

# **Challenger Brand Update**

#### **FROM 2021**

What

<u>Challenger brands do</u>

to make people feel special

The Ask:
2021 Update for
Challenger Brands POV

New Dynamics

New Brands

New Ways to Respond

> Team: Jaz Foster, Helen Wolf, Cherie Leonard, Kalindi Mehta

<u>Click here to see</u> <u>Challenger brands 2021</u>



#### **TO 2024**

What

you can do

to be a Challenger and grow

your brand







Team: Jaz Foster & Manuela Isliker

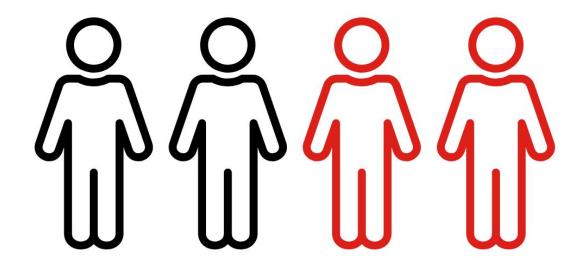


### SO WHAT?

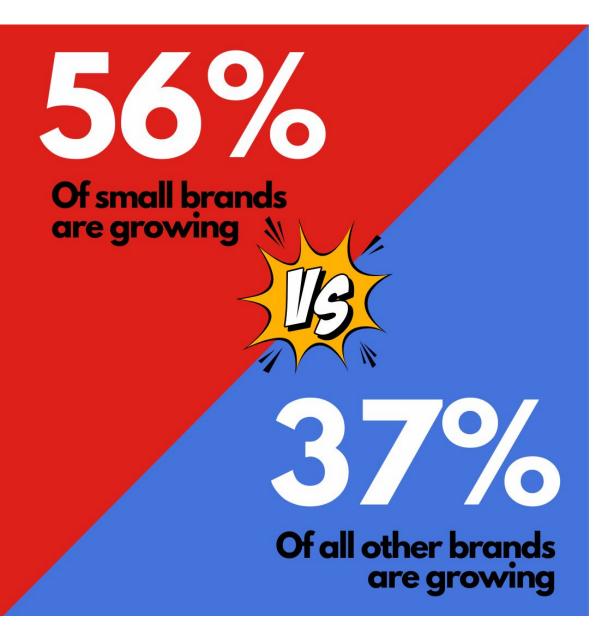
50%

of shoppers prefer whenever possible to buy from smaller companies rather than larger global brands

**KANTAR BRAND FOOTPRINT 2023** 







# Affording them growth in a fiercly competitive CPG environment

SOURCE: KANTAR WORLD PANEL, GFK FCMG BRANDS, CRP GROWTH 2022 VS 2021 SMALL BRANDS 1 TO 10% PENETRATION



# BUT I'M A BIG BRAND...

"A Challenger brand is not defined by its size but its aim to upend the status quo"

