

Megan Arnold

New Media Techniques

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Unique Widget Utilization

For my recent project, I decided to make a personal website for my brand and company Megan Arnold Media. I have been doing freelance photography, graphic design, and video production for about a year now and have attempted to make a cool website many times. However, I really struggled to find a host/program that allowed me to freely design my own webpage. Though, Muse is perfect. I was inspired by the example you showed us in class that utilized the anchor tool to glide users to different sections and your information about how to use the Tool Tip widget. I decided to use the Tool Tip widget as a way for my users to interact with my website and control the menu that they're seeing. When you hover over the buttons, you can see a video I linked with the YouTube widget, a slideshow of my photography I made using the Slideshow widget, and a couple of images of graphics I have made. I thought this was a really cool idea because it allows agency within a personal website which usually doesn't allow control to its users. I also included a picture of myself with my hand up so when you hover over the dots it looks as if I'm leaning against the box. When you click on any of the menu buttons, it hyperlinks to different anchors spread across the massive webpage. I included small, hand drawn graphics and a graphic of blue lines that I made in Photoshop. I usually don't include blue in my brand aesthetic but since the hyperlinked words had a blue underline I decided upon including it into my theme. My absolute favorite part of this site is my 'Galleries' page which includes a

multitude of cut outs of my favorite photos from my shoots which link to the appropriate gallery links on my PixieSet account.

What I found really cool about the Tool Tip widget, and why I chose to use it, was because you could rearrange the little dots and place them wherever you'd like. I got the idea of using them as a sort of media/menu when you should us how to use the widget in class. I thought this was a unique way to use them because, firstly, you usually would use them in order right next to each other. Secondly, I thought that using them as an interactive menu was cool because you'd usually use them for information on a photo or piece of text. At first I really struggled to figure out how to use them and how to proportion the boxes to look aesthetically pleasing but I finally figured it out after two hours of messing around with the Muse software. I ran into a few issues with the software at first but I think I can confidently say that I know how to work it. The only thing I don't know how to do is transfer the Muse file through FTP onto a web host. I was so proud of my project that I decided to buy a web host and domain name in order to make it live but it isn't transferring properly. I have been trying to upload it for the past 24-hours but I just can't figure it out. Hopefully I do soon, though, since the host/domain were a pretty decent investment. I really enjoyed learning how to use Muse and I hope you like my project! I worked very hard on it and really think it's one of my best projects at Marymount ever.