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ADVERTISING

DeVito/Verdi: Always Keep Working

THE DEVITO/VERDI TEAM IMMERSED THEMSELVES IN OUR ORGANIZATION'S CULTURE AND MISSION - GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUES THEY WOULD HELP US SUCCESSFULLY SELL TO NEW AUDIENCES.

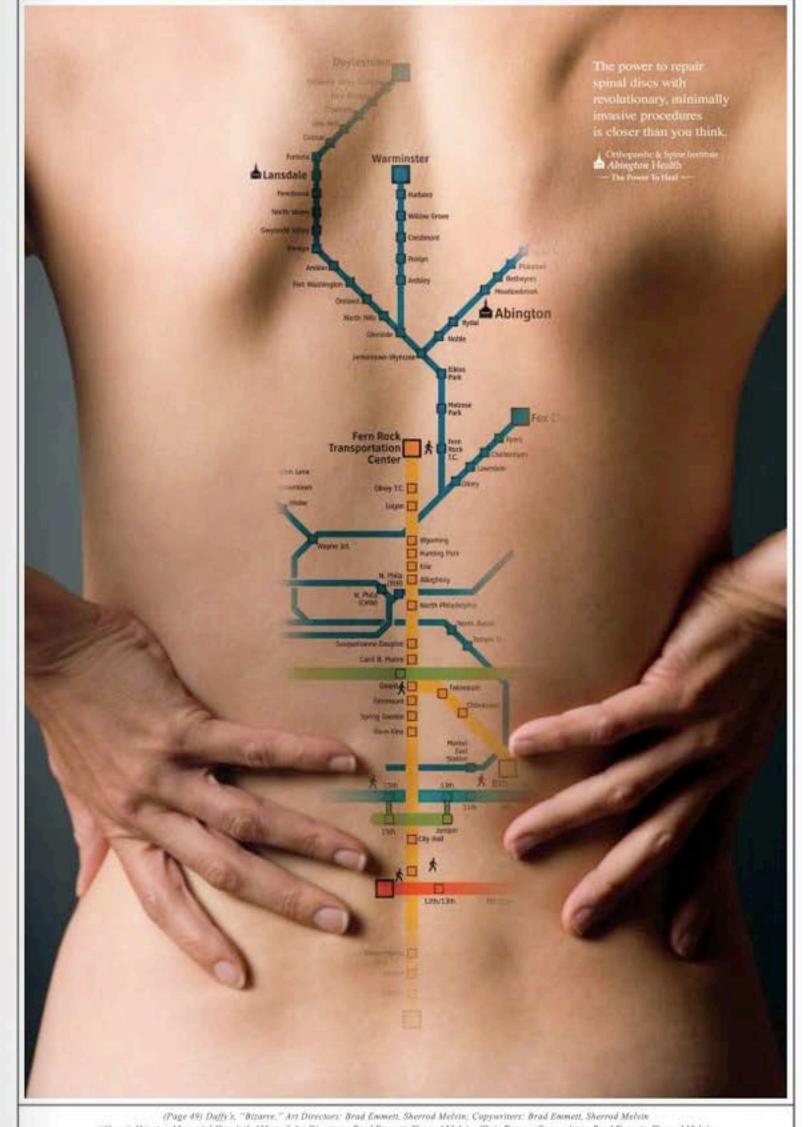
Nico Perrino, Executive Vice President, FIRE

WHEN WE LAUNCHED E.P. CARRILLO CIGARS IN 2009, DEVITO/VERDI MAXIMIZED OUR BUDGET AND AMPLIFIED OUR VOICE THROUGH BREAKTHROUGH CREATIVITY, AUTHENTIC STORYTELLING, AND INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES.

THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH SUPERLATIVES IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE TO CAPTURE DEVITO/VERDI'S INCREDIBLE CREATIVITY, BRILLIANT ADS, AND EXTRAORDINARY THINKING. AND THE ICING ON THE CAKE IS HOW FABULOUS THEY ARE TO WORK WITH!

Nancy Yanofsky, Principal, Yanofsky Associates

Ernesto Perez-Carrillo III, Co-founder & Master Blender, EPC Cigar



(Above) Abington Memorial Hospital, "Maps." Art Directors: Brad Emmett, Sherred Melvin, Chris Turner; Capywriters: Brad Emmett, Sherred Melvin

Introduction by Roger Berkowitz Former President & CEO, Legal Sea Foods

For more than a decade, DeVito/Verdi made us laugh, think, and question what we mean to our customers. And, many times, they made us nervous and often uncomfortable. They pushed us far beyond what we thought a family-owned and operated restaurant should do and say. But as we became bolder in our advertising, we realized it was making our brand stronger and our messaging more impactful. Yes, some of our ads may have ruffled feathers along the way, but in many ways that was the point. DeVito/Verdi helped keep us fresh, and that's exactly what a seafood restaurant should be.



Legal Sea Foods, "9 Out of 10." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors; Zack Menna, Carlos Figueiredo, Kendra Malcolm; Copywriters; Carlos Figueiredo, Rich Singe

Q&A: DeVito/Verdi

What inspired or motivated you to have a career in advertising? Vinny Tulley (V.T.), Creative Director & Copywriter: I Charlene, and Uncle Alan.

said, "I wanna do that!"

What is your work philosophy?

thought is put into it. Never make assumptions. You can't rea- Everything after that has just been me following his advice. son with crazy. Crazy knits a sweater for a hamster. You can't J.D.: My father, Sal DeVito. try to explain things to a crazy person using reason or sound R.S.: Sal DeVito was an early hero of mine. To him, the only mate stupid. Just when you think someone wouldn't ever do what the public saw and what set the agency apart. X, you'll find out they did X.

ways think smart, even when the client doesn't. And when it E.S.: I'm the most passionate about public service announcecomes to writing ads, it's not what you say but how you say it.

you run out of time.

Who is or was your greatest mentor?