Raul Raj
CMO of the Challenger brand Agency

Anyone can be a challenger as long as you have the mindset to be one

# We Have to Think Differently To WIN







Georgina Gooley, Co-Founder of Billie Razor



Eric Ryan, Creator of Olly, Welly & Method



Todd Kaplan VP of marketing @ Pepsi



John Schoolcraft Global Chief Creative Officer @ Oatly

#### **A CHALLENGER MINDSET IS:**

Vision and grit aren't just buzzwords—they're your **blueprint** 







Georgina Gooley, Co-Founder of Billie Razor



Eric Ryan, Creator of Olly, Welly & Method



Todd Kaplan VP of marketing @ Pepsi



John Schoolcraft Global Chief Creative Officer @ Oatly









### THE TOOLS IN YOUR TOOL BELT

Seeing the unseen

Disrupt with purpose

Exist boldly

Sell revolutions, not just products





Georgina Gooley, Co-Founder of Billie Razor



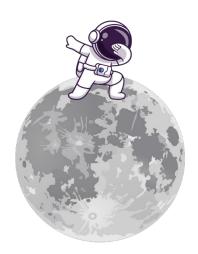
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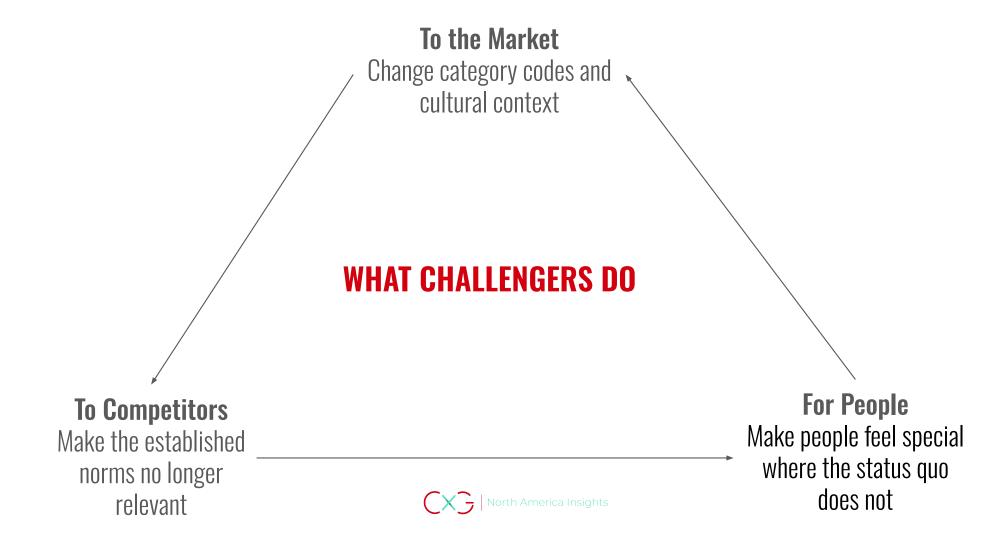


John Schoolcraft Global Chief Creative Officer @ Oatly



# THE RESULT Creating a brand that matters, not just one that exists





IT'S A MINDSET & A COMMITMENT TO CHANGE

Building a company from scratch starts by asking yourself two simple questions: Why would anyone care you exist? And, how are you going to differentiate yourself? You need to have a clear vision and the grit to see it through.

Co-Founder of Billie Razor



"Most entrepreneurs start with an idea, and I start with a category, find a space that is big ripe for disruption. What is the cultural shift big macro trend that a category is missing. Creating something you want not just something you need."

Eric Ryan, Creator of Olly, Welly & Method

Being a challenger is having a mindset of realising you're trying to change something, rather than be a challenger to be cool and help sell more products. Because consumers will be able to feel it. Of course, we want to sell our product, but we want to challenge the norms at the same time, and that's bigger. If you can get that right, you're going to sell a lot of product, and we need to sell the product so that can continue to do what we're doing.

John Schoolcraft Global Chief Creative Officer @ Oatly Part of being a challenger brand is really being confident enough in your own skin, who you are as a brand, and also in today's consumer landscape.

Consumers can sniff through bullsh\*\*, and so it really comes down to truly acknowledging the world as they see you. And then what's your point of view? What are you going to do with that? How do you add something back to that?"

Todd Kaplan VP of marketing @ Pepsi

## Before we begin...

# Let's get real

Are you up for making those slightly uncomfortable, but game-changing moves that can redefine your brand?

Are you going to let these insights just be a shower thought or are you ready to invest and take action to meet your strategic goals?

# What we will share

**Principles**How to think like a challenger

#### **Case studies**

What challengers have done & what the establishment did

# We want to hear from you

#### What if We...

What would it look like if we were to apply the principles to our brands?

Jamboard Link



#### HOW CHALLENGER BRANDS MAKE PEOPLE FEEL SPECIAL

### Recap of Challenger Brands 2021

What we learned

User Obsession	<ul> <li>Showing You know your users by focusing on overlooked pain points</li> <li>Delivering the "feeling" of personalization and curation to people's needs</li> <li>Delivering premium benefits without trade offs</li> </ul>
Humanification Of Marketing	<ul> <li>Being a part of Cultural conversations and movements</li> <li>Talking about benefits in a human way</li> <li>Involving consumers in co-creation of innovation</li> <li>Deliver value through content, entertainment and even moods or emotions.</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetically Polarizing</b>	<ul> <li>Visual contradiction by defying category expectations</li> <li>Simplify with conversational human language. No BS.</li> <li>Emulate self expression to magnify identity driven semiotics</li> </ul>







Break from the convention of today

Don't be afraid to pioneer based on changing norms in society



Innovate on the fringes

to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone

Treat People as innovators

Understand & activate on how people are using your products, not just how you want them to use it



3





4

#### Say the quiet part out loud!

What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people too.



