BRAND STRATEGY MATTERS

UW-MADISON NOVEMBER 2025



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AMA/Office Hours

History of a Brand Strategist

OSIVY AGENCY

THE WORLD WORKS WITH SERVICENOW

CLIENT



CONSULTANCY

Brand Strategy Matters

Brand Strategy is not a logo!

Warp Speed Crazy Change

Coherent. Clear. Solid. Strong.

Centre of Gravity. North Star.

PEOPLE MATER

BRAND STRATEGY = PEOPLE





SUPERS POWERS YOURS / ALTUS

PRODUCT - SERVICE NOW. SOON.

PRIORITISE
PARTNERS
COLLABORATORS
ALLies
AUDIENCES

YOU PERSONALLY
PROFESSIONALLY

Last What else

SHOW ME
THE MONEY - JOHN
HOW DO WE
PROSPER: GROW

SPECIAL
SAUCE







Talk to experts

Ask Big Juicy Questions (The fine art of conversation)









DATA

INSIGHT

Human Insight informs Brand Strategy



Audience Participation

Which one is an insight?

- 1. Working 24/7
- 2. Navigating fiscal volatility
- 3. Getting ripped abs
- 4. Acquiring new technology skills
- 5. Working on emotional skills



IT'S LONELY AT THE TOP





BUSINESS MATTERS

BRAND = BUSINESS



BRAND = BUSINESS: REVENUE IMPACT (HBR/20%) TRUST, LOYALTY, RETENTION (EDELMAN/81%) INFLUENCE ON PURCHASE DECISIONS (NIELSEN 59%) MARKET SHARE (KELLER & KOTLER/10X) CUSTOMER LOYALTY (HBR/23%)



Find Alies

Sales

Up close and personal with people



Innovation

Always looking to the future



POV MATERS

BRAND STRATEGY = TAKING A STAND



Where Am 1?

If you build it, they will not come.







DIFFERENTIATION MATTERS

WHAT MAKES YOU SPECIAL















PEOPLE INSIDE MATTER

BRANDS ARE BUILT FROM THE INSIDE OUT



Great brands: built from the inside





Start at the top

Get the CEO in your pocket



It's not security. It's defence.

SIMPLICITY MATTERS

LESS IS MORE.



ANY INTELLIGENT FOOL CAN MAKE THINGS BIGGER AND MORE COMPLEX. IT TAKES A TOUCH OF GENIUS AND A LOT OF COURAGE TO MOVE IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