Freeman & Partners. Sal was a big practitioner of keeping con- what it's all about for me. cepts simple and smart, but also attention-getting and memora- R.S.: I'm not saying we're a bunch of Picassos over here, but

Eric Schutte (E.S.), Executive Creative Director: My fami- went to the School of Visual Arts in New York City, which is ly. They recognized that I had a lot of talent as an artist, even as full of great teachers and mentors. My greatest mentors were a young child, and they pushed me to stick with it and helped Richard Wilde, Bob Needleman, and Sal DeVito. I was hired guide me through going to art school. Thank you Mom, Aunt before graduation by Bob, and then Sal stole me away shortly after. I can't even fully express how much I learned from them. Rob Slosberg (R.S.), Creative Director: I wanted to be a Amazingly enough, the school asked me to teach there shortly news reporter. My dad said, "Well, you're pretty funny, and after I graduated, and I borrowed (stole) a lot that I was taught you can write—why not try advertising?" He directed me to as a student from them. A few times, I combined Sal's class some award show books, and I was mesmerized by the greats with mine when he couldn't make it, often cramming over 60 at that time, such as Fallon, Ammirati, and Cliff Freeman. I students in one room. I've tried hard through the years to be a good mentor because I had such good ones when I started.

E.S.: Sal DeVito. I met him during my junior year at SVA. He taught me everything about good ideas, great ideas, bad E.S.: I have a few: Don't ask anyone to do anything you ideas, cute ideas, and every other kind of idea. He also taught wouldn't do yourself. Any problem can be solved if another me when to follow my instincts and when to cut bait and run.

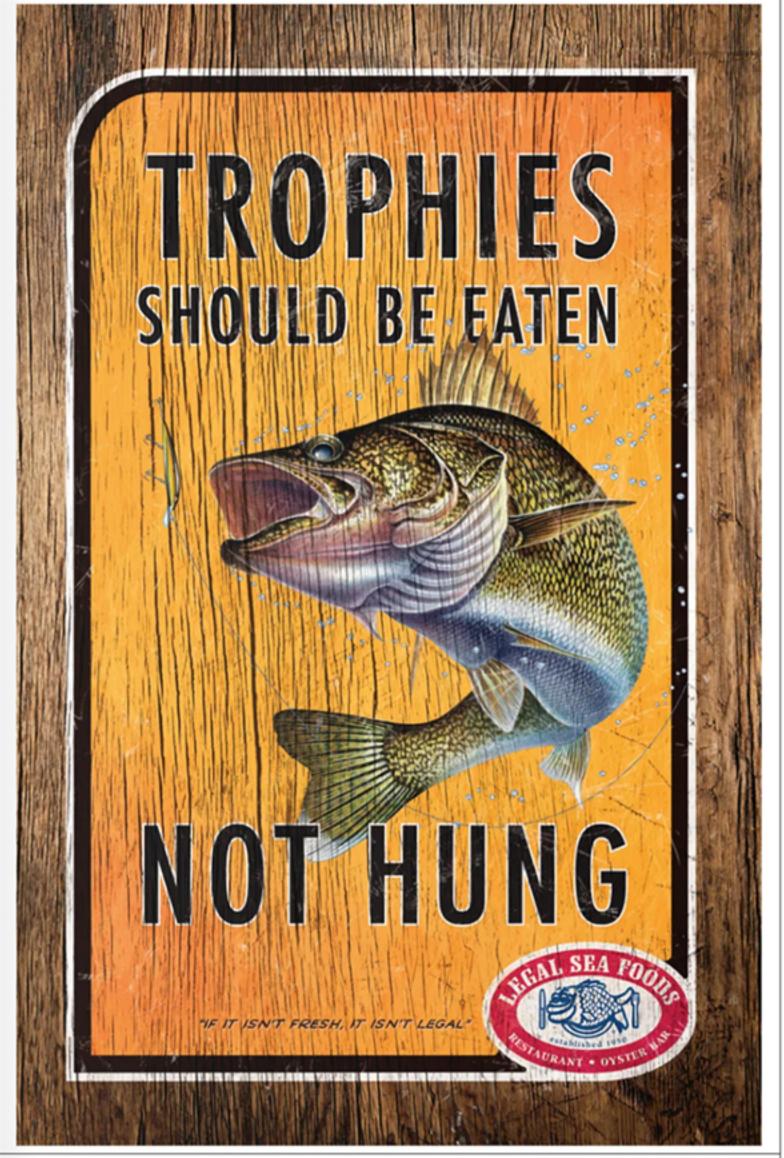
logic. (Sorry, it's a saying. I didn't make it up. I know "crazy" thing that mattered was producing great work. All the strathas become an unpolitically correct word.) Never underesti- egizing, meetings, and talking were just B.S. The work was

John DeVito (J.D.), Creative Director & Copywriter: Al- What is it about advertising that you're passionate about?

ments that I believe in. Convincing the public to get vacci-R.S.: Keep working until you have something great. When you nated. Convincing others that we need stronger gun laws. think you have something great, it might not be as wonderful Convincing people to help the homeless. Anything I can do as you think. So, keep working. And the cycle continues until to make my advertising have a positive impact on the world is what I'm passionate about.

J.D.: Doing great advertising that gets attention, from the conception to the copywriting to the winning awards. Whether it's Rob Carducci (R.C.), Creative Director: I've learned a lot a funny TV script, an emotional radio commercial, smart sofrom almost all of my bosses, but I probably learned the most cial posts, or writing a headline so powerful that the people from Sal DeVito at DeVito/Verdi and Cliff Freeman at Cliff reading it feel it in their gut; doing that kind of advertising is

ble. And Cliff was absolutely the master of advertising comedy. creating something from a blank piece of paper and seeing it