If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it.

Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.

HOWEVER.

HOWEVER.

THE MEN'TEROY BEAMS

Mass Market is not always the First step it's often the last.

Build your innovation within your target audience first to create congregation around your product







#### Use Design as a superpower

to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook



### Design is more than graphics!

Innovation should be driven by user experience





#### **Case studies**

What challengers have done & what the establishment did











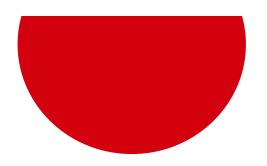




#### WHAT TO EXPECT FROM CHALLENGER BRAND CASE STUDIES

Pre Challenger	What were the category dynamics before the challenger launched?
Cultural Context	How was culture shifting and changing? what were the macro trends that influenced the challenger?
Opportunity	What was the job to be done that the challenger activated on?
<b>Principle</b> Challenger Vs Mainstream	What principles did the challengers use in their strategy? How did that differ from mainstream competitors?
Impact	How has the category changed and shifted based on the challengers

## CATEGORY CASE STUDIES



BEER WATER DEODORANT MILK

YOGURT RAZORS VITAMINS DIAPERS

BANDAGES CEREAL HYDRATION

Click on the category to go to a case study



# BEER

Vs





# Pre Challenger Category Dynamics



#### **Craft vs Domestic**

Competition heats up and craft brewers grew exponentially between 2010-2018.



Beer is Beer or is it?

Drinking craft beer became a lifestyle status and identity signal. In come the hipsters & "beer snobs"



# male dominated category

Marketing, advertising packaging was often focused on appealing to men

#### **BEER PAIN POINTS**

Very filling/carb heavy

Lacked variety on taste (Hops & Wheat based)

Higher ABV

Price heavily influenced quality and experience

Culturally not inclusive

Pre Challenger

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

Principle

#### White Claw Launched in 2016





Percentage who say they are more likely to purchase a food if it has/is:

20% Gluten-free 36%

40% Organic

Hig

45% High Protein

46% Low Sugar







The expansion of health from fitness & weight loss to "self care" & balance. In 2014 53% of Millennials said they were concerned their unhealthy habits will soon catch up with them.

Click here for more information

**Shifting Gender Expectations** 

The definition of masculinity is changing and people are questioning dynamics gender roles. Obergefell v. Hodges recognizes same sex marriage in 2015

Click here for more information

Income inequality

Value and affordability is a hot topic, people questioning economic dynamics between rich and poor. Investment in SNAP benefits declined 2012 - 2014 while # of families in poverty grew

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger

Cultural Context

Opportunity

**Principle** 



#### Launched in 2016

White Claw saw the category was missing

# A healthier refreshing Beer alternative that has a great taste with flavors for everyone.

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity Principle Impact

### White Claw's Challenger Brand Principles

4

# Say the quiet part out loud!

What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people

**Humanification of Marketing** 

1

# Break from the convention of today

Don't be afraid to pioneer based on changing norms in society

**User Obsession** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

USER OBSESSION PRINCIPLE: Don't be afraid to pioneer based on changing norms in society and break from the convention of today



6-pack \$9.99

They competed with health centered claims like gluten free, low carb and natural flavors "sparkling water"

# White claw reframed benefits that the category could deliver a comparable value.

They added variety to a traditional taste profile finding an untapped demand space





6-pack about \$8.80

The mainstream focused on mainly taste and ingredient superiority offering little perceivable differentiation between offerings

er

Pre Challenger

Cultural context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

Humanification of Marketing PRINCIPLE: Say the quiet part out loud! What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people

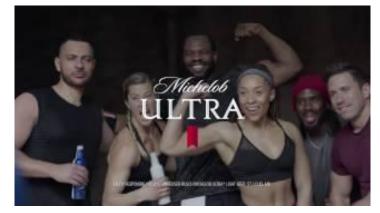
# White Claw Made it permissible for men to drink something other than beer

Tapping into millennial culture By embracing ironic self deprecating stigma of being seen as a feminine drink. Making it an inclusive way to have fun with friends.