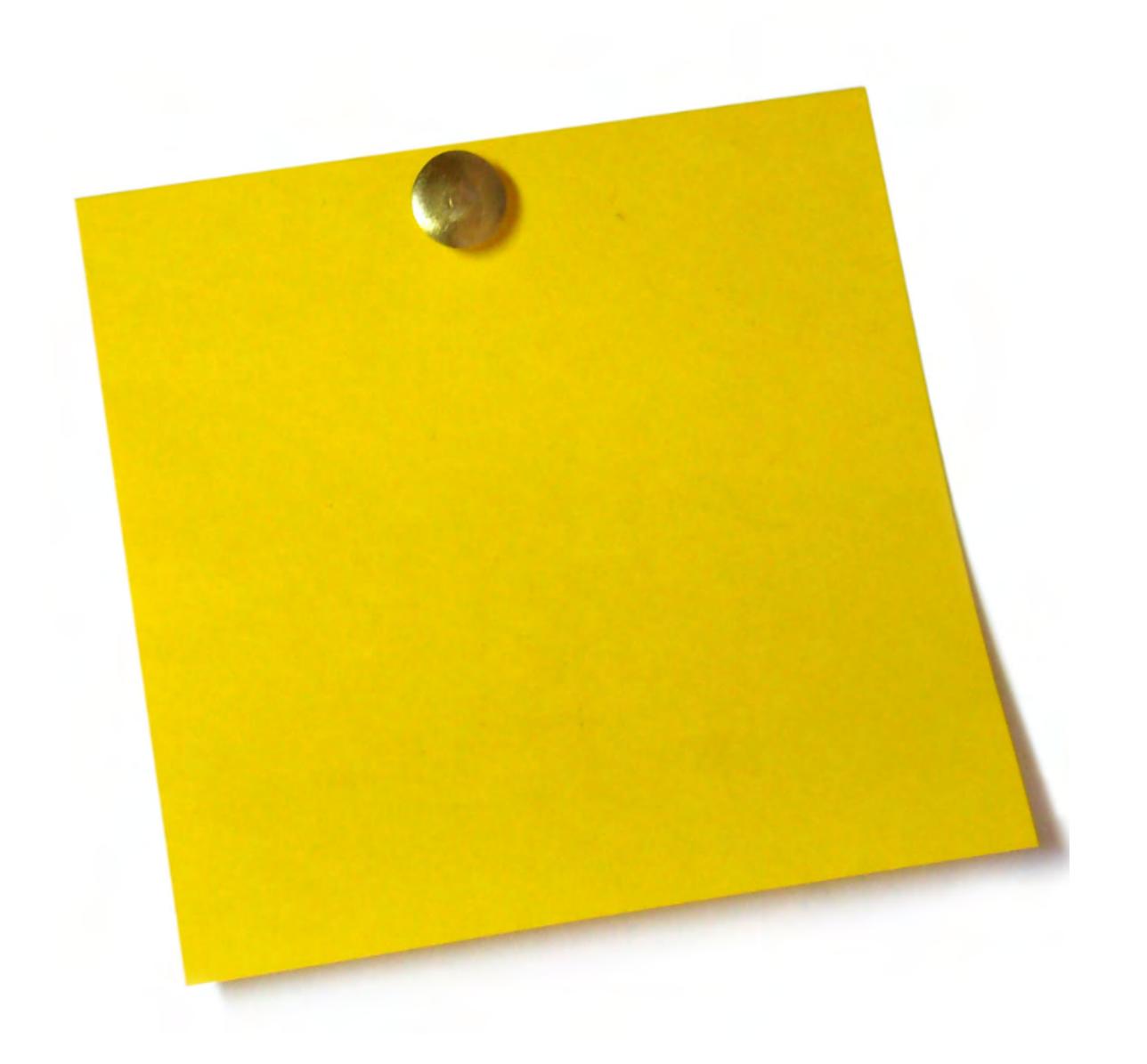
ALBERT EINSTEIN







The sticky post-it Helpful. Revealing.



INREAL LIFE MATTES

MAKE HUMAN CONTACT



SUPERS POWERS YOURS / ALTUS

PRODUCT - SERVICE NOW. SOON.

