

## WENDELL GIBSON

601 Beloit Avenue  
Forest Park, IL 60130

312.213.1920  
wendell@wendellgibson.com

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### Employment History

2017 – Present

**Print X-Press**, Chicago, IL  
Graphic Designer/Prepress

Full-service printing and copy company located in the Chicago Loop. Responsible for design, as well as all prepress operations to digital output. Duties also include designing and maintaining company email and social media advertising.

- Seasoned graphic design professional: Proficient in CCS6 - Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Acrobat; Dreamweaver, QuarkXPress; and Microsoft Office programs

2007 – 2017

**Alliance Entertainment**, Itasca, IL  
Graphic Designer

Responsible for design, layout and production of flagship catalog, Collectors' Choice Music, for leading music wholesaler/distributor. Coordinated with merchandiser and vendor partners to design and produce monthly and seasonal catalogs. Duties also included designing website graphics, email and social media imagery, and advertising layout.

- Spearheaded complete re-design of Collectors' Choice Music catalog
- Innovations in work-flow, production and design adopted by sister publications

1999 – 2007

**SOUNDIES, Inc.**, Chicago, IL  
Design/Operations & Sales

Involved with music label and licensing agency from inception to sale of assets and wind-up. Broad responsibilities for all aspects of design and operations, including sales, managing client/vendor relationships, production.

1995 – 1999

**Icon Printing**, Chicago, IL  
Manager/Graphic Designer

Full-service "Sir Speedy" franchise print shop. Responsible for customer sales and service, as well as pre-press operations, direct to plate/digital output, computer design (PC and Mac), production scheduling, purchasing.

### Related Experience

- Winner - Most Creative Use of Corporate Logo, Chicago Marathon Design Competition
- Thirteen years of volunteer fundraising for Chicago Youth Centers, including designing promotional materials, event planning and production

### Education

**University of Iowa**, Bachelor of Arts/General Studies, Iowa City, IA

References available on request.

Online portfolio available at [wendellgibson.com](http://wendellgibson.com)

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### Recommendations

My references are Gordon Anderson, Senior Vice President; Chris Morgan, my former Creative Director; and Joe Van Horn, the Catalog Manager I worked with very closely.

Gordon Anderson:

During my 17-year stint as (eventually) Senior Vice President at Infinity Resources, where I oversaw the music division including the Collectors' Choice Music catalog and label, the Heartland Music catalog and the Serenade Music catalog among other properties, I worked with quite a few graphic designers. I can without equivocation state that Wendell Gibson was the best of the lot. In the face of an often crushing workload and virtually impossible deadlines, Wendell tackled every task I sent his way with alacrity and good humor, never complaining when I asked him to rework a page at the last minute to squeeze in a late-breaking release.

But Wendell was no mere page designing machine (though he was that). Unlike most designers in his position, Wendell also took a thoughtful, creative approach to everything he did, often devising a new wrinkle when the much easier path would have to been to defer to the well-worn template. Not every idea he had was workable, but he took my "no" in stride, neither sulking nor being deterred from coming up with a new idea the next time around. As the person supervising the marketing and the copy in the catalog, I certainly had enough on my plate so I really appreciated having another creative voice on board from the visual end of things.

Finally, the quality of Wendell's work was stellar. I especially enjoyed working with him on front covers, where he could really let his talent shine. Together we would scheme to locate the best image possible, then he would present me with several cover options employing different fonts, title placements, etc. He actually made it hard to choose because often every version was appealing. I miss working with Wendell and expect that his new employer will be delighted with his work.

Gordon Anderson  
Co-President  
Real Gone Music

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gordon@realgonemusic.com

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Chris Morgan:

We at Alliance Entertainment/DirectToU were lucky to have the opportunity to work with Wendell Gibson. His talents were a welcome addition to our operation. During the past 10 years that Wendell has been working with us, it has been my pleasure to get to know him professionally and personally and I can make a sincere, honest and fair recommendation.

Wendell's greatest strength is his passion for any project with his name on it. When Wendell is given an assignment, it can be considered done and his work will far exceed the client's expectations. Wendell puts everything he has into absolutely everything he does. From huge projects to small ones, there is no difference to Wendell. He aims for a homerun every time, and he has always delivered. Wendell thrives when he has a lot of responsibility and he collaborates extremely well with other departments. His work is exemplary and he is just an awesome person to have around the office.

Wendell is a great find for a company looking for a self-starting, senior-level designer who thinks beyond the obvious and always goes the extra mile.

Chris Morgan  
Creative Director  
Alliance Entertainment / DirectToU

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Joe Van Horn:

As merchandising manager of Collectors' Choice Music and Collectors' Choice Vinyl, I worked in tandem with Wendell Gibson on countless projects over the better part of the last decade. From multi-faceted print projects with rolling monthly due dates to fast turnaround web graphics, promotional emails, social media ads, and other print work, Wendell's ability as a designer combined with his attention to detail and understanding of brand identity made him a key member of our team's success. In an environment where one worked fairly independently, and where daily priorities could shift on a dime, Wendell always managed his own schedule and productivity in order to meet the needs of the brands.

More than a designer, Wendell contributed ideas on a regular basis and offered opinions on how we might improve presentation. He fully understood that design, merchandising and marketing all needed to work in tandem in order for a campaign to follow through with its objective. I was consistently impressed by his ability to think outside of the box in this regard. Not only did he create his own designs (sometimes using less than ideal materials provided us by record labels, photographers, etc.), but Wendell was always willing to take feedback or ideas from myself and others and bring those visions to fruition.

In a fast-paced environment where one person may legitimately be handling the workload of two or three on any given day, it was important to have another voice and another set of eyes that one could trust in decision making. Given that there were multiple projects in which Wendell and I made up the entirety of the production team, Wendell was that for me in my position, and I hope that I was that for him. In order to meet our deadlines we needed to rely on each other to "get it right" and do great work, quickly. Throughout our entire time working together, Wendell always inspired full confidence in that respect.

Joe Van Horn  
Merchandising Manager  
Collectors' Choice Music / Collectors' Choice Vinyl

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