The Mainstream
used language
centered in
performance and
used masculine
sports focused
imagery





Pre Challenger

**Cultural** context

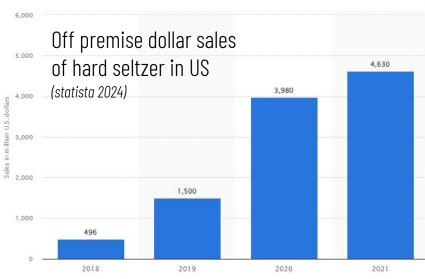
Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream



# White claw Launched in 2016 paving the way for an entirely new category

By July 2021, more than 150 brands launched lines of hard seltzer across the U.S. with global seltzer market expected to be 17.67 billion by 2025



Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger

### **FROM**

Beer is the default for hanging with the guys

### TO

Even in traditionally masculine places where you'd expect everyone to be into beer, it's totally cool to go for lighter even fruit flavored option.

# **Category** RAZOR Vs Oile



### Pre Challenger

### **Category Dynamics**







#### **Smooth Expectations**

The long held belief that for women, body hair not okay still prevails. With younger consumers questioning this expectation

#### **New subscription** models

Brands launching with stratification leading refillable subscription models are on the rise with the launch of men's shaving brand Harry's in 2013

#### Locked up

Economic to Theft in basic categories lead to retailers locking up product.

#### PAIN POINTS

Razors refill model prices soar

Dull Blades ill equipped for coarse hair

Category is confusing, claims technology, razor head and handle compatibility

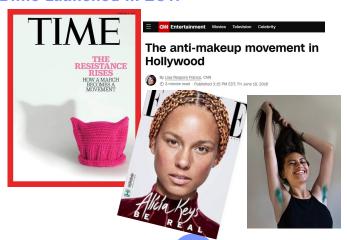
**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

**Principle** 

#### Billie Launched in 2017







#### New Wave feminism taking shape

The women's empowerment movement starts drumming up conversations around gender norms like shaving and makeup. Women's march in 2017 culminates on calls for bodily autonomy.

Click here for more information

#### Millennial culture calls for Authenticity

"This generation doesn't dislike brands. What they don't like is advertising," said Maker Studios' chief content officer, Erin McPherson. 90% of millennials say that brand authenticity is key when making purchasing decisions (Forbes 2016)

Click here for more information

## Minimalism movement becomes mainstream

People seek simplicity and inspect the harms of over consumption. Some opt for more minimalist approach to living and consumption streamlining routines and design aesthetics

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger	Cultural Context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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Launched in 2017

Billie saw the category was missing

An affordable and easy to use, inclusive body positive brand that makes it okay for women take control of their hair from head to toe.

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity Principle Impact

### Billie's Challenger Brand Principles

Say the quiet part out loud! What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people **Humanification of Marketing** 

8 Design is more than graphics! Innovation should be driven by user experience **Aesthetically Polarizing** 

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity

Principle
Challenger vs
Mainstream

Humanification of Marketing PRINCIPLE: Say the quiet part out loud! What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people

# Billie used envelope pushing style of marketing to bring bold representation to the body hair conversation

Their messaging focused on autonomy of women. Shaving whenever. However. If ever.



While mainstream brands focused on smoothness mainly on legs, close shaves and comfortability

















Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Principle
Challenger vs
Mainstream

#### Aesthetically Polarizing PRINCIPLE: Design is more than graphics! Innovation should be driven by user experience



Bille's focus on design, simplicity and value allowed it compete directly with leaders in the category

Their Less but better approach highlighted the issues with other razors when shaving coarse hair and irritation. Stood out offering sleek designer crafted handle and durable stainless steel blades for a value.







