## HIERARCHY

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a system of organization where elements are classifed by importance "Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least."

JOHANN WOLFGANG VON GOETHE

## You already know hierarchy

## Favorite Albums

**LESS IMPORTANT** 

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy
Highway 61 Revisited
Purple Rain

The important idea: the visual treatment of the text is determined by the qualities of the content.

## Favorite Albums

**LESS IMPORTANT** 

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy
Highway 61 Revisited
Purple Rain
Kid A
St. Vincent

Our brain innately prioritizes. We need to consider that most of the content we will be provided will be complex.

We can find more sophisticated and interesting visual devices to use to reinforce hierarchy.

Our goal is to provide something interesting and clear for the viewer to read. We also want them to read the content *in the correct order*.

## Hierarchy is about two things:

- 1. Being able to understand, analyze and prioritize the content.
- 2. Empathizing with the viewer and their priorities, so you can ensure that yours are the same as theirs.

## No hierarchy

Layout and Composition
Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles.

Balance

## Slowly introducing visual hierarchy

### Layout and Composition

Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles.

### Balance

## Changing the order

Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles.

## Layout and Composition

### Balance

## Composition

### Layout and Composition

Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles.

#### Balance

## Elements to emphasize content

- Weight, or stylistic change (small caps, italic)
- Color
- Typeface change
- Placement
- Reversing Out

Weight change

### Layout and Composition

Color change

## Layout and Composition

Typeface change

Layout and Composition Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles. Typeface change

Layout and Composition Layout involves a set of interrelated design principles.

Reversing out

## Layout and Composition

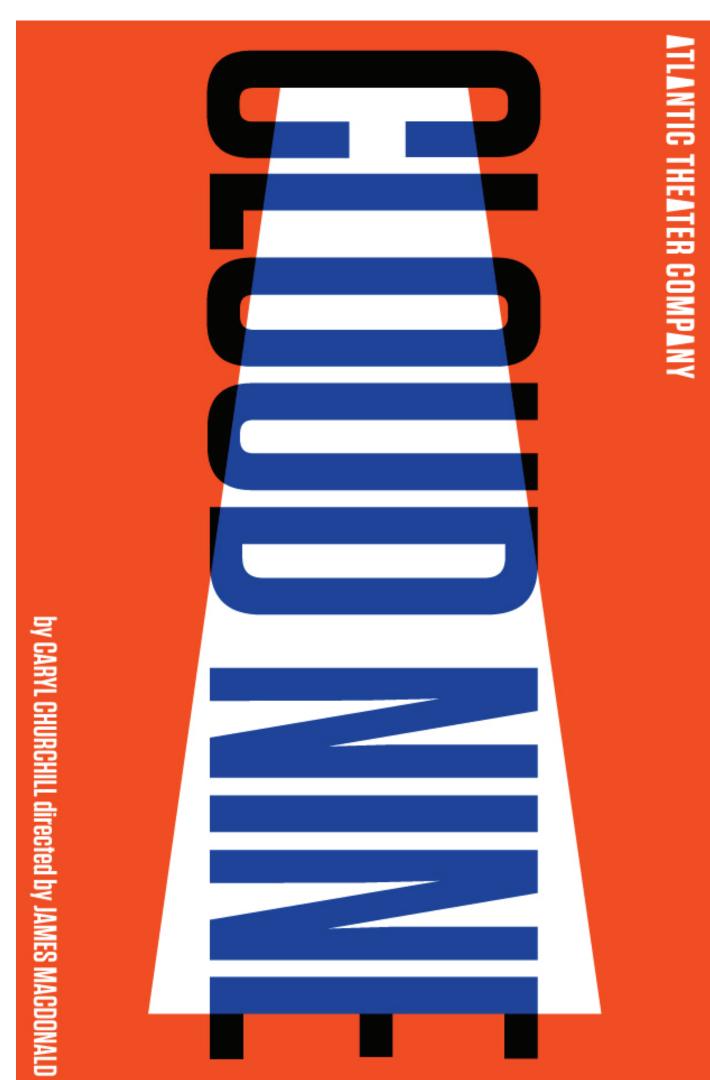
Weight, size, typeface change

## Layout and Composition



Jessica Svendsen

Paula Scher





Experimental Jetset

Multiple design treatments can be used at once to emphasize the text, but you must be careful to not apply too many at once. A bit of redundancy reinforces the hierarchy.

Sometimes the greatest virtue is restraint.

# SELECTING AND PAIRING TYPEFACES

Selecting multiple typefaces that go together can be tricky.

Serifs should only be paired with sans serifs, and vice versa.

# Taylor Swift Shake it off



Mixing serif and sans serif can create elegant contrast and hierarchy.

Two typefaces of the same style can look too similar and should only be done sparingly.

Look for typefaces with similar shapes and weights.

Consider the context — when and where were they designed?

Think about feeling — is the text playful or serious, elegant or edgy?

Think of the era the typefaces were made.

# Victorian Era

Cooper Hewitt, 2014

## Mada Men

Hefty, 2005

Think of the era the typefaces were made.

# Victorian Era

Bodoni, 1815

## Mad Men

Helvetica, 1957

Typefaces have feeling.

Hills Steel

# Black Tie Dinner

Typefaces have feeling.

# Kid's Nite

Black Tie Dinner

Consider shape.

# Just do it.

# MOVE SLOWLY.

Consider shape.

# JUST DO 17.

Move slowly.

## Tips:

Don't use more than two typefaces in a design — one serif, one sans-serif.

Sometimes you can add a decorative, monospace, or complimentary typeface for additional details.

You can get a lot out of staying within type families. Take advantage of boldness, italicizing, size, and color.

Less often really is more. (Again, restraint.)

Think about how you can get the most out of as little as possible.

## BEST PRACTICES

### Uppercase

If type is set in all uppercase, it benefits from adding a bit of letterspacing, to help legibility. Don't forget to kern!

THE LIFE OF PABLO

THE LIFE OF PABLO

### Condensed

Adding letterspacing also helps the legibility of condensed typefaces. Add more if set in all uppercase, add slightly less if the text has lowercase.

Party in the USA

too tight!

Party in the USA

40 letterspacing on uppercase 20 on lowercase

### Smart quotes

Use true quotation marks and apostrophes.

Quotation marks
Smart quotes
Curly quotes

"Look what you made me do."

tick marks
hash marks
(only used when
writing measurements)

"Look what you made me do."

### Hyphen/En/Em Use true quotation marks and apostrophes.

#### **HYPHEN**

combine words (well-being)

separate numbers that are not inclusive (phone, SSN)

EN DASH

option + -

number range (3:30 - 4:00)

EM DASH
shift + option + -

break in sentence (often --)

"Things that matter most must never be at the mercy of things that matter least."

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