

# Hitchkicker's guide to cinema

## Final Report

### Introduction

The project consists in the frontend of a responsive website, accessible from a range of devices (smartphones, tablet, pc) in order to perform complex searches regarding cinema (i.e. in which film did two given actors work together? In which years did a given director won the oscar? ...) in the easiest and most intuitive possible way.

The main goal is to provide a user-friendly way to make complex searches on a cinema database, accessible from various devices.

Currently many websites and related applications exist that provide exhaustive data, the most popular, exhaustive and cutting-edge, probably being:

- <https://www.imdb.com/>
- <https://letterboxd.com/>

An important feature lacking, or not too satisfying is the possibility to make complex searches:

- Letterboxd only provides simple searches (title, names).
- Imdb on the contrary offers the possibility to perform complex searches BUT the feature is not present at all in the app and is not easily reachable and not so user-friendly in the website (see: <https://www.imdb.com/search/> ) which in general is not easily usable in mobile devices (hence the related app, with limited features).

The main and initial features will focus simple searches (i.e. movie by title, by director, cast of a movie, etc.).

On top of that more and more complex searches will be offered (i.e. people working together, awards win and nominations, soundtracks...)

Desirable additional advanced features consist in offering not only searches but even user profiling: manage user accounts, keep searches history, give suggestions based on the searches, provide social functionalities to link with friends...

The main challenge in tackling the described problem is gaining the access to the huge quantity and the complex structure of the needed data. Fortunately a REST API for accessing the IMDB database is available at:

<https://rapidapi.com/apidojo/api/imdb8>

# Design and Implementation

Starting from the mockup and the navigation structure previously designed I started realizing mockup pages, with static data regarding movies, directors, etc. and forms not linked to any effective query or operation.

The main focus is to have a responsive page easily accessible from mobile devices. The goal is not the complexity or exhaustivity of the data presented, on the contrary, while developing the various pages in order to present the data in the most straightforward and synthetic possible way, I came to the conclusion of offering a bird-eye view of the various movies/people and always provide direct link to the related IMDb page for detailed information.

To achieve the goals above I decided to make the cleanest, simplest possible pages, I avoided big pictures, media, animations, etc and decided to give a clear structure to the pages and their various components, relying mainly on *cards*, *accordions*, *forms* and the *bootstrap grid system* for the responsiveness.

Given the prototype/mockup nature of the project and the static data presented, I decided to insert explaining popups in various points (indicated by a “?” symbol), to describe what the prototype is missing, and what the future development of the various components are.

The structure of the pages, meaning each page layout and components, and the navigability across pages, have been defined in a more or less definitive way, on the contrary the forms for the query are to be considered just an initial prototype to be further developed (or even totally rebuilt) when dealing in detail with the database, the data offered and the flexibility for querying it.

Since the current state is very first-stages and prototyping I decided to add in the about page a table containing a log of the various actions performed and expected.

For building and deploying purposes I decided to use *sass* as css templating and *gulp* (plus various plugins for uglify, minify, etc.) as build tool

## Conclusions

The main result obtained is to have a working adaptive mockup that describe a quite consolidated pages layout (except for the search forms, still to be defined in detail). Even though the displayed content now is static, it gives an idea of the final result and the current structures consent in the future to easily substitute static data with dynamic data obtained by querying imdb rest api.

Unfortunately, as mentioned above, the structure of the search forms is still quite approximate and should be dealt with when dealing with backend/db side.

## References

- Site deployed at: <http://sterie.rf.gd/h2gc/>
- Source code and docs available at: <https://bitbucket.org/sterie/h2gc/src/master/>

- IMDb web page: <https://www.imdb.com/>
  - IMDb avne searches section: <https://www.imdb.com/search/>
- IMDb Rest API: <https://rapidapi.com/apidojo/api/imdb8>