JAMES COLLINS
DEVELOPER • DESIGNER

CONTACT

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TECHNICAL SKILLS

DEVELOPMENT

- Full-stack development
- Responsive design
- Object-oriented programming
- Test-driven development
- Pair programming
- Version control with Git

Front End
- JavaScript
- React / React Native
- HTML 5
- CSS 3 and Sass/SCSS

Back End
- Node.js
- Express
- Webpack
- SQL

DESIGN

- Print design
- Photoshop retouching
- Typography
- Web and UI design
- Motion Graphics

Software
- Adobe Creative Suite (InDesign, Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects, XD)
- UXPin
- Figma

ABOUT ME

I am a full-stack developer and designer, and throughout my career I've been guided by these twin passions. I've loved coding since I was a boy writing text adventures in BASIC, and have always enjoyed the unique mix of creativity and problem-solving it requires. I have recently graduated from a coding bootcamp at Northcoders, where I've relished the challenge of mastering new, exciting technologies.

I also have over fifteen years' experience working in graphic design, creative skills I will bring to any future role, building beautiful websites and applications that excite and inform their users.

EXPERIENCE

TRAINEE DEVELOPER • Northcoders
September 2020 - January 2021

- I am a recent graduate of Northcoders coding bootcamp, a challenging but immensely rewarding programme teaching full-stack software development using in-demand technologies, including: JavaScript and Node.js, React, Express and SQL.

- Throughout the course we've employed industry best-practice, including version control with Git, test-driven development, and pair-programming (in person and remote).

Northcoders project #1: Meme What You Say
- A real-time, multiplayer iOS caption game built with React Native and Google Firebase.
- *Visit*: james-collins.netlify.app/pages/projects/meme.html
- *GitHub*: github.com/jimwcollins/meme-game

Northcoders project #2: NC News project
- A responsive, full-stack news site built with React, Express, Knex and a postgreSQL database.
- *Visit*: the-iris.netlify.app
- *GitHub*: github.com/jimwcollins/meme-game

PERSONAL PROJECTS
January – September 2020

- Seeking a new challenge, I began relearning web development. This reignited my love of coding and inspired me to enrol in Northcoders.

- I completed Udemy courses in HTML, CSS and responsive design; JavaScript; After Effects and motion graphics.

EDUCATION

NCTJ JOURNALISM
Harlow Journalism Centre
January 2003 – July 2003

- A journalism course with a focus on magazines and accreditation by the National Council for the Training of Journalists and the Periodicals Training Council.
- Distinction grades in design, subediting, news and feature writing.

BSc COMPUTER SCIENCE
University of Nottingham
September 1996 – May 1999

- A challenging, forward-thinking course covering concepts such as object-oriented programming, functional programming, user interface design and databases.
- Languages included Java, C++ and SQL.

3 A-LEVELS • 10 GCSES
1992 – 1996

Quinton House, Northampton

INTERESTS

Art/Design   Music   Photography

Gaming   Travel   Cycling

Literature   Writing   Cinema

Personal project #1: Portfolio site
- A personal profile website, built with HTML, Flexbox, CSS grids and JavaScript.
- *Visit*: james-collins.netlify.app
- *GitHub*: github.com/jimwcollins/portfolio

I also fulfilled a lifelong dream and completed my first novel.

FREELANCE DESIGN
October 2007 – December 2019

Freelance design for clients including Classic FM, XFM, Pan Macmillan and Chickenshed.

The key to great design is great communication. I collaborated closely with my clients to fully understand their needs, then used attractive, considered design to deliver their message to its audience with maximum clarity and impact.

Sole responsibility for the complete design cycle, from initial concept and design through to page layout, picture research and the production of print-ready PDFs.

Extensive use of Photoshop to manipulate/retouch images.

DESIGNER • Think Publishing
October 2003 – August 2007

Design of magazines, books and advertisements for clients including the Ramblers' Association, the Campaign to Protect Rural England and the Department for Transport.

Working individually and in collaboration with the design, editorial and advertising sales teams.

FILM CRITIC • The Weekly Fix
November 2002 – September 2003

Film reviews for 'The Weekly Fix', an information service for radio DJs.

WEBSITE DEVELOPER • Quidnunc
September 1999 – August 2002

Key team member developing websites for clients including M&S and the University of Cambridge.

I was also a member of the support team, dealing with challenging and often time-critical issues.

Extensive use of HTML, SQL and Java.