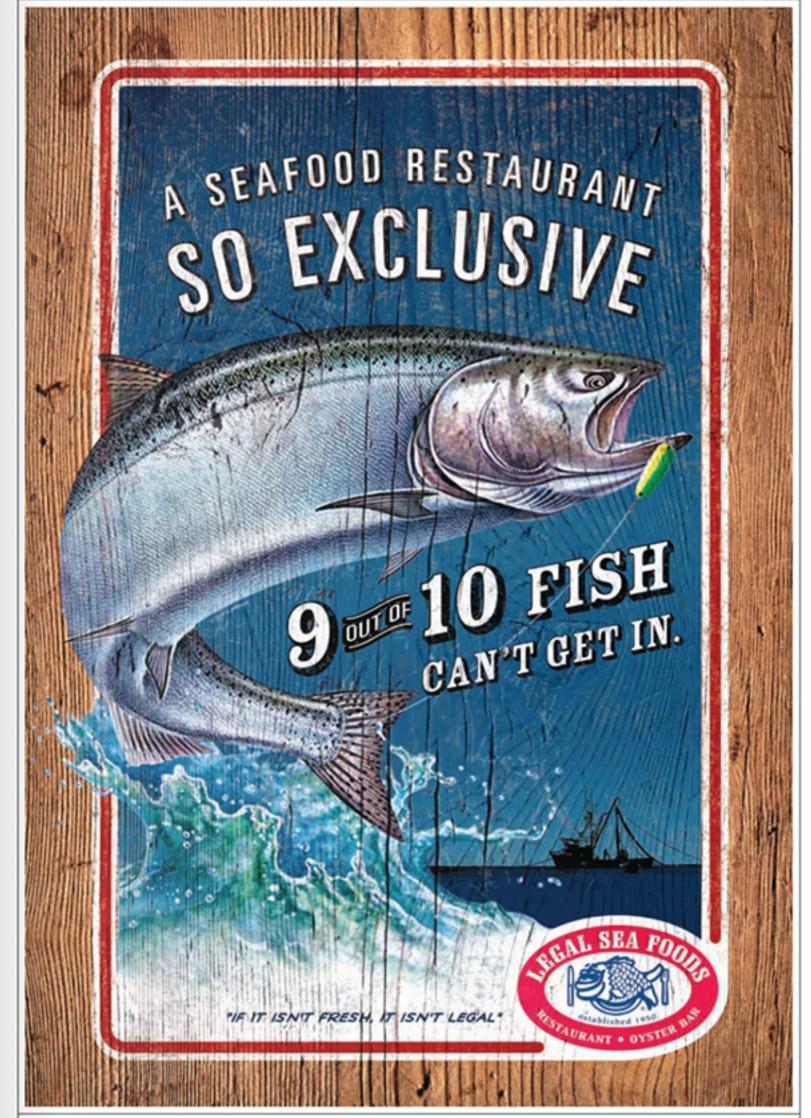


Legal Sea Foods, "Trophies Should Be Eaten." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors: Manny Santos, Kendra Malcolm; Copywriter: John DeVito





It's a religious experience.



Legal Sea Foods, "9 Out of 10." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors: Zack Menna, Carlos Figueiredo, Kendra Malcolm; Copywriters: Carlos Figueiredo, Rich Singer

It seems like people are at the center of your work, either What would be your dream assignment? through your message or medium. Tell us more about this. E.S.: Save the world. Almost every great PSA is kind of a part

E.S.: All advertising has to connect to people, whether you of that assignment. need them to buy something, do something, or not do some- J.D.: A TV assignment for Nike. thing. Using truths that people can relate to will help them V.T.: Any assignment where the creatives have total creative connect to your message. Essentially, people aren't at the cen- freedom and final say. Seriously, I always wanted to work ter of the work, but rather the truths they can connect to.

What is your most memorable project?

ago to convince the world that we need stricter gun laws.

J.D.: It was a campaign for Meijer Superstore and my first unfortunately, the client rejected my concepts, so I was ulticommercial shoot. Everyone remembers their first, but I really mately not part of the finished work that was then widely ridiremember it because one of the TV spots won "Best of Show" at the New York ADDY Awards and a Bronze Cannes Lion. R.S.: If you'll allow me to answer this question in a salty way, DeVito, had said he would never hire me full-time. That was younger ones, believe that once they finally get their "dream" time, I was just freelancing for him, so winning those awards great work. But some of my most rewarding work has come got me a full-time gig. Been here ever since.

a project for Legal Sea Foods came up, I had this idea of using they're working on. footage of fish moving their mouths. They would sing about the product, and how they were sad to not be the chosen fish for Le- You've done advertising for the medical industry in the past. gal. I wrote original songs, played all the instruments, and sang How has that work changed since the pandemic? all the different fish voices. It was a blast producing them, and E.S.: I believe medical industry work is more important to the cial, and we ended up doing 10 of them over the years.

R.S.: My severe dyslexia. It's plagued me my entire career. I now than before the pandemic. ing industry.

Who among your contemporaries today do you admire?

Kallman, FIG, Fortnite Collective, The Martin Agency, and pre-pandemic tone. Wieden+Kennedy.

and graphic design industry. It truly is great when a kid you a lot more valuable. met when they were 19 or 20 years old in their first-ever basic ad class goes on to become your contemporary and rise to the Can you name some of your favorite people or clients you've top, sometimes winning even more awards than you. There are worked with? so many out there, but they know who they are.

E.S.: Eric Silver, Greg Hann, Jerry Graf, Sal DeVito, Todd creatives I met and worked with at Cliff Freeman & Partners. Tillford, Kara Goodrich, Ari Harper, Doug Fogal, and Steve We still keep in touch, and it's always a total blast whenever Fallon. I could go on and on. They're the creative geniuses we have the opportunity to work together again. years before the millennial generation demanded it.

ing instructor, as his class is the most awarded in the world. Mets. How cool is that?

taking a leap of faith on day one, and then they built it up into a stared at the soles of each other's sneakers for hours on end.

come to life out there where many others are viewing it can be respected firm. Agencies that come to mind are David and Goliincredibly rewarding. I love making something out of nothing. ath, Venables/Bell, Camp + King, and, of course, DeVito/Verdi.

with professional sports. Working on a campaign for the NHL would probably be a dream assignment since I played hockey and it's my favorite sport. Hey, Gary Bettman, call me!

E.S.: A public service announcement that I'd worked on years R.C.: Actually, I've already worked on a project that I'd consider a dream assignment. I'm not going to name names, but culed by both the press and the public (not at D/V).

