CASSIDY BENI

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SKILLS

Languages: JavaScript, TypeScript, Python, HTML/CSS
Frameworks & Libraries: React, Next.js, Redux, Node.js, Express, Flask, GSAP, p5.js
AI/ML: OpenAI, Anthropic, Replicate, MCP, LLMs, AI agents, model fine-tuning, model evaluation
Tools & Platforms: AWS, Docker, PostgreSQL, Datadog, Firebase, Git, Figma

EXPERIENCE

BuzzFeed Inc., New York, NY **July 2025 - Sept 2026**
AI Creative Resident

- Led frontend engineering for the Conjure launch, building the signup/waitlist flow, intake quiz, E.164 phone validation, invisible reCAPTCHA v2, and device-segmented Cordial CRM integration.
- Developed an internal batch-testing tool for the Rat Race avatar-generation pipeline for editorial content operations, then adapted its outfit/pose generation logic into a customer-facing avatar customization feature on the Rat Race landing page.
- Migrated Rat Race onto its own joinratrace.com domain, configuring DNS and site-router settings, host-gated middleware, and a permanent redirect off the legacy buzzfeed.com URL.
- Co-architected and shipped an interactive community contest system, including image cropping, responsive galleries, nested comment threading, and AI re-generation workflows.
- Engineered a multi-model AI pipeline chaining three Replicate models (image re-skinning, pixel-art generation, and background removal) with a trait-randomization engine; modernized a separate pipeline with Flux-2-pro and Google Lyria-3 using a custom state hook.
- Consulted one-on-one with editorial residents on pitch feasibility, then built working prototypes demoed to PMs and leadership for the BuzzFeed Labs session.

AI Tech Fellow **January 2025 - July 2025**

- Shipped 3 interactive AI content widgets (Tarot Card Reader, Country Song Generator, Recipe Remix) that drove ~48K combined views and up to 2:46 average per-view engagement time, integrating OpenAI GPT-4o and Replicate APIs with Datadog telemetry and resilient retry/backoff logic.
- Extended a 3-tier microservice architecture (Next.js, Python validation, and a Python microservice) to onboard 8 new Replicate models using a config-driven pattern that preserved core business logic.

Pursuit Fellowship, Queens, NY **May 2024 - December 2024**
Assistant Technical Coach

- Mentored 20+ adult learners in full-stack development, guiding debugging and project architecture.

Sponsors for Educational Opportunity - Tech Developer, Remote **May 2023 - August 2023**
Software Engineering Teaching Assistant

- Delivered hands-on instruction in Python, SQL, Flask, HTML/CSS, testing, and backend architecture while supporting students through debugging and full-stack implementation.

PROJECTS

Hell's Kitchen Ice (ReactJS, Express, PostgreSQL, NodeJS, Python, Pandas, CSS) - **Live** | **API** | **GitHub**

- Developed a full-stack e-commerce jewelry platform featuring an ML-powered recommendation engine built in Python with Pandas and Surprise to personalize product suggestions.

Event(ful) (ReactJS, Express, PostgreSQL, NodeJS, CSS, Firebase) - **Live** | **API** | **GitHub**

- Collaborated with 6 engineers to build a full-stack event management platform during a 6-week Agile capstone project.

EDUCATION

Pursuit Fellowship, Queens, NY **December 2021**
Fullstack Web Development Fellow

State University of New York - University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY **February 2019**
Bachelor of Arts, Health and Human Services