MyMovies-Angular App: a case study

Planning

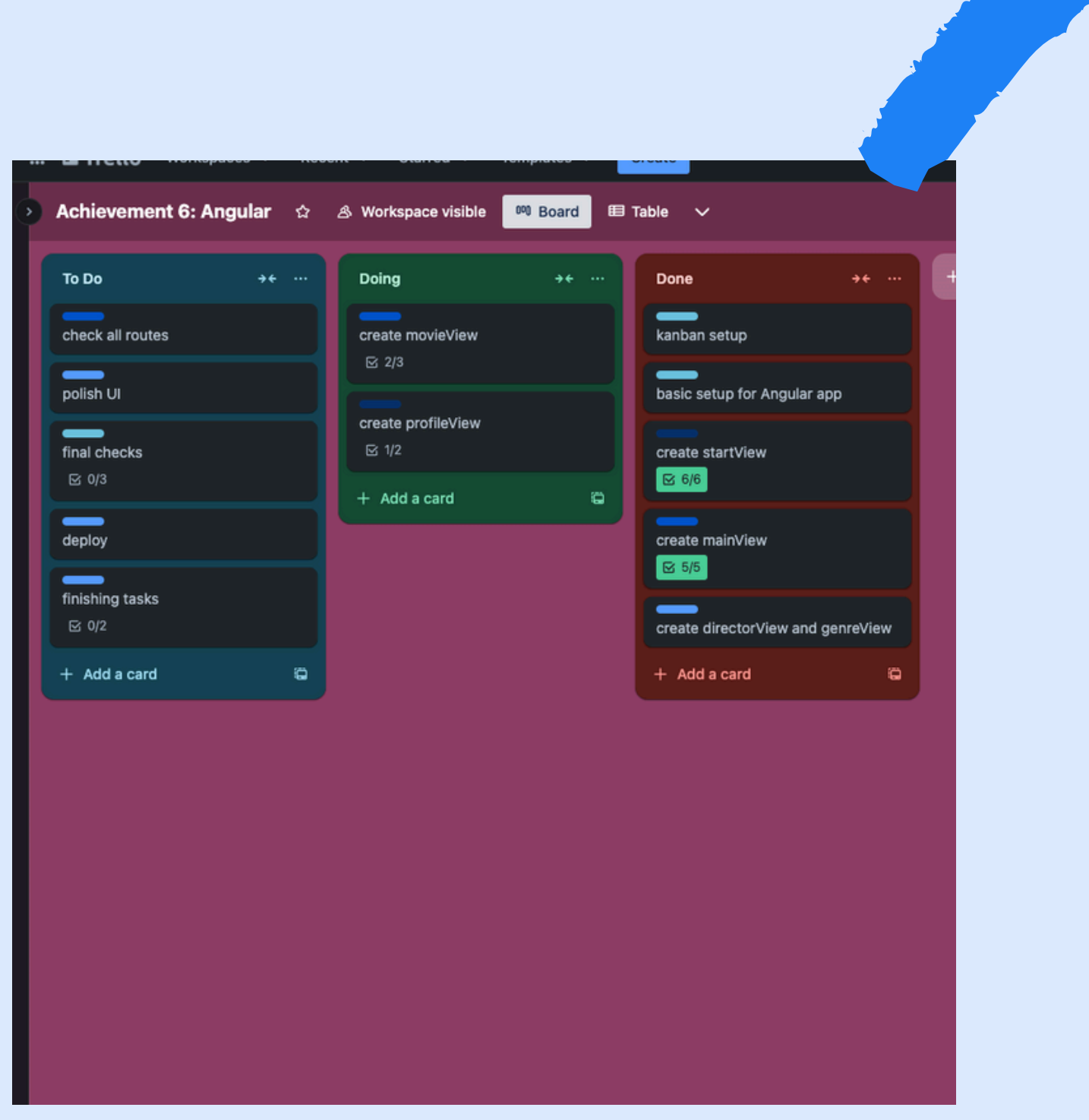
Objective:
The primary objective of this project was to explore Angular by rebuilding the frontend of the MyMovies-Server, a custom-built RESTful API from an earlier phase of my coding journey.

Conceptualization:
This MyMovies project was initially developed using React for the frontend. Out of a desire to expand my expertise and compare two major frontend frameworks, I rebuilt the frontend using Angular. This new frontend would be integrated with the RESTful API I had built for the original app (using MongoDB Atlas), and provide equal functionality. I also wanted this Angular app to be a SPA (Single Page App) with horizontal scrolling for users to have a similar experience to other popular movie apps. At this point, I used Trello to map out my Kanban board to maximize efficiency and guarantee a thorough build process.

Development

Structure:
As this was my first time using Angular CLI, I found “ng generate component” to be a very powerful tool. Using this to generate components, and chatGPT to generate some of the logic made building this app extremely efficient and fast. By utilizing these powerful dev tools, I could focus on making adjustments so it met project requirements, successfully connected to the API, and provided an intuitive and appealing UI for users. I initially structured this app using the <any> type, which my tutor helped me to understand undermines Angular’s benefit of catching errors during development; I then rewrote the structure according to best-practice.