What makes it even more memorable is the fact my father, Sal I think the problem is too many creative people, especially always my goal: to prove to him that I belonged at DV. At the assignment (Nike, Geico, Coke, etc.), then they'll get to do from a seafood restaurant, an online bookstore, and a local R.S.: I'm a musician in my secret life on the weekends. When furniture retailer. People need to find greatness in the products

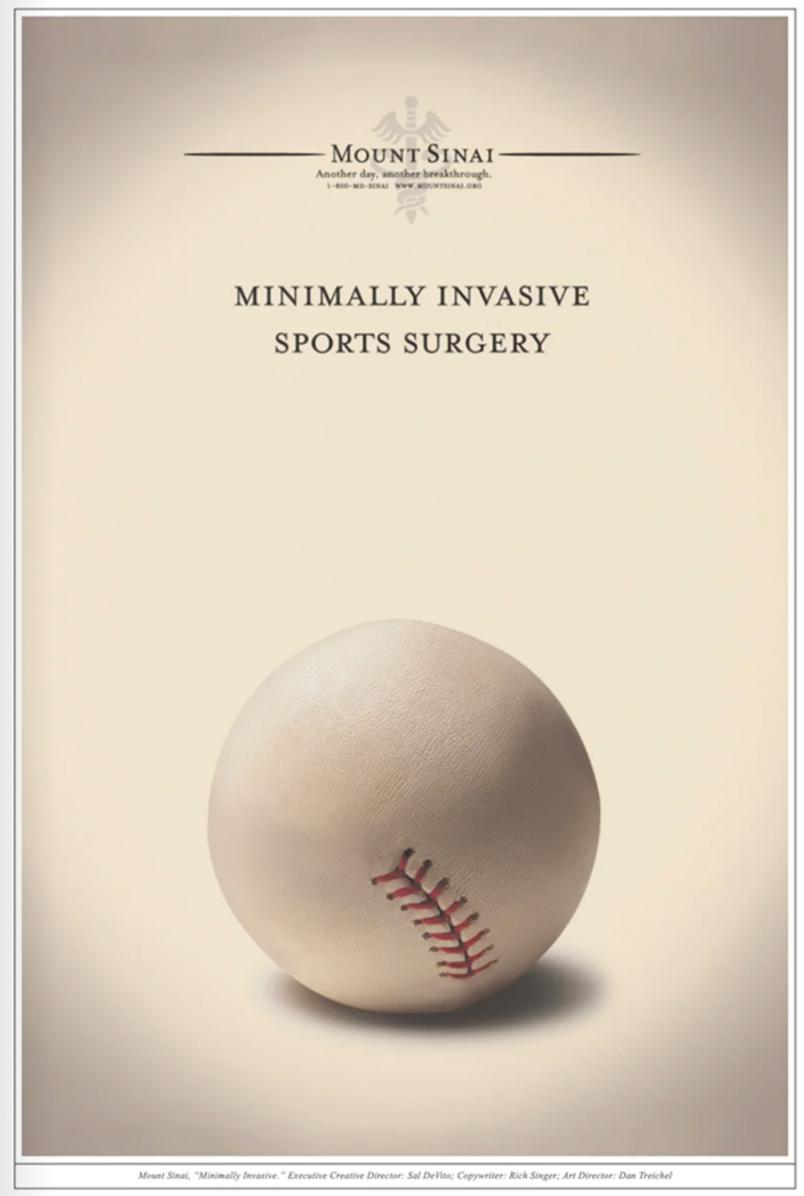
the client loved the commercials. It started as one test commer- public than ever. Before the pandemic, if you didn't have an ailment, you didn't pay as much attention to it. But now, everyone is plagued by something that has a lasting, detrimental What is the most difficult challenge you've had to overcome? impact on society. Healthcare work gets much more attention

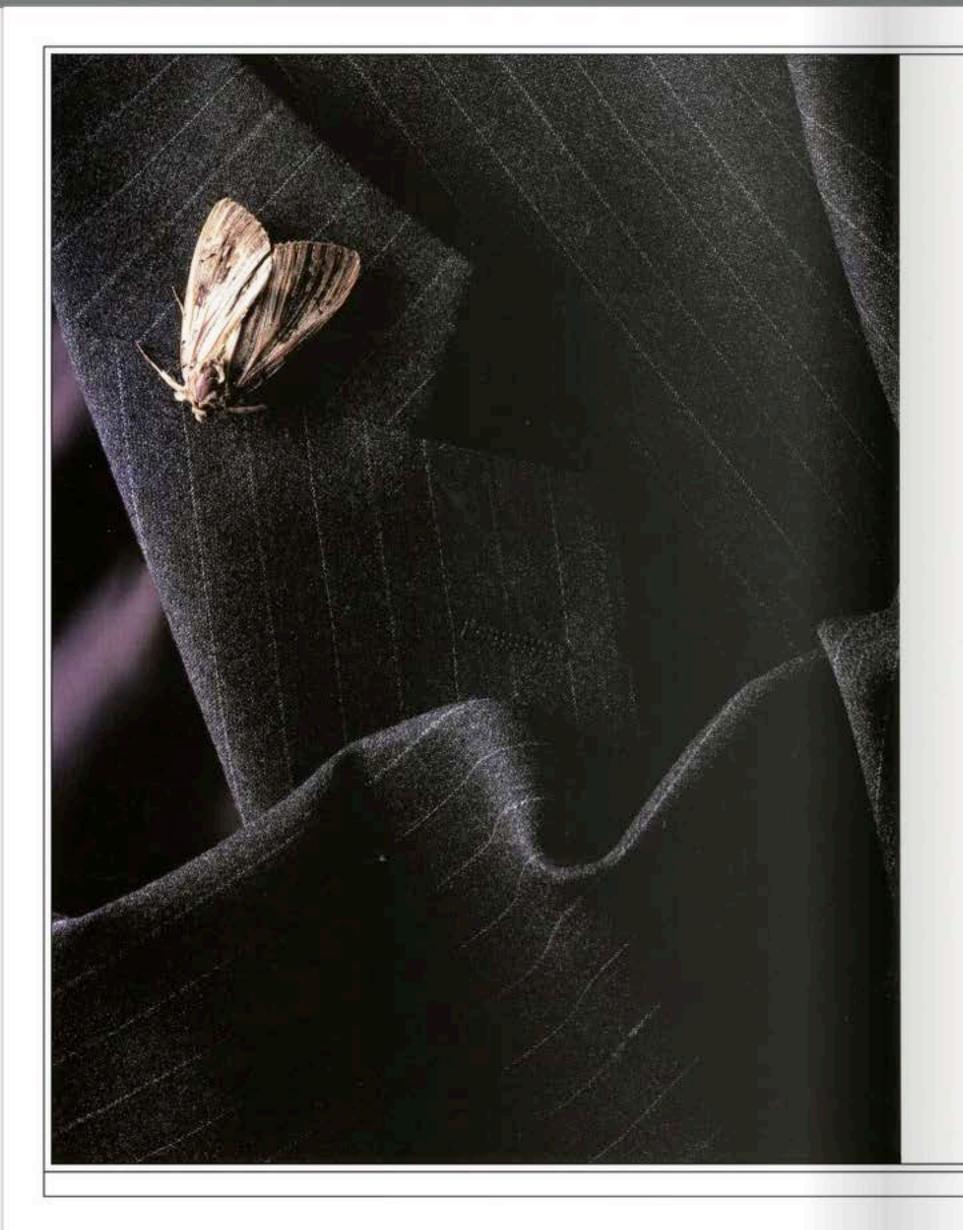
may be the worst speller in the entire advertising and market- V.T.: At first, everything became very serious. Humor and comedy didn't feel like the right way to go. Praising and honoring the front-line healthcare workers became important. As time went on, things seemed to return to normal. The vac-R.C.: Agencies that are producing work that I find interesting cine and the number of deaths going down helped that. From and inspiring these days include CALLEN, Droga5, Erich & what I'm seeing, healthcare advertising seemed to return to its

