



PORTFOLIO

NOVEMBER 2025

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BACK- GROUND

Riley Axon (they/them) is a Cape Town born multidisciplinary artist and designer who moves fluidly between painting, film and graphic design. For the past two years Riley has worked in house at Robot, gaining a ground level understanding of how film production actually moves and developing fast problem solving instincts alongside a versatile skillset across treatments, pre production, research, on set content and AI driven visuals. Through their independent studio, Riley develops festival identities and branding for cultural projects, while also curating exhibitions and collaborating with interior designers. Their work has been recognised by Design Indaba's Emerging Creative programme and the IZIKO Museum, reflecting a commitment to inclusive storytelling and sustainable communication. Skilled in Adobe's creative suite and experimenting with AI tools in filmmaking and design, they continue to explore themes of identity, community and queerness through their practice. Riley approaches every project with curiosity, clarity and a drive to push ideas further.



FILM INDUSTRY

- Robot,
Jan. 2024 - current
Creative.
Tasks include: directors’
treatments, creative research,
pre-production booklets, location
decks, filming and editing social
media content.
Utilising AI for storyboarding
and other experimental projects.
- 400SEATS
Behind the scenes and zine design
on the Puma Mostro shoot.
- Evolve Studios
Creative research for KFC pitch.

COURSES

- Ai Filmmaking, Curious Refuge, 2025
- Graphic Design, Academy of Digital
Arts, Cape Town, 2022
- Business Acumen for Artists, Cape
Town Creative Academy, 2022
- Adobe Certified Professional,
Adobe, 2022

SOFTWARE

- Adobe Illustrator (****/5)
- Adobe InDesign (****/5)
- Adobe Photoshop (***/5)
- Premiere Pro (***/5)
- Canva (***/5)
- Figma (***/5)

ART EXHIBITIONS

- Walk with me, virtual exhibition, ArtBankSA, 2024
- RAW, Kitsune, 2024
- Intimate Histories, Latitudes Online, 2023
- Together, AVA Gallery, Cape Town, 2022
- Girls run the world, Eclectica, Cape Town, 2022
- Blue tape series, P72, Johannesburg, 2021
- It doesn’t have to be this way, Hillbrewed, 2021

LEADERSHIP

- Mentor at TouchSA, 2022
- Student Representative Council,
Academy of Digital Arts, Cape Town, 2022
- Factory manager, The Art Room, JHB, 2021

MENTORSHIPS

- ArtbankSA X IZIKO National Museum, 2024
- Design Indaba, 2023
- ArtbankSA X IZIKO National Museum, 2023
- CT Creative Academy, Business Acumen for Artists, 2022
- Loeries x Woolworths, Portfolio Bootcamp, 2022
- Karabo Poppy x HALLS, 2021

AWARDS

- ArtBankSA x National Museum, PESPA Program, 2023.
- Design Indaba Emerging Creative, class of 2023.
- ArtBankSA x National Museum, PESPA Program, 2022.
- Loeries x Woolworths Bootcamp, awarded top ten
creative students across Africa and the Middle
East, 2022.

LANGUAGES

- English: Native
- Afrikaans: Native
- German: Working on it

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Riley Axon is a graphic designer trained at the Academy of Digital Arts with a practice rooted in bold identities and culture driven storytelling. Their work spans podcast, festival and brand worlds, from the rebellious grain heavy identity for The Un/Invited to the vibrant visual system for Cape Town Indie Film Festival and the queer joy centred branding of Space For Them+. In 2023 Riley took their design off the screen and into real space at 100% Design Joburg x Decorex, building a hand painted stall that showcased their mix of graphic design, print work and customisable pieces. Their graphic design practice is immediate, expressive and rooted in community, always chasing visual worlds that feel intentional, energetic and unmistakably theirs.