Integration:
This is where most of the challenges lay in this project. One particularly tricky issue was the movie details dialog route, which didn’t work as expected. By referencing the other working routes and by troubleshooting with chatGPT, I was able to get this route working correctly. It also took a fair amount of troubleshooting and console.log additions to find the correct parameters to pass for functionalities such as addToFavorites and removeFromFavorites.



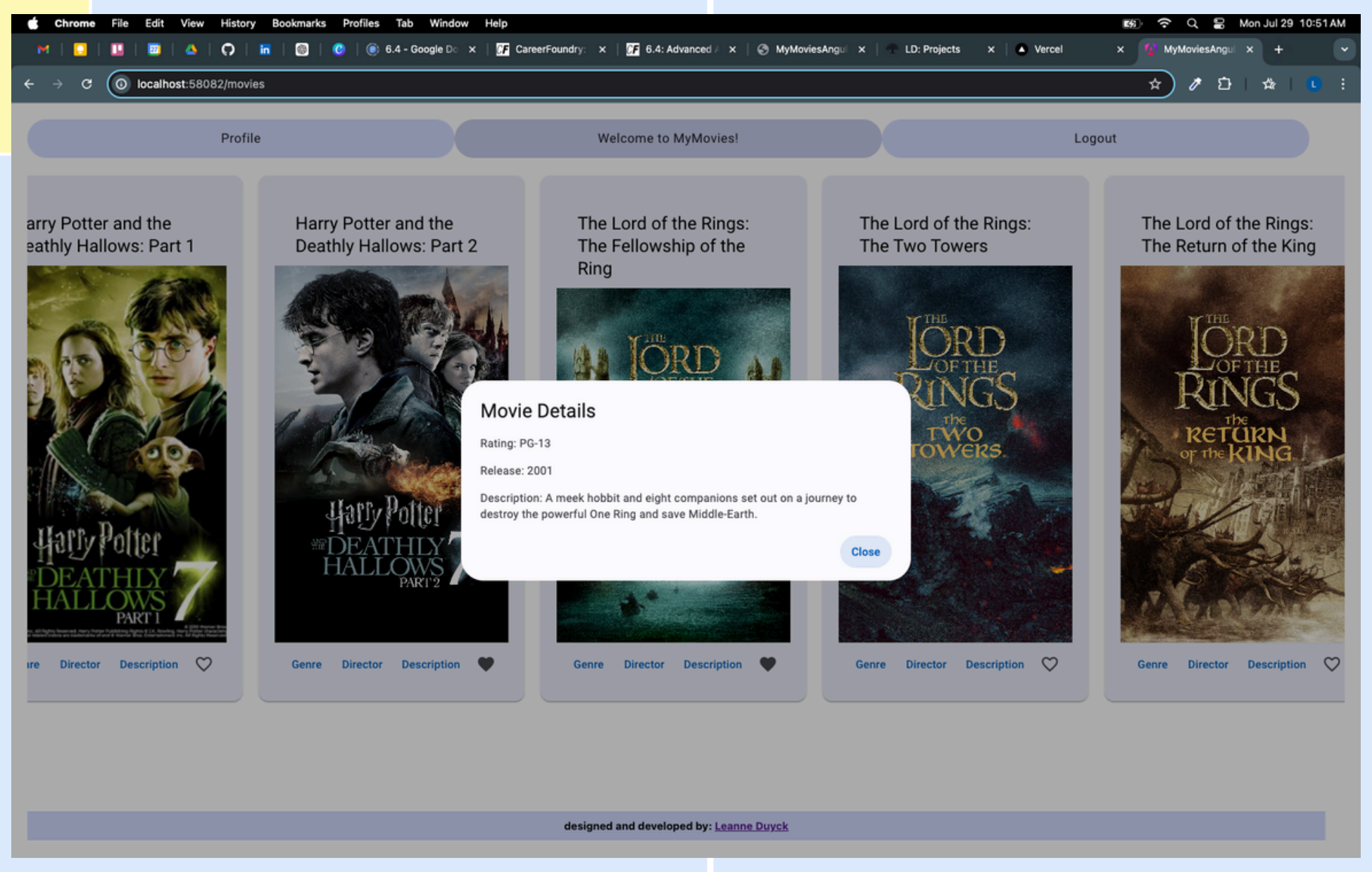
To Do
- check all routes
- polish UI
- final checks 0/3
- deploy
- finishing tasks 0/2

Doing
- create movieView 2/3
- create profileView 1/2

Done
- kanban setup
- basic setup for Angular app
- create startView 6/6
- create mainView 5/5
- create directorView and genreView

Design:
Using Angular Material to design this app was a delight. I really enjoyed creating a consistent, intuitive layout that mimics other popular movie apps where users scroll through movies horizontally. Crafting visually appealing movie cards and dialogs, along with implementing a fixed navbar and footer for easier navigation access, was particularly satisfying.

Deployment:
Once again, I chose to deploy using Vercel because it is awesome and I absolutely love that it auto-deploys every time I commit my GitHub repo. I also really enjoyed the peaceful deployment since all errors were caught in development because that’s how Angular is set up.


Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks Profiles Tab Window Help
Mon Jul 29 10:51 AM
localhost:58082/movies
Profile
Welcome to MyMovies!
Logout
Genre Director Description
Close

arry Potter and the eathly Hallows: Part 1

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring

The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers

The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

Movie Details

Rating: PG-13

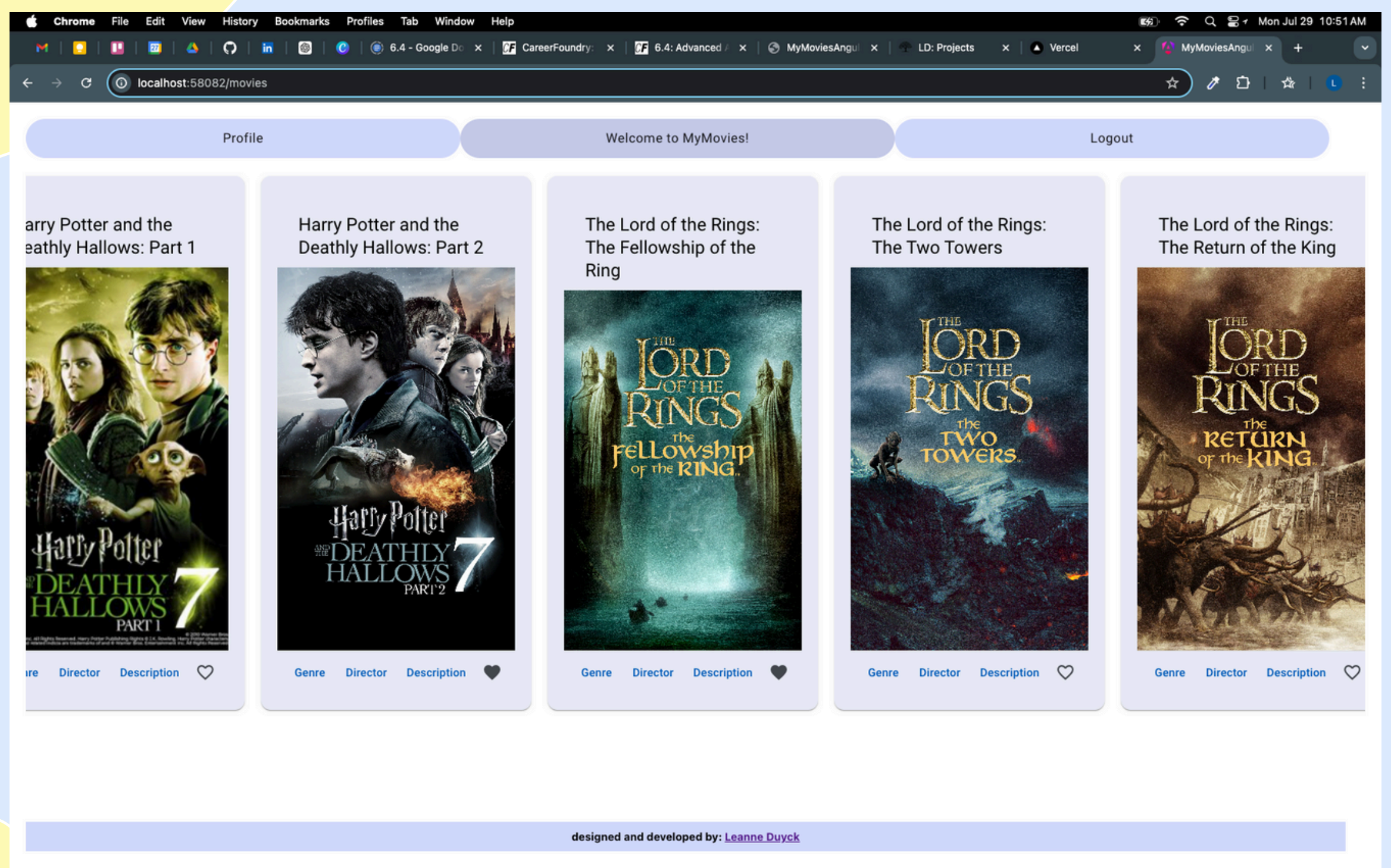
Release: 2001

Description: A meek hobbit and eight companions set out on a journey to destroy the powerful One Ring and save Middle-Earth.

designed and developed by: Leanne Duyck

Reflection

Conclusion:
Rebuilding the MyMovies frontend with Angular was a significant milestone in my coding journey. It exposed me to another prevalent frontend framework and provided an opportunity to enhance my problem-solving skills and Agile workflow methods. Moving forward, I plan to add more movies to the API to make the app more useful for users. This project not only broadened my technical skills but also reinforced the importance of adaptability and continuous learning in software development.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mongoDB

See the frontend repo on Github: https://github.com/leanneduyck/myMovies-Angular.git or visit the live site: https://my-movies-angular.vercel.app/
See the backend repo on Github: https://github.com/leanneduyck/MyMovies-Server.git or visit the API: https://my---movies-868565568c2a.herokuapp.com/