R.C.: Since the pandemic, I'm not sure that advertising for the V.T.: I'm proud to say I had the honor of teaching so many medical industry has changed all that much. But there seems to great people at SVA who became successful in the advertising be more of it out there, and experience in that category is now

R.C.: After all these years, I still feel a special bond with the

and pioneers of our time. But something has to be said for Don V.T.: I've been really lucky to work with great clients such as Schneider, Bill Bruce, James Chung, and a handful of genius Virgin Atlantic, Meijer Super Stores, Jackson Hewitt Tax Sercreatives who also taught me how to balance work with life vice, Mount Sinai Hospital, and Gildan Apparel. They all wanted work that stood out and had the guts to actually buy and run J.D.: Frank Anselmo. I graduated from the SVA with him. He's it when we delivered. Interestingly enough, the campaigns they highly successful as an award-winning creative and advertis- bought really worked for them, making a strong argument for the power of creativity. And nobody in this business can be success-And now he's the executive creative director for the New York ful without collaborating with great, talented people. Working with director Bob Giraldi was like being in film school. Watch-R.S.: I admire the founders of any independent ad agency. ing Oscar-winning DPs like Robert Richardson and Janusz Ka-The guys have achieved admirable success without ever being minski set up and frame shots was invaluable. And, of course, owned by a corporation. It was just a couple of guys (or girls) all my awesome creative partners who worked with me as we





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BRITCHES

GEORGETONESE

Q&A: DeVito/Verdi

E.S.: Sal DeVito and Eric Silver are the greatest agency lead- Morton. That was a plug. ers I've ever worked under. Not because of the amazing wins, but because of how hard they took the losses. They took the What do you value most? blame. They taught me how to be a leader, and how to inspire E.S.: Leaving this world a better place for my children and the great work from others.

J.D.: Former president and CEO Roger Berkowitz of Legal R.S.: Work/life balance. Be good at what you do at work. Be Sea Foods. Great client. He always wanted funny, edgy work a good dad or mom. that got attention. And as an agency, that's what we do best. As for a creative person, Sal DeVito.

What professional goals do you still have for yourself?

E.S.: To continue making advertising better and more account- J.D.: OneClub.org. Plenty of great inspiration there. able for the world we live in today. To make advertising and V.T.: I'm always looking at advertising award shows like the not just to help a few select businesses make money.

J.D.: To win more One Show Pencils and Cannes Lions.

known when you first started out?

erything else that's a concern will take care of itself.

doesn't get produced or gets watered down. There'll be plenty in life. of other opportunities. Always be thinking of the next assignment. It's set up so nobody wins them all. The good news is How do you define success? you'll still win plenty as long as you learn to get over the loss- E.S.: On Monday morning, do you love going to work or es quickly and move on.

R.C.: I don't think any of us could've predicted how dramat- That's how you should measure success. ically the industry would change over the years. My advice to R.S.: Be good enough at what you do at work that your co-worka student would be to never get stuck in your ways and always ers respect you and your opinion. Be a good enough person in be ready for anything.

R.S.: Keep working. Every idea you come up with isn't precious and probably isn't as brilliant as you think. Don't take Where do you see yourself in the future? to top it.

What interests do you have outside of your work?

E.S.: I have four wonderful children that are the loves of my J.D.: Either still writing award-winning work at DeVito/Verdi, ride on a Harley Davidson.

Pixie's Parchment Paper, which is centered around bullying. everyone can work remotely now. It's currently available on Amazon. I also enjoy playing the piano and traveling.

R.S.: I'm a singer/songwriter under the top-secret name Rob See their Graphis Master Portfolio at graphis.com.

next generation that'll live here.

Where do you seek inspiration?

E.S.: In all forms of art, movies, viral films, and anyone artistic who thinks outside the box.

marketing reflect a better level of diversity and equality. To One Show, Cannes Lions, and, of course, Graphis. There's so use the power of marketing and advertising to help the world, much great work being produced around the world that you can only really see in these shows. I think every creative person, regardless of experience, should be familiar with the best work out there.