CAPE TOWN INDIE FILM FESTIVAL

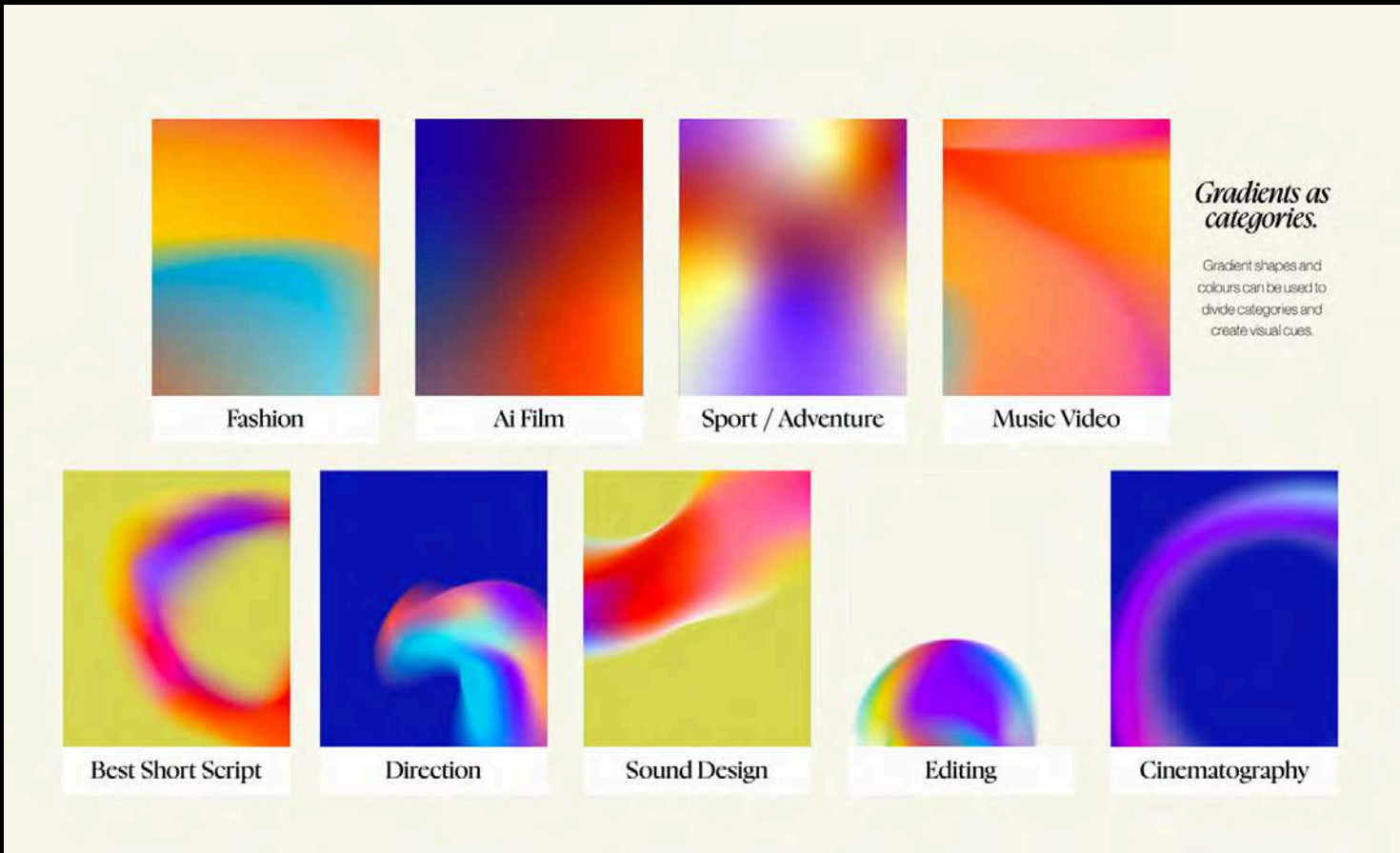
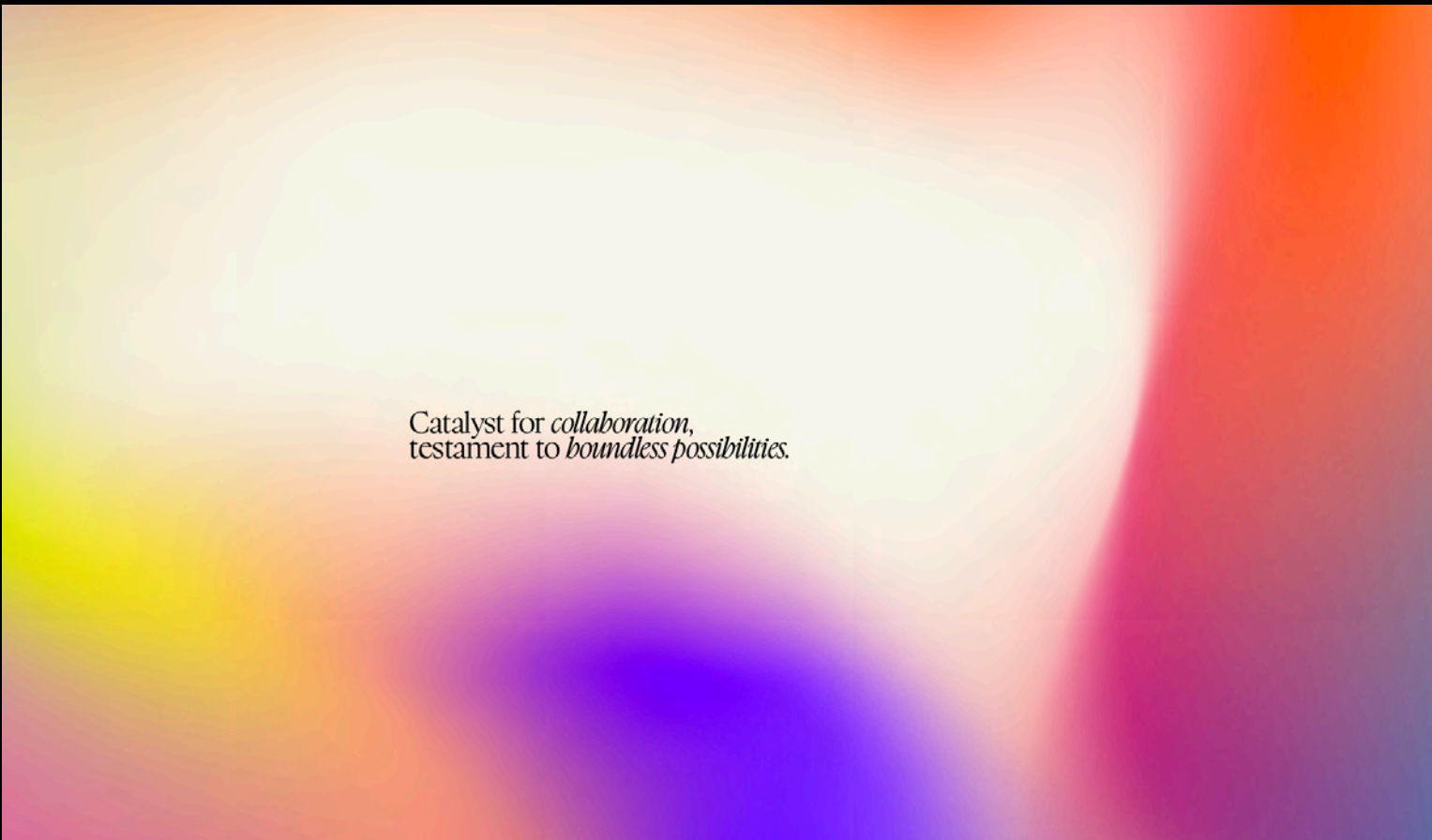
Cape Town Indie Film Fest is a bold, design-forward celebration of global and local filmmaking—built to spotlight the creativity shaping Cape Town’s film landscape. The identity we created leans into connection: between international and local talent, between crafted storytelling and fresh voices, and between the city’s iconic locations and the next generation of creatives finding their way behind the camera. The festival’s world is vibrant, intentional, and rooted in bridging communities through film.

