

MAZ KESSLER
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CAREER SUMMARY

Web, Web Campaign, Brand Development, Global Non-Profit, Technology Design, Advocacy, Visual Design, Music

- Strong leadership, design and production experience
- Extensive history in effectively delivering creative vision-driven work for web, advocacy campaigns, brand and message development
- Track record in songwriting, voice and audio production, music for film and television, animation

Highlights

Grammy Nominations 1995, Grammy Award 1996

WORK EXPERIENCE

Advocacy International

New York/London

Web, Campaign and Creative Consultant

May 2008–

Advocacy International Ltd works with governments and organisations to promote their goals in the international arena. Advocacy International currently consults and advises on advocacy relating to debt and finance, climate change, international development and health.

Debtonation

New York/London

Web, Campaign and Creative Consultant

July 2008–

Debtonation – The First World Debt Crisis is Ann Pettifor's blog chronicling the global financial crisis including the Green New Deal.

Women Deliver, Family Care International

New York/London

Brand/Logo Development, Web Design and Production, Web Campaign

Sept 2006–Jan 2008

A landmark global summit and continuing project focused on saving the lives and improving the health of women, mothers and babies around the world. Women Deliver calls for greater investment in women.

ICEC

New York, NY

Brand/Logo Development, Web Design and Production

Jan 2006–Jan 2007

The International Consortium for Emergency Contraception and member organizations play a key role in introducing and promoting Emergency Contraception globally. ICEC's mission remains critical: to expand access to EC worldwide.

Keep a Child Alive

Brooklyn, NY

Co-Founder

Jan 2002–May 2004

KEEP A CHILD ALIVE is an urgent response to the AIDS pandemic ravaging Africa. Keep A Child Alive provides life-saving medication, support, and orphan care, to keep children and their families alive.

Responsible for: *Brand/Logo Development, Web Design and Production, Creative Direction, Messaging,*

Donor Relations and Communications, Global Programming, Partner and Alliance Management, Fundraising.

Microsoft Speech Group

Senior Interface Design Consultant

Authored multimodal UI design guidelines and documentation for “Designing and Producing Speech Systems—Practice and Principles”. Created series of vision demos based on Microsoft’s upcoming Speech Applications Development Kit.

New York, NY

Oct 2002–Feb 2003

NetSage

Senior Vice-President

NetSage Corporation pioneered automated help software and technology for the Internet. Clients included BMW, SCHWAB, ONSTAR.

Responsible for: *Producing multiple teams for varied projects, Building core team of interaction designers, Identifying and hiring talent, Client contact throughout projects, Client negotiation, Overall management and Creative Direction.*

San Francisco, CA

Jan 1999–Jan 2001

FunArts Software

Co-Founder, Vice-President

FunArts Software created several original VUI (Voice User interface) and animated user interfaces. Client highlights include pioneering design for General Magic’s influential Portico Virtual Assistant; animated agent characters for Microsoft Far East and Office ’98 for the Macintosh; “Surf Monkey” for Bandai; “My Personal Tutor” for Microsoft. FunArts was acquired by NetSage in 1999.

Responsible for: *Overall management and creative direction and project management.*

San Francisco, CA

Jan 1996–Jan 1999

Microsoft

Creative Director, Social Interface Group

The Social Interface group designed and implemented a series of animated characters and agents and the underlying framework to control them. Projects included character architecture for pedagogical agents for use in the Office suite of applications, children’s learning software, and UI sound design for Windows and Office.

Responsible for: *Overall Creative Direction and Project Management*

Seattle, WA

Jan 1994–Jan 1997

Maz and Kilgore

Songwriter, Composer, Producer

Recording, Film and Television Credits available separately at www.mazandkilgore.com

New York, NY

Jan 1990–Present

AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Grammy Award 1994 “Best Instrumental Jazz Performance” (Composer, Producer)
- Three Grammy Award Nominations 1993 including “Best Instrumental R&B”
- Awarded Gold and Platinum Certification (RIAA Certified Sales Award)

PUBLICATIONS

“Bringing an Agent to Life” Maz Kessler and Robby Kilgore

Presented at the IJCAI Animated Agents Conference, Nagoya, Japan 1998

“Designing and Producing Speech Systems—Practice and Principles” Maz Kessler and Robby Kilgore, Microsoft Speech Application SDK 1.0