What is some advice you'd give a student that you wish you'd R.C.: I find inspiration everywhere: animation, film, fine art, graphic design, illustration, literature, music, photography, E.S.: Don't create anything that you aren't proud of, and ev- walking down the street, sitting in the park, eating a sandwich-the list goes on and on.

V.T.: Don't get hung up on any particular assignment if it R.S.: Like a stand-up comedian, the crazy and trivial truths

cringe at it? I love it. If you don't, find an industry that you do.

life that your family and friends respect you and your opinion.

it personally when an ad is killed. Look at it as an opportunity E.S.: With any luck, fostering young minds to continue making the world a better place through advertising, marketing, running an agency, and doing amazing work that makes me proud when I see it.

life. I love working with my hands. And on occasion, I love or writing more fiction books while sitting on a lounge chair sneaking away with my wonderful wife for a white-knuckle under an umbrella on a beach close to a palm tree while sipping on rum punch somewhere in the Caribbean with my beau-J.D.: Writing fiction. I authored a young adult novella titled tiful wife right by my side. Or possibly both, since we all know

DeVito/Verdi www.devitoverdi.com

ALWAYS THINK SMART, EVEN WHEN THE CLIENT DOESN'T. AND WHEN IT COMES TO WRITING ADS, IT'S NOT WHAT YOU SAY BUT HOW YOU SAY IT.

John DeVito, Creative Director & Copywriter



Daffy's, "Straitjacket." Executive Creative Director: Sai DeVito; Art Director: Tom Gianfunga; Copywriter: Rob Cardwox





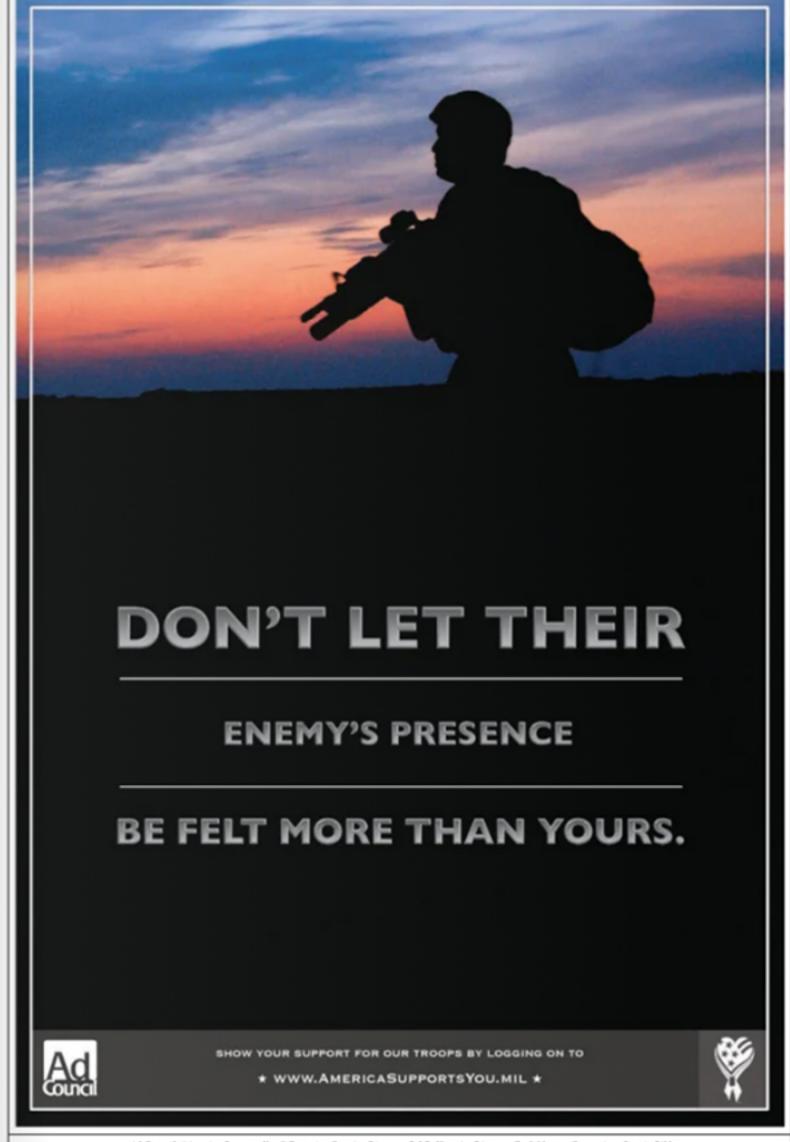
WITH ALL HIS HEART. AND WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S TOO.

64-year-old Moshe Einav's heart was always into playing the piano. But unfortunately, that very same heart of his was failing. Moshe then came to the University of Chicago Medicine where he could benefit from a medical team that included experts in heart failure medical treatment, mechanical circulatory support and cardiac surgery, including heart transplants. Because of his condition, Moshe was placed high on the waiting list for the donor organ. Fortunately for Moshe, not only is the University of Chicago Medicine one of the most respected and innovative heart failure programs in the country, but it also had a piano in the lobby. And for the next six weeks, Moshe graced patients and visitors with his beautiful music. He even played on the day of his heart transplant, one hour before the surgery. Three days after surgery, the pianist was back at it again. In fact, he was playing 90-minute concerts daily for the entire hospital to enjoy during his recovery. He said, "Getting a new heart was like getting a new spirit." But in the process, he raised the spirits of everyone else around him. To learn more or make an appointment, call 1-888-824-0200 or go to uchospitals.edu.

