

kirk balden

visual effects artist // 310.383.3446 // kirk_balden@mac.com

July 2014 - Current

freelance flame artist

Union Editorial, New York

I lead jobs, conform, clean up, and ship spots, as well as provide support for a busy offline editorial operation with a quickly growing finishing operation with a large portfolio of beauty clients.

projects: Marriott, Visa, L'Oreal, Covergirl, Garnier, Olay, Febreze.

September 2013 - Current

freelance flame artist

Brand New School, New York

Lead and support work for a motion graphics focused production company.

projects: Gillette, Keurig, Ford, Twizzlers, Wall Street Journal.

May 2012 - Current

freelance flame artist

Spontaneous, New York

Primarily support artistry with the occasional lead thrown in. My work for Spon has been almost entirely live action compositing and clean up with a focus on green screens and phone screen replacement (AT&T), and beauty work.

projects: AT&T, Wendy's, Maybelline, etc.

May 2010 - Current

freelance flame / smoke artist

Carbon VFX, New York

Provided and even mix of lead and support work for a design-focused VFX house located inside Whitehouse Editorial in NYC.

projects: Nike, Samsung, Barnes & Noble, ESPN, Olay, etc.

May 2010 - December 2013

freelance flame artist

Psyop / Mass Market New York & Los Angeles

Led many live action jobs through the now defunct Mass Market, as well as a great deal of CG-focused jobs through Psyop.

projects: Apple, Castrol, Fage, Miller Lite, Corona, Dell, Comcast, Fruit By The Foot, Kellogg's.

June 2009 - February 2010

staff visual effects supervisor / lead flame artist

Method, New York

As a lead artist and supervisor, I was responsible for tv spots as well as the teams that created them. I worked with our CG team, assistant flame artists, desktop compositors, and Company 3's colorists to make sure that every job was as perfect as possible.

projects: ONDCP, Discovery Channel, K-Swiss, Avon.

May 2008 - June 2009

staff visual effects supervisor / lead flame artist

Smoke & Mirrors, New York

As a lead artist among a small team, I was responsible for corralling assistants and presenting work to clients, as well as participating in bidding and pitching for new work.

projects: Hyatt/BBDO, Chili's/Hill Holiday, Castrol/Ogilvy, Cuervo/JWT, etc.

April 2005 - February 2008

staff visual effects supervisor / lead flame artist

A52, Los Angeles

As one of four flame leads, I was given my own jobs and clients and was intimately involved in bidding, pitching, staffing, and shooting, as well as the design and execution of the jobs themselves. I worked closely with the CG supervisor and, often, A52's editorial counterpart, Rock Paper Scissors, to sculpt jobs that often began post before offline had been completed (or even started, in some cases). In addition, I contributed as much as I could to discussions of pipeline and engineering, even recruiting our eventual CTO.

projects: Microsoft global brand campaign/McCann Erickson SF, Nike / Tiger Woods "Swing Portrait"/W+K, Lexus "Fast Reimagined," "Dreams," "Instinct"/Team One, Honda/RPA, Miller Brewing/CPB, Rome main title (Emmy nominated)/HBO, Jeep, DirecTV, Overstock, etc.

January 2004 - April 2005

freelance inferno / fire artist

Sea Level, Venice

projects: Visa "Snowball" (superbowl!), Gillette, Nike, Toyota.

2002 - 2005

freelance flame / inferno artist

Ring of Fire, Hollywood

projects: EA Sports, Gateway, Ford, AT&T, Nokia, Six Feet Under.

March - April 2000 through 2005

freelance smoke editor / designer

Autodesk/Discreet Santa Monica and Montreal

Between 2001 and 2005 I visited Montreal approximately 20 times to build all manner of video content for trade shows and marketing materials, most notably Discreet's "Best of the Best" NAB showreel.

projects: editing NAB/IBC/Siggraph advanced systems, software products, HD + broadcast showreels, Customer testimonials. Collateral motion design.

February 2000 – July 2003

freelance inferno artist

Imaginary Forces, Los Angeles

projects: IBM, Janus, Lexus, Jurassic Park III trailer, Harry Potter trailer, Minority Report 'precog' sequences, Comedy Central re-brand, Lifetime network re-brand, Technicolor Digital Cinema, Corning Fiber Optics, New York Rangers, ChevronTexaco, Chevrolet, Honda Pilot launch, etc.

July 1998 – March 2000

staff smoke / flame artist

King Cut, Los Angeles

projects: Lexus, Mercedes, Cadillac, GTE/Verizon, Novell, Citibank, March of Dimes, Purina, Comdisco, Lincoln Financial, etc.

June 1997 – June 1998

staff smoke / flame artist

Red Car, Hollywood

projects: Nike, Lexus, Titleist, Gatorade, Lady Footlocker, Long John Silver, etc.

contact:

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