DELIVERABLES

- Look & feel
- Social media assets
- Website assets
- Merchandise

SOFTWARE

- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe InDesign



ONCE UPON A TIME IN JOBURG

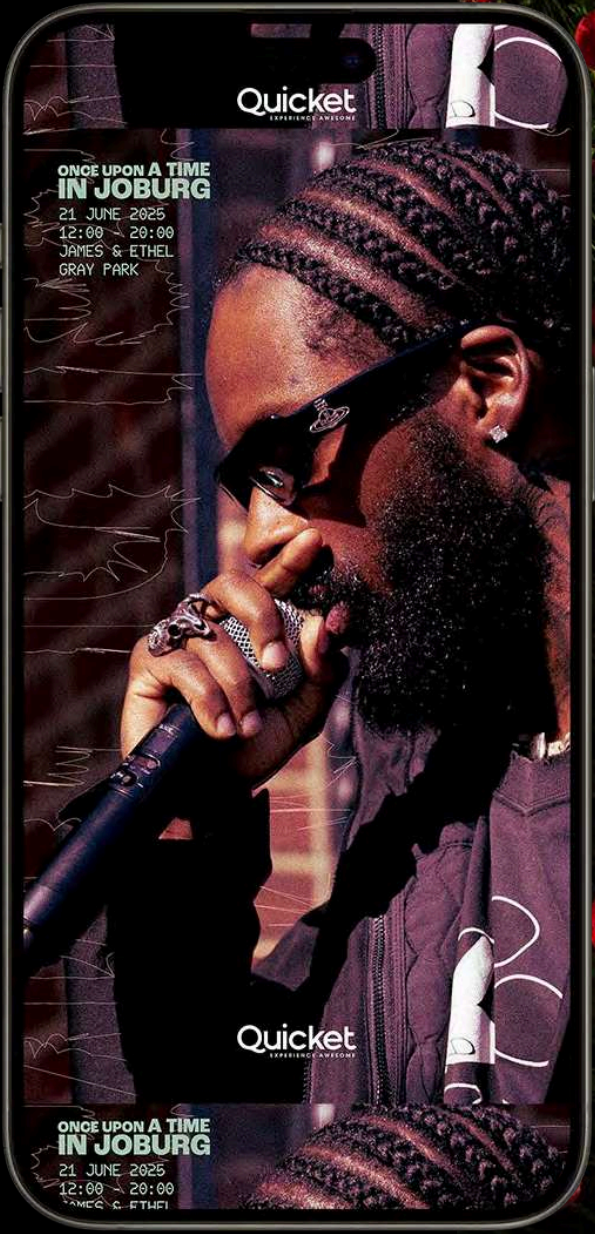
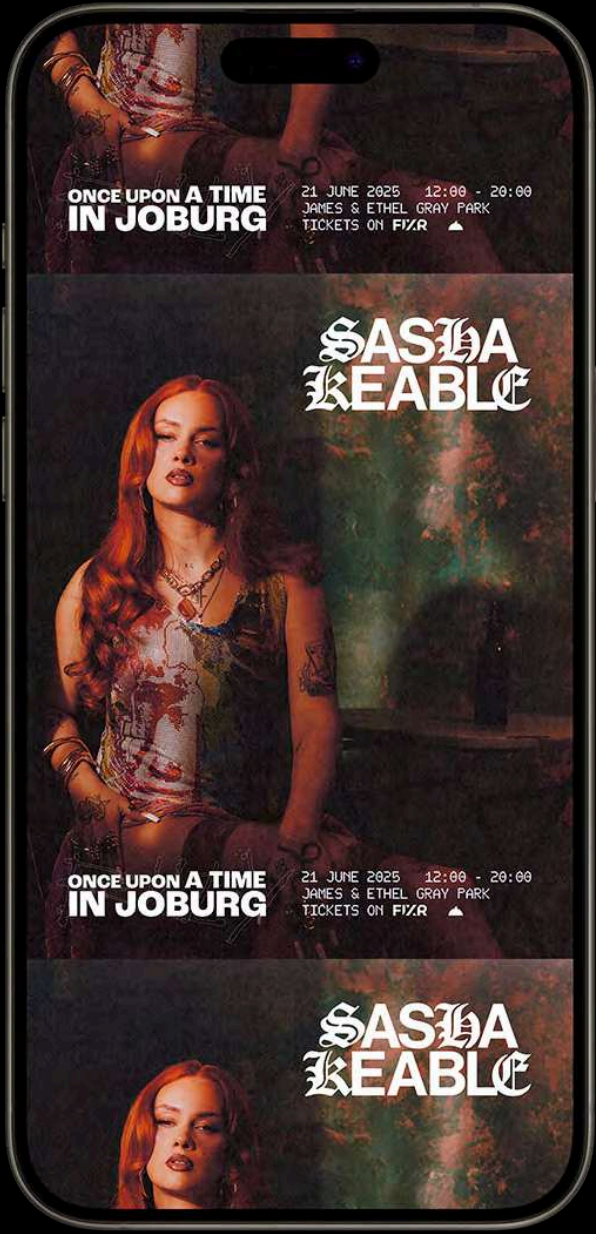
An R&B event series for true lovers of the genre, those who know all the criminally underrated and overlooked artists with catalogues stronger than most commercial acts. Brought to you by Doctor Bird Productions, the event platform making it possible to see the artists you never thought you'd get to experience live.