AT THE FOREFRONT OF MEDICINE



University of Chicago Medicine, "Heart." Art Directors: Eric Schutte, Jason Rogers; Copywriters: Eric Schutte, John DeVito



Ad Council, "America Supports You." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Zack Menna; Copywriter; Bonnie Pihl

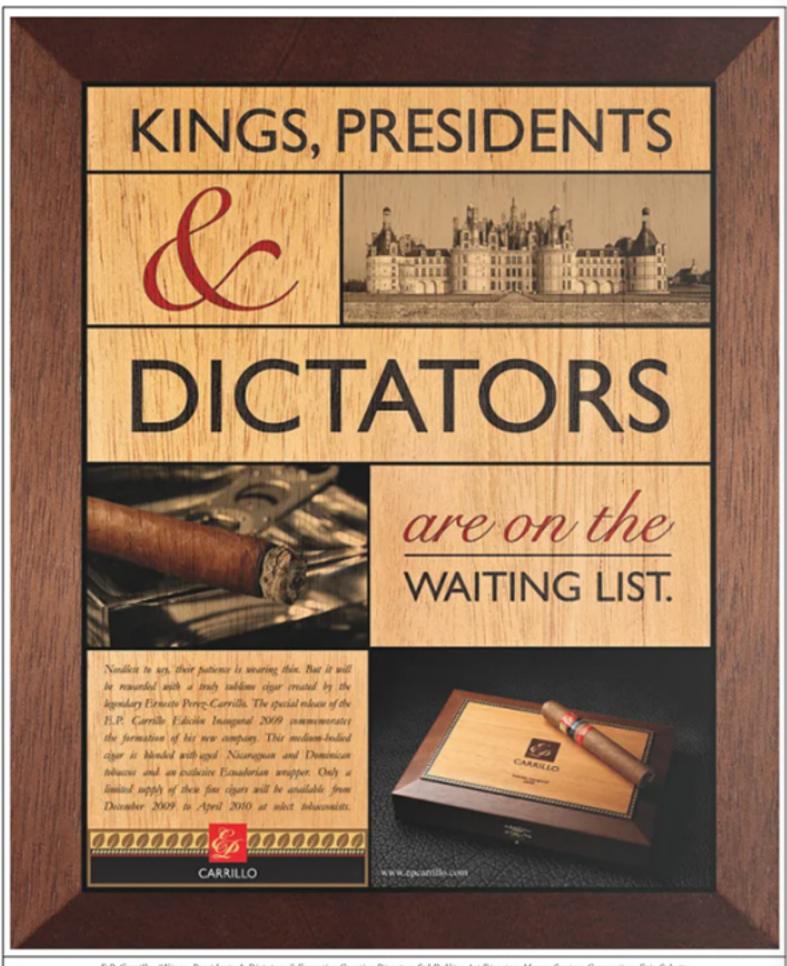
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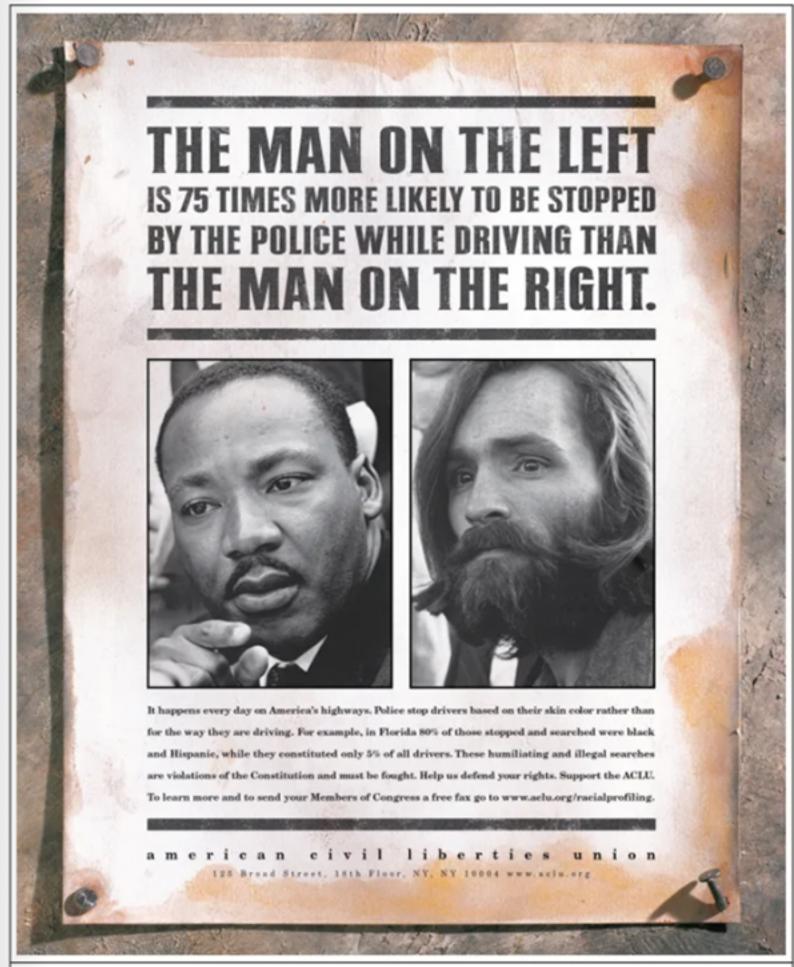
FIRE, "Barbed Wire." Creative Director: Eric Schutte; Art Director: Scott Steidl; Copywriter: Mark Teringo



Pro-Choice Public Education Project, "Hanger." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Vinny Tulley; Copymriters: Vinny Tulley, Rob Carducci



E.P. Carrillo, "Kings, Presidents & Dictators." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Manny Santos; Copywriter: Eric Schutte



ACLU, "Manson/King." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors: Sal DeVito, Barbara Eibel, Greg Braun; Copywriters: Sal DeVito, Joel Tractenberg

60

The Other Chicken Companies Are Going To Hate This Ad.

Many chickens on the market today are less than perfect. That's because the companies that sell them believe if a chicken is good enough to be approved by the government, it's good enough to be sold to you. At Empire, after a chicken passes government inspections, it has to pass kosher inspections—where many times a chicken is rejected for not being as perfect as we believe a chicken should be. Where can you find an Empire chicken? They're conveniently located at your supermarket and butcher, next to the chickens that are less than perfect.