Mainstream players often focused on tiered functional benefits with more blades, varying benefits withs heads that often don't match handles

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs
Mainstream





## After Billie's hair honesty the mainstream starts opening up

Brands start to focus on body hair "care" not just removal more conversations around body hair candor pop up across the marketplace.

## in 2021 Billie was acquired by Edgewell owner of Schick for \$310 Million





Billie's sales volume increased by 268% year over year as of December 2019.
Additionally, over the past three months, Billie has seen a 56% repeat purchase rate (March 2020)



Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger



### Pre Challenger

## **Category Dynamics**



#### Bandages = **Band-Aid**

Brand is category synonym. No other brands able to compete with mainstream brand.



### **Clinical Commodity**

purely functional. Innovation based in not meaningful benefits



#### **Cover & Care**

Seen as a commodity, Made to blend in. All band aids were designed to blend into the skin and hide cuts/bruises. Has not evolved since inception

#### PAIN POINTS

Hard to find

All about utility and lack of positive emotional connection

Boring. Excitement and enjoyment was only reserved for kids

Packaging not counter worthy or durable enough to withstand those bumpy and often bruising moments

**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

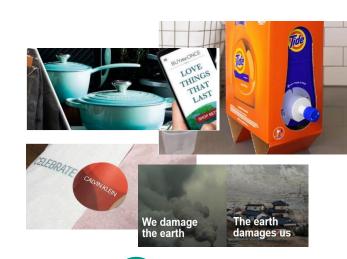
Opportunity

**Principle** 

## Welly Launched in 2019







#### **GenZ Shapes culture with Expression**

Labels should be chosen, not given, with identities being built based on a collection of intersectional attributes.

Self expression as a form of individualism and uniqueness

Click here for more information

#### Millennials Enter parenthood

Millennial parents prioritize quality and novelty. Parents want to see their kids express themselves and give them freedom to choose what's right for them

Click here for more information

#### **Environmental Focus**

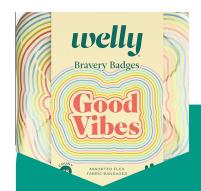
As Millenials grow so do their environmental worries, after seeing oil spills, wildfires and contaminated drinking water across the US they are hyper focused on their families future.

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger Cultural Context

Opportunity

**Principle** 



## Launched in 2019

Welly saw the category was missing

Fun and happiness for everyone in times that often lead to tears.

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity Principle Impact

## Welly's Challenger Brand Principles

5

If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it.

Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.

**Humanification of Marketing** 

Use Design as a

to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook

superpower

**Aesthetically Polarizing** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it. Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.



Welly used human
language like "bravery
bandages" to describe a
category that has
historically had clinical
focused utility based
benefits



The mainstream focused on specific benefits using arbitrary claims like "60% more healing & 50% more stretchable"







Pre Challenger

Cultural context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it. Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.

Welly brought on the fun using UGC content to leaned in to scrapes and cuts as "happy accidents" encouraging people to wear them as badge of honor



Band-aid brand focused on functionality and durability with benefits like waterproof & 4 sided seals.







Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

Use Design as a superpower to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook

Welly helped parents who had a hard time finding bandages when they urgently needed, paper boxes tended to blend in, bend, break and fall apart.

Providing sustainability & functional benefits without using traditionally eco friendly cues











The Category leader split the category in 2, Kids & Adult. Focusing on licenses to keep kids smiling and advance technological language to premiumize with adults. All in paper packaging

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream





The 100 year old Brand Band-aid owned by J&J has yet respond to Welly's sugrence, while other bandage brands hoping to capture market growth have emerged.

## Welly's exclusive year in Target generated \$10 Million in sales.

## It's success has led to kids and parents alike expecting more excitement in the bandage category

Welly was eventually acquired by Unilever in February 2022 expanding into other wellness categories since its acquisition.









Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity	Principle		Impact		
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## **FROM**

Bandages as a form of healing and covering up

## TO

Bandages as a form of self expression of a life well lived

Category

# Wate





### Pre Challenger

## **Category Dynamics**



#### Same Same but.. Also Same

A new water brand pops up every day prices are going up but almost no differentiation in the market



#### Hydrate or diedrate

In 2017 bottled water sales grew 8.8% While Carbonated soft drinks sales declined for the 13th consecutive year.



### **Liquid Controversy**

BPA free is still a
topic of
conversation while
Nestle in hot water
around its sourcing
practices. Water
brands come under
scrutiny

### **PAIN POINTS**

Brands look the same, water is a utility little to no emotional connection

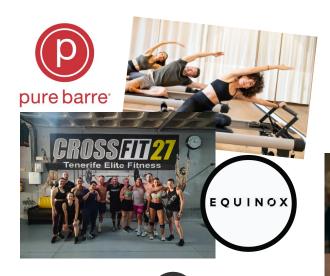
Hard to differentiate the quality of water

Plastic bottles are a high contributor of waste and often not recycled

Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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#### Liquid Death Launched in 2019







#### The Plastic Problem

In 2018 53% of americans considered themselves environmentalists.

Click here for more information

#### Workout culture booms

Health & fitness trackers, smartwatches and other wearables will be the number one fitness trend in 2019, (ACSM Health & Fitness Journal)

## Younger generations less likely to binge drinking compared to previous years

Alcohol consumption declining with younger people. Fewer young drinkers 2023 (22%) than in the 2000s or 2010s (28%) report they sometimes drink "more than they think they should."

Gallup August 2023
Bloomberg UK March 2023
Click here for more information

Pre Challenger Cultural Context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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Click here for more information



Launched in 2019

Liquid Death saw the category was missing

## A plastic free single use water brand that makes it cool to drink water.

Pre Challenger Cultural context	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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## Liquid Death's Challenger Brand Principles

Use Design as a superpower

to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook

Aesthetically Polarizing

Say the quiet part out loud!

What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people too.

Mass Market is not always the First step it's often the last.

Build your innovation within your target audience first to create congregation around your product

**Humanification of Marketing** 

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity	<b>Principle</b> Challenger vs Mainstream	Impact
---------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------	--------

Aesthetically Polarizing PRINCIPLE: Use Design as a superpower to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook



Liquid death inspired by Vans
Warped tour borrowed from
Punk/Goth aesthetics to stand
out from everyday water brands
infused it's edgy dark humor
and sustainability message into
an every part of its product









Most Mainstream
waterbrands look almost
exactly the same with
clear plastic bottles and
varying shades of blue.

Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity	<b>Principle</b> Challenger vs Mainstream	Impact

Humanification of Marketing PRINCIPLE: Say the quiet part out loud! What's traditionally considered Taboo can be empowering for people



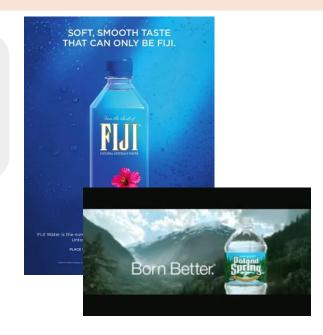
creating a brand that makes people want to drink water and feel like a rebel doing it.

Liquid Death leaned into the anti establishment feelings and unapologetically rebellious nature of people in its target audience



@Rin-qj7zt 3 years ago
Okay, I don't mind commercials when they are as entertaining as this lol

1.5K 5D Reply



Mainstream players competing solely on taste and price with imagery of waterfalls and islands while tacking on sustainability as an "add on" rather than an ethos.

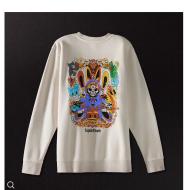
Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity	<b>Principle</b> Challenger vs Mainstream	Impact
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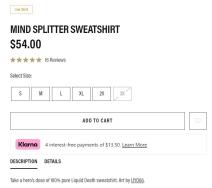
Mass /Brick and Mortar is not the answer every time. Build your innovation within your target audience first to create a congregation around your product

Liquid death went beyond product attributes and opted to create community around its product. Using language and other ways to consume its message and ethos



While the brand started online they began selling in bars, tattoo parlors and barber shops then expanded to whole foods and 7-eleven. Finally entered into an exclusive deal with live nation









Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity		<b>Principle</b> Challenger vs Mainstream	Impact
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## Liquid death differentiated itself on shelf and in the hands of people Offering a new take on water and giving rise to differentiated and more sustainable options in the water category.