DELIVERABLES

- Look & Feel
- Social media assets
- Website assets
- On-the ground design elements
- Merchandise
- On stage screen graphics

SOFTWARE

- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe InDesign
- Adobe Firefly (Ai)
- Runway (Ai)



THE UN/INVITED

The Un/Invited is a podcast brand identity designed for Michele Fornera, built around the story of crashing a Milan fashion party and accidentally ending up on the runway. Michele wanted a visual world that felt subversive, editorial and emotionally honest. The brief was to translate that energy into a full identity system. The final identity leans into grain, texture, and a controlled sense of chaos, glamorous yet rebellious. Everything was designed to feel like both an invitation and an interruption, echoing the core themes of the podcast: belonging, boldness and crossing thresholds.

DELIVERABLES

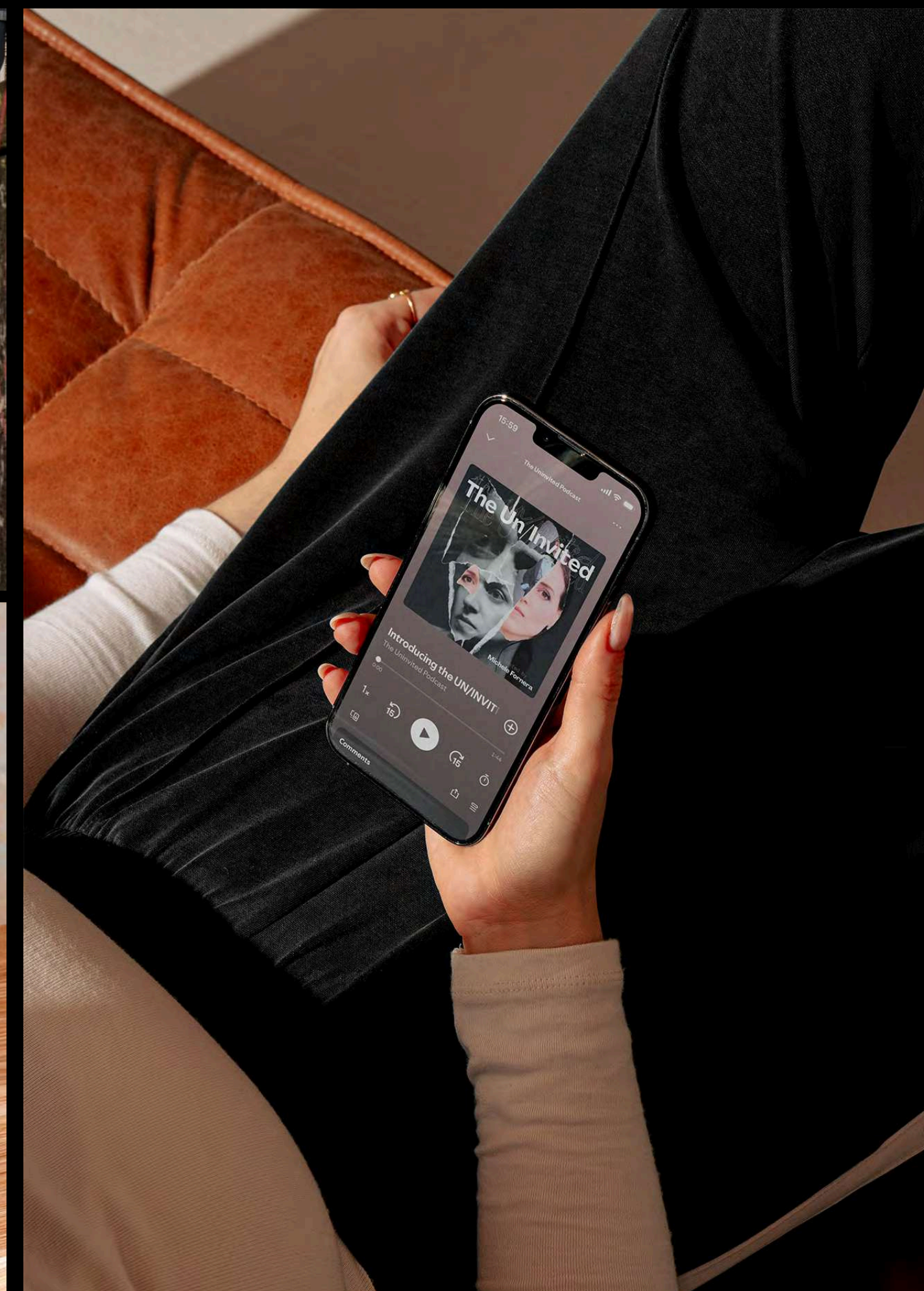
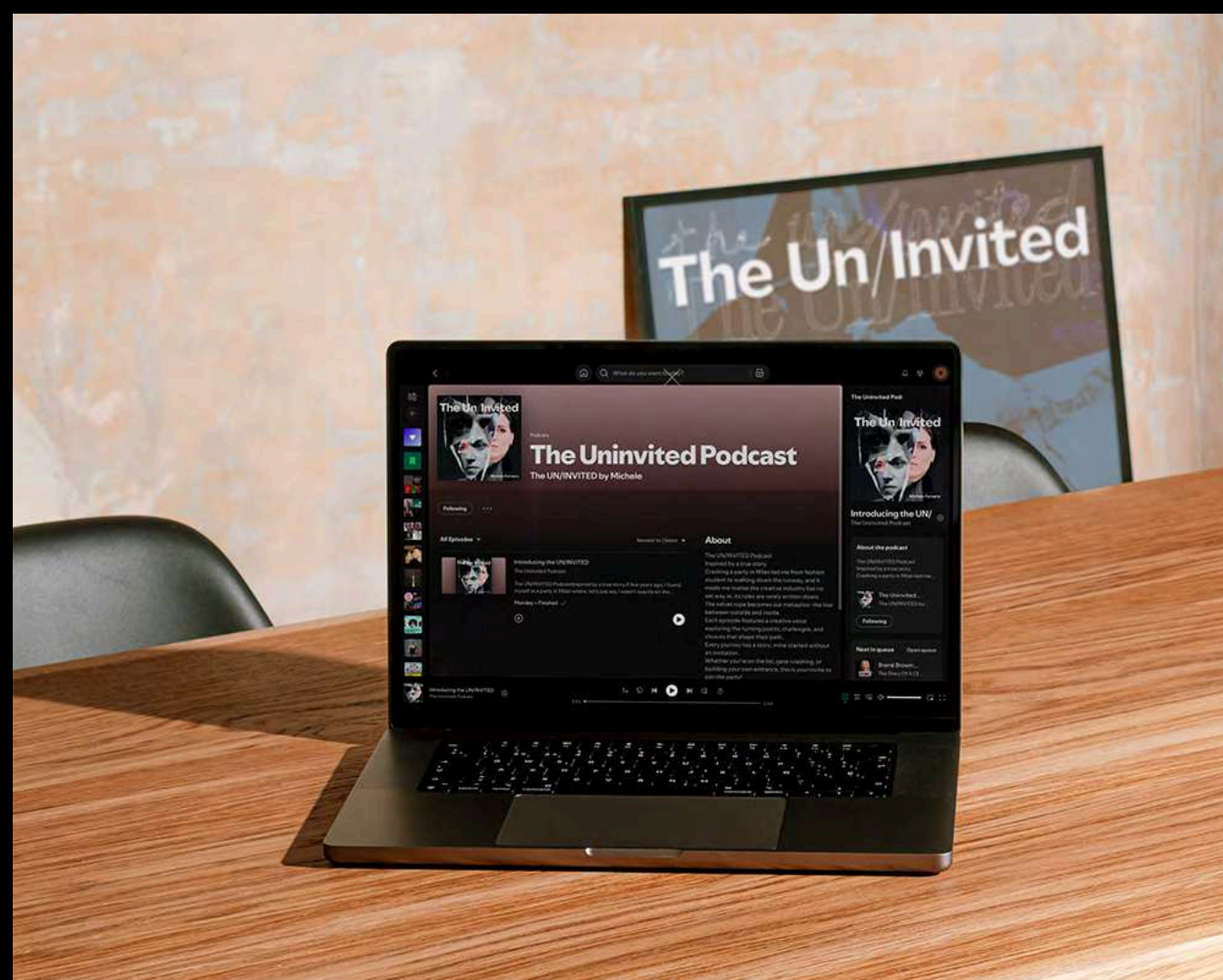
- Logo
- Look & feel
- Social media assets