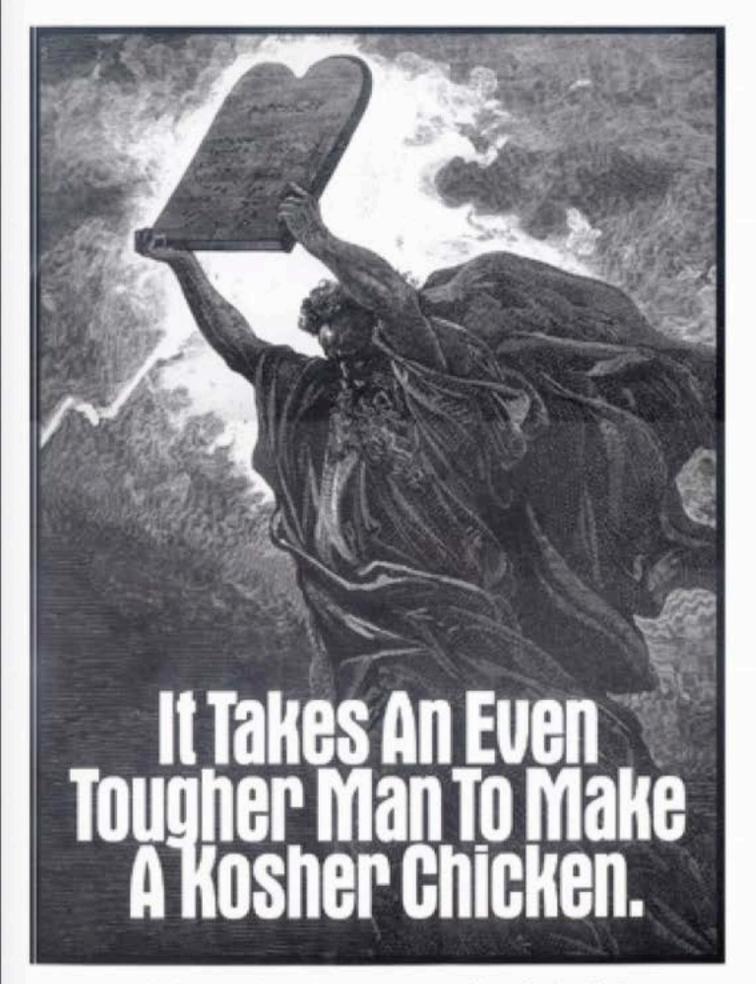
EMPIRE KOSHER CHICKEN



Many chickens on the market today are less than perfect. That's because the companies that sell them believe if a chicken is good enough to be approved by the government, it's good enough to be sold to you. At Empire a chicken passes government inspections, it has to pass kosher inspections—where many times a chicken is rejected for not being as perfect as we believe the conveniently located at your supermarks, and butcher, next to the chickens that are less than perfect.

EMPIRE KOSHER CHICKEN

Empire Kasher Chicken, "The Other Chicken Companies." Art Director: Sal DeVito; Copywriter: Sal DeVito; Photographer: Cailor/Resnick



No chicken goes through more inspections than a kosher chicken. And no kosher chicken goes through more inspections than an Empire.

EMPIRE KOSHER CHICKEN

Empire Kosher Chicken, "It Takes An Even Tougher Man." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Sal DeVito; Copywriters: Abi Aron Spencer, Rob Carducci

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LOOKING FOR ONE NIGHT STAND?

Then you're looking in the right place. I'm attractive, short, and full of personality. Take me home and bring me up to your bedroom tonight. You won't be disappointed. I promise.

- Night stands available now at Bernie & Phyl's home of fine furniture.

1 (774) 265-1010

SINGLE B F LOOKING

You don even r enough enough underst

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Planned Parenthood of NYC, "Condom." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Vieny Tulley; Copywriter: Sal DeVito



American Asthma Foundation, "Fark." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeFito; Creative Director: Brad Emmat Copywriter: Stophen Gill: Agency Producer: Barbara Michelson; Director: James Kaminski

Bernie & Phyl's, "One Night Stand." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors: Eric Schutte, John DeVito; Copywriters: Eric Schutte, John DeVito



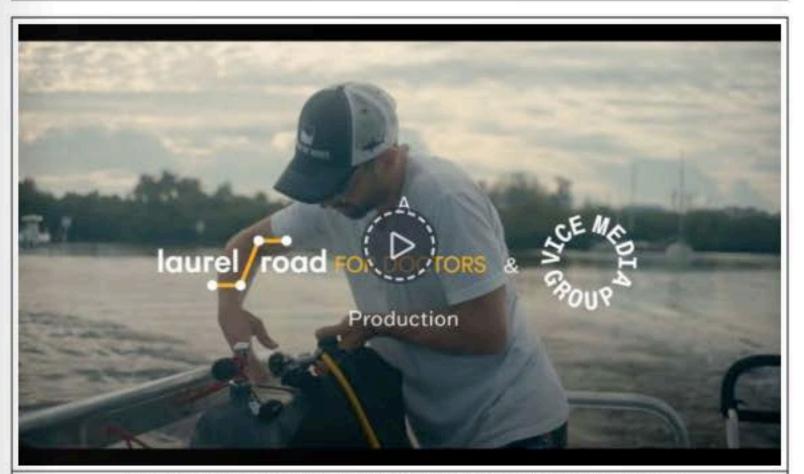
Meijer, "Spinach." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Director: Brad Emmett; Copywriter: Wayne Winfield; Agency Producer: Barbara Michelson; Director: Jeffray Fleizig



Ad Council, "Main Street, USA." Executive Creative Director: Sal DeVito; Art Directors/Copynentors: Sal DeVito, Brad Emmett, Lee Seidenberg Director: Bob Giraldi; Editor: Jerry Fried; Agency Producer: Barbara Michelson



BayCare, "If I Can Stop," Creative Director: Eric Schatte; Art Director/Writer: Scott Steidl; Agency Producer: Barbura Michelson



Laurel Road, "Ocean Photographer." Creative Director: Eric Schatte; Copymeiter: Rob Carducci; Agency Producer: Barbara Michelson Director of Photography: Soren Nielsen; Photographer: Dr. Hanan Atia; Director; Fanessa Hadson, Fice Media Group