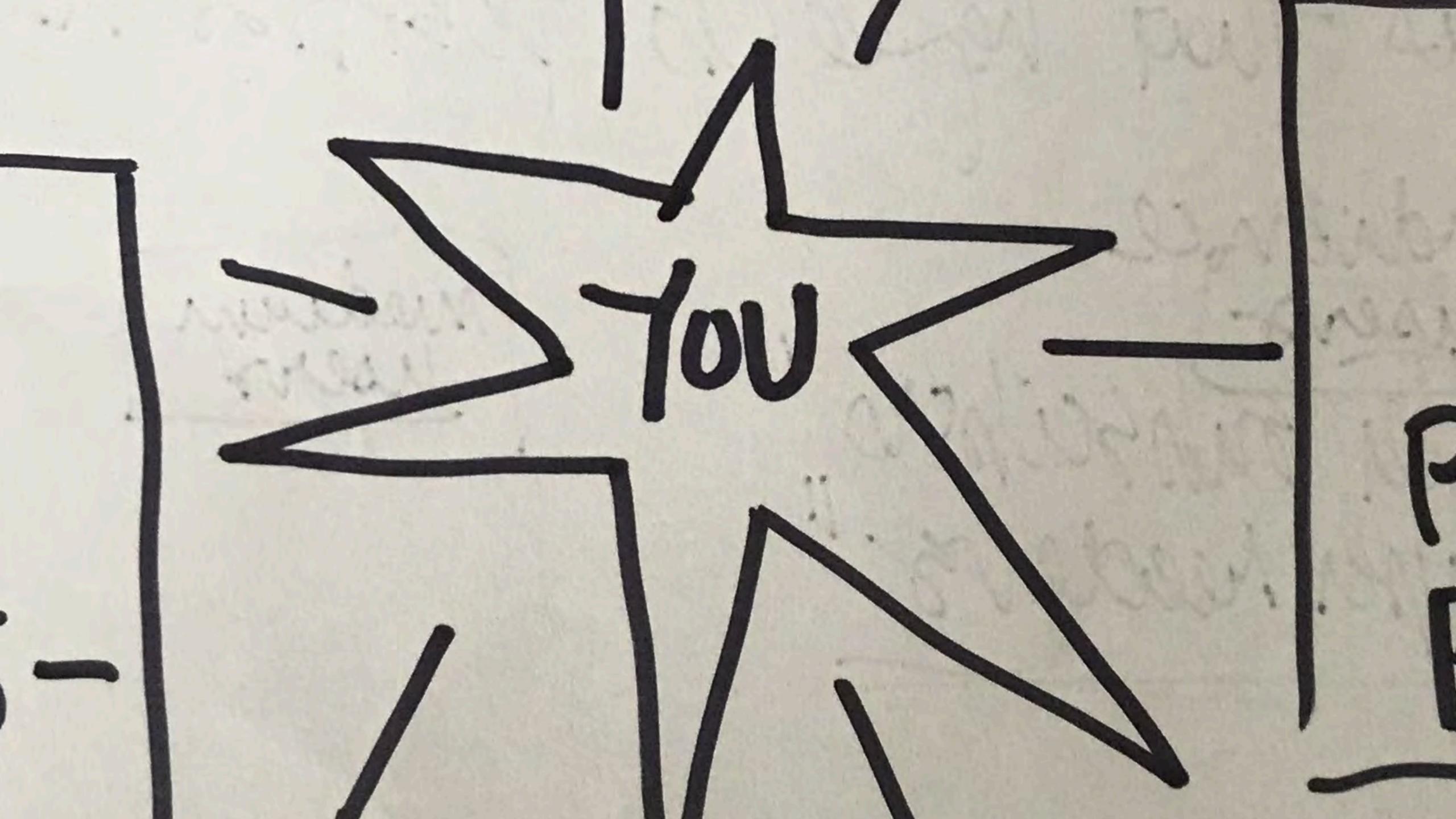
PRIORITISE
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SHOW ME
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PROSPER: GROW

SPECIAL
SAUCE



Talk to strangers Talk to people you 'know' Get onto someone's calendar Talk to people you admire

I SURVEYS

Listener>Talker Strategic>Tactical Humble>Know-it-all Problem Solver>Problem Admirer

Over-rated

Technical. Smart. Data-proficient.

Under-rated

Thoughtful. Joyful. Charming. "Makes my life easier!"

HOMEWORK MATTERS

NO PREP NECESSARY



HOMEWORK:

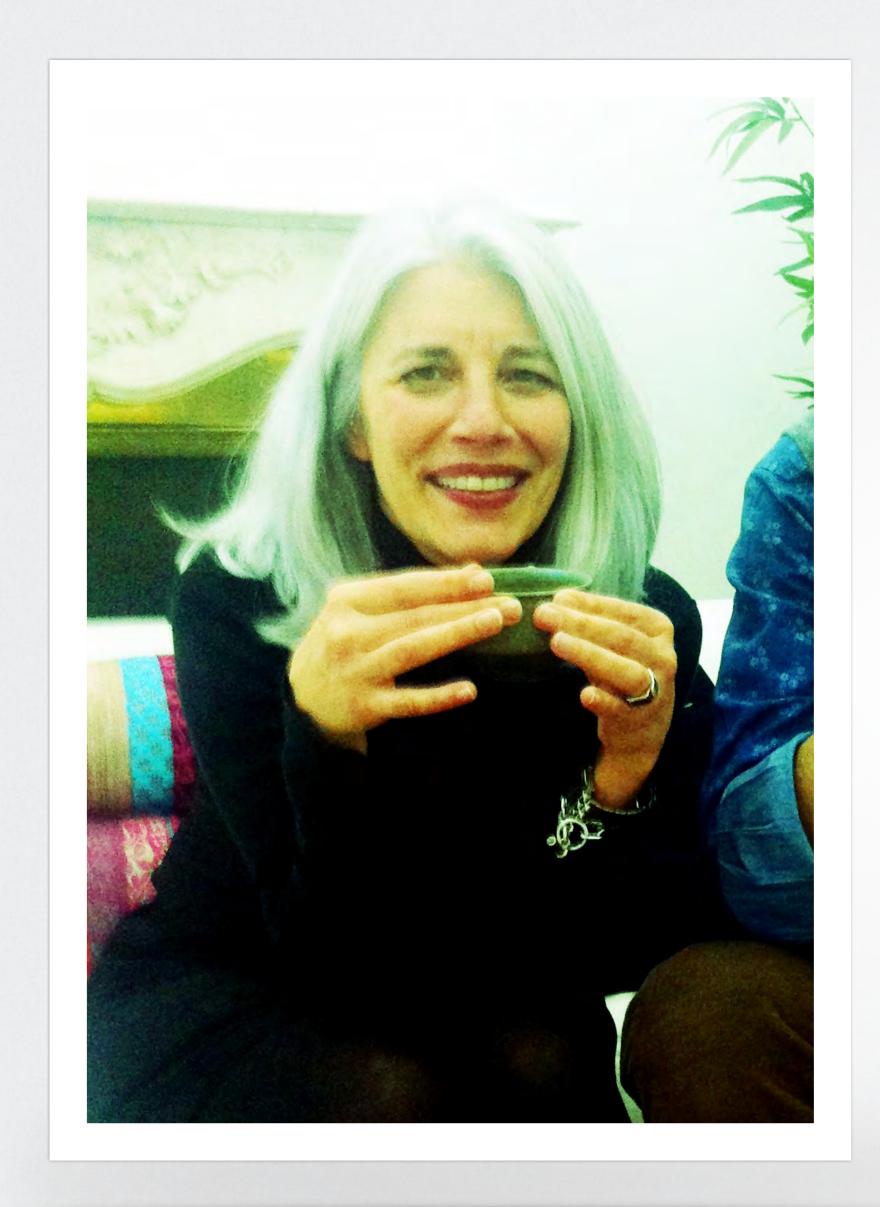
- SINGLE-MINDED, BIG & JUICY BRAND POSITION (THINK PATAGONIA)
 - NAME 3 THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR BIZ/BRAND SPECIAL (SEE JESS COLLETT)
- WHO ARE YOUR INSIDE ALLIES (SALES? CREATORS? WHO ELSE? NAME NAMES)
- BUILD THREE AHA MOMENTS INTO YOUR NEXT PRESENTATION (SHOUT IT OUT)
- TALK TO THREE STRANGERS THIS WEEK (TREAT THEM LIKE STARS)
- USE DATA AND AI, THEN FIND THE HUMAN INSIGHT (SEE CEO STUDY)
- DO A STAR CHART ON YOUR BFF AND HAVE THEM DO IT ON YOU (BRUTAL HONESTY)

AIVA

ASK ME ANYTHING









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