SOFTWARE

- Adobe Illustrator
- Adobe Photoshop

LINKS

- [@theuninvited.podcast](https://theuninvited.podcast)
- [Spotify](https://open.spotify.com/show/1a2b3c4d5e6f7g8h9i0j)



100% DESIGN JOBURG X DECOREX

Riley was invited to showcase at 100% Design Joburg x Decorex, a major moment, and their first official design showcase. With only a month to pull it all together, Riley built a stall that felt like a living snapshot of their practice; graphic design, the launch of Bent, customisable posters created on the spot, and a hand-painted mural done live over the weekend. Even the clothes Riley wore were painted by hand. A weekend that reminded Riley why they make things in the first place, to create spaces that feel alive, honest, and unmistakably theirs.

IN THE PROCESS

- Creative Direction
- Graphic Design
- Print Design
- Mural Painting
- Interior Design

MORE HERE

- rileyaxon.com
- [Decorex](https://decorex.co.za)



FILM INDUSTRY

Riley Axon is a visual artist working in the film world. Two years in-house taught Riley how to move with the pace of the industry, adapting fast, solving quickly, and staying one step ahead. Blending design and story, Riley builds directors' treatments, does creative research, storyboards, BTS content, and location scouting that give every project clarity, momentum, and a clear creative point of view.

CREATIVE RESEARCH

- Balmain x Disney
- Moonchild Sanelley
- Defy
- Standard Bank
- Debonairs
- Kotex
- L'Oreal
- Lays
- MTN
- Revlon
- Elvive
- One Wall Street
- Pick'n Pay
- Supersport
- Ackermans Summer
- VVSSA Touareg
- Audi
- Project Anthem
- Ackermans
- Steers
- Nido
- Woolworths
- Balmain x Disney
- Karri Card
- Season Series
- Dettol
- Strongbow
- KFC

DIRECTORS TREATMENTS

- Maybelline New York
- Balmain x Disney
- Moonchild Sanelley
- Ackermans Summer
- Ackermans Baby
- Ackermans Brand
- Pepco
- Steers
- One Wall Street
- VW Touareg
- Halls
- Karri Card
- Nido
- Revlon
- Woolworths
- Strongbow
- MTN
- Debonairs
- Telkom
- Dettol

DIRECTORS WORKED WITH

- KC Locke
- Zandi Tisani
- Ciel Rose
- Ayanda Duma
- Ehsan Bahtti
- Adriaan Louw
- Andréa Katzeff
- Priya Patel
- Ryan Hing
- Nelis Botha
- Craig Moore
- Jason Fialkov
- TwoFold

LOCATION DECKS

- Adidas Supernova
- Balmain x Disney
- Butterfinger
- Cheez-It
- Eurojackpot
- Rolls-Royce
- Hellmans
- Fifa
- Huawei
- Renault
- Hyundai
- JBL
- Bank of Ireland
- Oral-B
- Orangina
- BEATS
- Marshall
- LG
- OLX
- Hermes
- Verbund
- Friso
- Linkedin
- Miller
- Mami Wata
- Motorola
- Pepsi
- Quickbooks
- Rexonna
- Standard Bank
- Tide Evo
- UBS
- Veet
- Vraylar
- VW
- Nancy
- Xdemvy
- Party Rings
- Decathlon
- Rexulti
- Lexus
- Sam Fender MV
- Dreamies
- Turtlewax

BEHIND THE SCENES

- Puma
- African Bank
- Vans x Little Simz
- Woolworths
- Nancy Ajram MV
- Decathlon
- Audi
- Simple Be
- Rolls-Royce
- Jacamo
- Pepco
- Nancy
- The Ceder
- Bramley
- Ackermans
- VW

DECATHLON

Commercial shot over two days in Cape Town. Film image selects below.
Full project on my website.



DIR. & D.O.P
Ciel Rose

INT. PROD
Matiere Premiere [FA]

SERVICE
Robot [RSA]

Commercial shot in one day in Cape Town. Full project on my website.



PROD.
400SEATS [RSA]

RAW
RILEYAXON.COM

NANCY AJRAM

Music Video shot in one day in Cape Town.
Full project on my website.



DIR.
KC Locke

INT. PROD
Swords & Eagles [UK]

SERVICE
Robot [RSA]

PLAYBOOK
**TALK
SOON.**



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