## **FROM**

Water as a commodity

## TO

Water as a Lifestyle

Category Deodoran 72Hr!



## Pre Challenger

## **Category Dynamics**



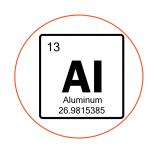
#### **All about Armpits**

Deodorizing is limited to the underarm some brands focus on chafing but not much innovation beyond that



## Natural Deo on the rise

Native deodorant launch aluminum free claims catch fire with the mainstream.



#### More hours more Aluminum

Claims are rising from 24 to 48 even some clinical formulas touting 72 hour protection but all with more concentration of aluminum

### **PAIN POINTS**

Some don't want aluminum but want long lasting protection

Natural deodorants struggle to work

Some experience uncomfortable smells on other parts of their body and shower more than 3x a day

Irritation issues resulting in rashes and itchiness

Pre Challenger Cultural context

Opportunity

Principle

#### Lume Launched in 2016







PARABEN FREE











**SUSTAINABLE** 



**ORGANIC** 



Wal-Mart aims to push organic foods into mainstream









#### Natural is mainstream

People want more transparency in what they buy. Health, safety and sustainability expectations are growing while new natural brands launch across categories in Mass

Click here for more information

## Open conversations about women's health

Fertility, sexual health, menopause, pregnancy talking about reality of motherhood

Click here for more information

#### **People Talk Patriarchy**

Feminism conversations continue to build momentum with topics like toxic masculinity & privilege are discussed.

. "cultural distaste for The Patriarchy is perhaps at an all-time high" - Vanity Fair (2014)

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger

**Cultural Context** 

Opportunity

**Principle** 



Launched in 2016

Lume saw the category was missing

# A product that keeps you safe from unwanted odor, chemicals, and irritation Everywhere & Everywhen

Pre Challenger	Cultural context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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## Lume's Challenger Brand Principles

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## Break from the convention of today

Don't be afraid to pioneer based on changing norms in society

## Innovate on the fringes

to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone

**User Obsession** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

USER OBSESSION: Break from the convention of today. Don't be afraid to pioneer based on changing norms in society

# Lume leaned into uncomfortable conversations that come with odor from "down under"

Using the founders background as a Gyno to have real honest conversations with people







The Mainstream main focus was on the underarm highlighting, moisturization, brightening, dryness and sweat.



Pre Challenger Cultural context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

User obsession PRINCIPLE: Innovate on the fringes to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone



Lume leaned into science & expert backed superiority and went beyond the traditional category benefits with a cheeky twist

Lume found some people showering more than 3x a day and knew the problem was beyond the pits



Introducing Our Best
Care Ever
It's time to change the
way the world sees the armpit

NEW

New Dove\* Advanced Care
with NutriumMoisture\*
Give your armpits some Tuck
with our best care ever
for the armpit

The mainstream focused on premiumizing with clinical level protection with formulas increasing aluminum concentration combatting the downsides of texture and feel that come with it

Lumē

Odor beyond armpits?

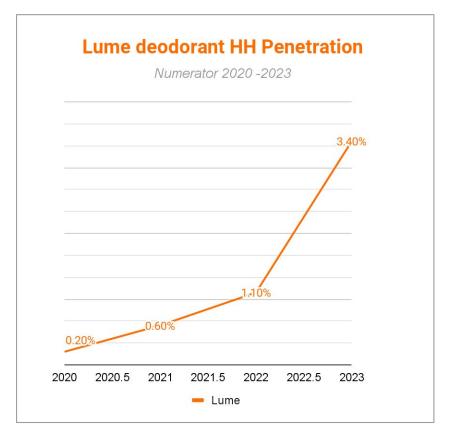
That's what we do.

