // Option C: No video (stills only)
    // video: null,

    credits: {
        'Director': 'Director Name',
        'Production Company': 'Company Name',
        'Cinematographer': 'Harnish Ambaliya',
        'Producer': 'Producer Name'
        // Add any additional credits
    },

    stills: [
        'assets/your-project-1.jpg',
        'assets/your-project-2.jpg',
        'assets/your-project-3.jpg',
        'assets/your-project-4.jpg'
        // Add all your still images here
    ]
}
```

CRITICAL: The slug in this object (`'your-project-slug'`) MUST match the `data-film` attribute from Step 3.

Managing Images & Stills

Image Guidelines

Dimensions:

- Minimum width: 1200px

- Aspect ratio: 16:9 preferred (landscape)

- Can also use: 2.35:1 (cinematic), 4:3, 1:1

File Formats:

- JPG: Best for photographs (use 85-90% quality)

- PNG: Use only if you need transparency

- WebP: Modern format, smaller files (recommended if browsers support)

Optimization:

- Use tools like TinyPNG, ImageOptim, or Squoosh

- Target file size: 200-500KB per image

- Keep total page weight reasonable

Naming Convention

Always use lowercase letters, numbers, and hyphens only:

```
✅ GOOD: dead-pet-shark-1.jpg
❌ BAD:  Dead Pet Shark 1.JPG
❌ BAD:  dead_pet_shark_1.jpg
```

Adding More Stills to Existing Projects

1. Add new images to `assets/` folder

2. Open `script.js`

3. Find your project in `FILM_DATA`

4. Add new image paths to the `stills` array:

```javascript
stills: [
    'assets/project-1.jpg',
    'assets/project-2.jpg',
    'assets/project-3.jpg', // existing
    'assets/project-4.jpg', // NEW
    'assets/project-5.jpg'  // NEW
]
```

Adding Videos

YouTube Videos

1. Find your video's ID:
    - From URL `https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ`
    - The ID is: `dQw4w9WgXcQ` (everything after `v=`)

2. Add to your film data in `script.js`:

```javascript
youtubeId: 'dQw4w9WgXcQ',
```

Vimeo Videos

1. Find your video's ID:
    - From URL `https://vimeo.com/123456789`
    - The ID is: `123456789` (the numbers at the end)

2. Add to your film data in `script.js`:

```javascript
vimeoId: '123456789',
```

Stills-Only Projects (No Video)

For projects without video, either:

- Omit the video field entirely, OR
- Set `video: null`

```javascript

```

```
'dead-pet-shark': {
    title: 'Dead Pet Shark',
    type: 'Short Film',
    year: '2024',
    duration: '15 min',
    video: null,  // No video available
    credits: { ... },
    stills: [ ... ]
}
```

Important: The first still will be used as the featured image on the film page.

Updating Content

Changing About Page Text

Edit `about.html` and modify the text within the `<section class="about-story-section">` section.

Updating Contact Information

1. **Email:** In `about.html`, find:

```html
<a href="mailto:harnish@example.com">harnish@example.com</a>
```

Replace with your actual email.

2. **Social Links:** In `about.html`, find:

```html
<div class="social-links">
    <a href="#" target="_blank">Instagram</a>
    <a href="#" target="_blank">Vimeo</a>
    <a href="#" target="_blank">LinkedIn</a>
</div>
```

Replace `href="#"` with your actual social media URLs.

Changing Profile Photo

1. Replace `assets/profile.jpg` with your photo

2. Keep the filename the same, OR

3. Update the reference in about.html :

```html
<img src="assets/profile.jpg" alt="Harnish Ambaliya on set">
```

Modifying Credits

Open script.js , find your project, and edit the credits object:

```javascript
credits: {
    'Director': 'New Director Name',
    'Writer': 'Writer Name',  // Add new role
    'Producer': 'Producer Name'
    // You can add/remove roles as needed
}
```

Deployment Checklist

Before Going Live:

1. Fix Character Encoding Issues

Search and replace in ALL HTML files:

- â€¢ → · (bullet point)
- â€" → — (em dash)
- â€ → " or ' (quotes)

2. Replace All Placeholders

☐ Change 'YOUR_YOUTUBE_ID' to actual video IDs or video: null

☐ Update email from harnish@example.com

☐ Add real social media links (remove href="#")

☐ Verify all image paths are correct

3. Verify All Assets Exist

- [ ] Check every image in `assets/` folder loads
- [ ] Test `assets/profile.jpg` exists
- [ ] Confirm `assets/dead-pet-shark-main.jpg` exists (if using stills-only)

4. Test Functionality

- [ ] Click every film strip - does it load the film page?
- [ ] Test all category filters (Feature, TV, Short, Commercial)
- [ ] Test mobile hamburger menu
- [ ] Open image modal - can you navigate between images?
- [ ] Test video playback for each project

5. Browser Testing

Test in:

- [ ] Chrome/Edge
- [ ] Firefox
- [ ] Safari (desktop)
- [ ] Safari (iOS)
- [ ] Chrome (Android)

6. Performance

- [ ] Optimize all images (under 500KB each)
- [ ] Test page load speed
- [ ] Verify mobile performance

7. SEO & Meta Tags (Optional but Recommended)

Add to `<head>` of each page:

```html

```

```
<!-- Basic SEO -->
<meta name="description" content="Harnish Ambaliya - Director of Photography based in Los Angeles">
<meta name="keywords" content="cinematographer, director of photography, DP, film, Los Angeles">
<meta name="author" content="Harnish Ambaliya">

<!-- Open Graph for social sharing -->
<meta property="og:title" content="Harnish Ambaliya - Director of Photography">
<meta property="og:description" content="Award-winning cinematographer and producer">
<meta property="og:image" content="assets/social-share-image.jpg">
<meta property="og:url" content="https://yourwebsite.com">
```

Troubleshooting

Film Page Shows "Film Not Found"

Cause: Mismatch between `data-film` attribute and `FILM_DATA` key **Solution:** Ensure the slug matches exactly (case-sensitive, check hyphens)

Images Not Loading

Cause: Incorrect file path or file doesn't exist **Solution:**

1. Check spelling of filename
2. Verify file is in `assets/` folder
3. Check case sensitivity (use all lowercase)

Video Not Playing

Cause: Incorrect video ID or ID is still placeholder **Solution:**

1. Verify YouTube/Vimeo ID is correct
2. Test video URL directly in browser
3. Check for typos in `youtubeId` or `vimeoId`

Filter Not Working

Cause: `data-category` doesn't match expected values **Solution:** Use only: `feature`, `tv`, `short`, or `commercial`

Mobile Menu Not Opening

Cause: JavaScript not loading **Solution:**

1. Check browser console for errors
2. Verify `script.js` is linked correctly
3. Clear browser cache

Images Display Wrong on Film Page

Cause: First image used as featured when video exists **Solution:** In film data, ensure first still is your best/featured image

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Quick Reference Commands

Finding YouTube Video ID

From `https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ABC123xyz` → ID is `ABC123xyz`

Finding Vimeo Video ID

From `https://vimeo.com/987654321` → ID is `987654321`

Valid Category Types

- `feature` (Feature Films)
- `tv` (TV Pilots)
- `short` (Short Films)
- `commercial` (MV/Commercials)

Project Slug Format

- Use lowercase only
- Replace spaces with hyphens
- No special characters
- Example: "Dead Pet Shark" → `dead-pet-shark`

Support

If you encounter issues not covered in this guide:

1. Check browser console for JavaScript errors (F12 → Console tab)
2. Verify file paths are correct (case-sensitive on some servers)

3. Clear browser cache and test again

4. Test in a different browser

Version History

- **v1.0** – Initial website launch

- Current version uses vanilla HTML/CSS/JS for maximum compatibility

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Last Updated: September 2025