

[Charlie Fink](#)

Metaverse Consultant, Author, Forbes Columnist
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[CharlieFink.com](#) * [Forbes.com/CharlieFink](#) * [LinkedIn](#) * [Amazon](#) * [Wikipedia](#)

Career Highlights

Adjunct Faculty, Chapman University, Orange CA

Forbes Columnist and Author of [Remote Collaboration](#), [Virtual Conferences](#), [The Future of Work](#) (2020), and the AR-enabled books [Charlie Fink's Metaverse](#) (2017), [Convergence](#) (2019) and [Dissecting the Metaverse](#) (fall, 2022).

Keynote Speaker: CES, SXSW, AWE, World Government Summit, VRLA, ARiA, ATT Shape, VRARA Global Summit, more

President, American Greetings Interactive: Purchased Blue Mountain from Excite. Drove transformation of e-card category from “free to freemium.” Signed up 4M+ paying monthly subscribers.

Founder/CEO, eAgents: Founded venture-backed e news publisher, subsequently sold to American Greetings Interactive.

Chief Creative Officer, AOL Studios: Created some of the most successful web brands of the early Internet, including Motley Fool, Match.com, ESPN.com and Oxygen Media. Produced ABC TV Special “Santa’s Home Page” with Will Vinton (1997).

Chief Operating Officer, Virtual World Entertainment (Disney-owned VR pioneer): JV of Disney and Simon Property Group. Used cab-based simulation to place guests in networked vehicle-based simulations. Opened 33 locations on four continents.

VP, Creative Development and Production, Walt Disney Pictures: Originated concept and supervised development of *Lion King* as well as many other major motion pictures from Disney Animation’s second “Golden Age” including “Aladdin” & “Beauty and the Beast”

Professional Experience

Adjunct Faculty, Chapman University

2020-Present

Teaching “The Landscape of XR,” “Introduction to XR Production,” and “Metaverse Building.”

XR Consultant

2017-Present

Advisor to leading companies in the XR Universe including three Fortune 500 companies. Services include strategic planning, competitive intelligence, product analysis, branding, corporate storytelling, and executive coaching. My client list is confidential but references can be provided on request.

Author, AR-enabled books Charlie Fink’s Metaverse (2018) and Convergence (2019).

Keynote Speaker, Presenter, and Moderator

2016-Present

Keynote Speaker: VRLA, VRARA, CTA LA, VR Toronto, ARiA @MIT, FOiL, VR on The Lot by VR Society, VR Voice Summit; Presenter: CES, SXSW, AWE, ARiA@NYU, VIFF, FOiL, VRNY; Moderator: Television Academy, Digital Hollywood, ATT Shape, VRARA Global Summit

Columnist, Forbes.com

2016-present

Author of the weekly column “This Week in XR” and co-host of its companion podcast.

Producer and Investor

2005 – 2015

Produced Broadway theater productions, including NY Times Critic’s Pick *Who’s Your Baghdaddy* (now on Broadway HD) and the documentary feature “How to Fold a Flag.”

Chairman, New York Musical Theater Festival 2012-2017

President, Chief Creative Officer, American Greetings Interactive

2000 – 2004

Oversaw the transformation of one of the web’s highest trafficked seasonal destinations from a cash-burning cost center to American Greetings Corporation’s most profitable division.

Created and executed strategy to take the ecard category from “free to fee”; Grew paid subscriber base from 0 to 5M members, generating 65M in annual revenue.

Built national ad sales team from scratch, generating 15MM in annual revenue; oversaw acquisition and integration of competitors Blue Mountain Arts and eGreetings.

Managed diverse teams of over 200 producers, artists, programmers, sales and marketing executives.

Founder/CEO, eAgents

1999 - 2000

Raised 3M Series A round from venture capital firms New Atlantic Ventures, Lazard Technology Partners, and Shamrock, to create a platform for personalized delivery of e news, headlines, photos and cartoons through email opt –in system. We acquired 5M subscribers in less than 6 weeks after launch via deal with Yahoo and were acquired by American Greetings Interactive three months later.

Senior Vice President, Chief Creative Officer, AOL Studios

1996 – 1999

Creative Director of AOL's original content production arm. Supervised the development and launch of some of the formative Internet's leading brands, including The Motley Fool, Love@AOL Personals (sold to Match.com), Real Fans Sports Network (sold to ESPN), Electra (sold to Oxygen Media), and Entertainment Asylum (sold to E! Entertainment)

Executive Producer, "Santa's Home Page", ABC TV Network Special, Christmas 1997

Managed Entertainment, Music, Lifestyles & Kids Channels with staff of over 100 including programmers, designers, and ad sales personnel

Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, Virtual World

1992-1995

Created the first commercially-available immersive VR gaming experience at dedicated gaming centers in malls and other retail venues across the country; created ISDN network solution allowing for real-time, competitive head-to-head play at high bandwidths in a pre-broadband environment; produced theatrical-quality bumpers using A-list talent and screenwriting; software side of the company sold to Microsoft and became the core Xbox software team. Public gaming centers operated profitably by Dave & Busters until 2005

Producer, VirtualWorld.com, Cool Site of the Year, Games Category (1994), "The World's First Virtual Sport Championship" SyFy Channel (1995), 13 episode "Battletech" animated TV series for Fox Network (1995)

Vice-President, Walt Disney Pictures

1986-1992

Supervised the development and production of animated and live action feature films and theme park productions.

Created the concept for “Lion King” (Bambi in Africa) and supervised its development. Supervised development of “Aladdin”, “Beauty and the Beast”, “The Rescuers Down Under”, “The Little Mermaid”, “Oliver and Company”, “Roger Rabbit”, “Prince and the Pauper”, and “Cranium Command” at Epcot, as well as live action features “The Incredible Journey”, “Dinosaur” and “Bi-Centennial Man”

Managed creative development process for animated features, supervising multiple teams of writers, artists and composers assigned to develop concepts and art for future pictures

Education

Master of Fine Arts, Film Making, Art Institute of Chicago, Teaching Fellow **1981 – 1983**

Bachelor of Arts, Sarah Lawrence College, Political Science, Film Production **1978 – 1981**

Important Links

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