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream



## In the year after Lume launched in Target driving almost 200% HH penetration growth YOY.

Since launch other mainstream brands are following the pits to privates playbook



Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger

## **FROM**

Showering more than 3 times a day and being uncomfortably icky

## TO

The freedom of feeling fresh anytime anywhere

(even down there)





## Pre Challenger

## **Category Dynamics**



#### Fun Cereals are Made for Kids

Cereal isles were dominated by cute characters and bright colors. But Trix are (only) for kids



### **Sugar Shock**

Parents get wise to cereal companies marketing to their kids exposing the industries sugary secret.



#### **Redefining breakfast**

The on the go american lifestyle forgos breakfast according to Kellogs Survey Only 34% of American adults eat breakfast everyday

#### **PAIN POINTS**

It's difficult to find time in busy schedules for a healthy breakfast

Breakfast Cereal options for a adults are boring or laden with sugar and empty calories

People suffering from diabetes often have to leave the category

**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

**Principle** 

#### Magic Spoon Launched in 2019







## America leads in Obesity and Type 2 Diabetes

Based on CDC reports estimates for total diabetes were 10.3% in 2001–2004 and 13.2% in 2017–2020. The age-adjusted prevalence of obesity among U.S. adults was 42.4% in 2017–2018.

#### Paleo, Keto, fasting, Whole30 Oh Mv!

Americans following a specific diet doubled 14% in 2017 to 36% in 2018. According to Survey<sup>1</sup> people felt sugar was the top culprit of weight gain

## Sugar is the enemy as Self-care evolves

America starts to peel back the anti sugar sentiment replacing it with a focus on moderation. According to study<sup>1</sup> indulgence sometimes is as fundamental to a happy life as self control

<sup>1</sup>Beyond Self Control

<sup>1</sup>IFICF 2017 Survey

Pre Challenger Cultural Opportunity Principle Impact



## Launched in 2019

Magic Spoon saw the category was missing

## A healthier fun cereal for adults that tastes just as good as you remember it growing up

Pre Challenger	Cultural context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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## Magic Spoon's Challenger Brand Principles

6

Innovate on the fringes to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone **User Obsession** 

Mass Market is not always the First step it's often the last.

Build your innovation within your target audience first to create congregation around your product

**Humanification of Marketing** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

User Obsession PRINCIPLE: Innovate on the fringes to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone



They Made it so you could have your cereal and eat it too! With High quality ingredients that are high in protein, low in sugar, keto friendly and Grain free without compromising on taste. Magic spoon leveraged nostalgia and innovated for people suffering with diabetes to unlock an experience everyone would enjoy.

No Guilt Guaranteed





Mainstream had a clear line by age. For kids adding more & more sugary varieties vs adults only pure health food



Pre Challenger Cul

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

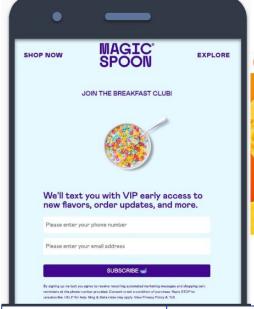
**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

Humanification of Marketing PRINCIPLE: Mass /Brick and Mortar is not the answer every time. Build your innovation within your target audience first to create a congregation around your product

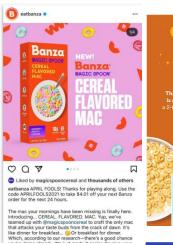
Starting on DTC, Driving discovery with new rotating flavors and exclusive drops through different channels like podcasts and insta worthy buzzy partnerships.



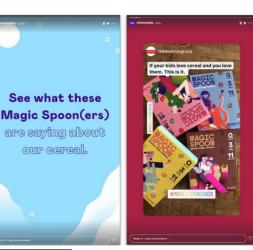
Magic Spoon refers to their consumers as spoon(ers), and the brand consistently reposts UGC via Instagram stories, creating a sense of community.











Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream





After Magic Spoon's launch in 2019 the DTC brand amassed an online community of more than 1 million people.

4 years later Magic Spoon expanded to more than 6,800 stores nationwide (*Target, walmart, Costco, Kroger etc*) Brands mimicking the innovation enter the market not soon after.

By 2021 approximately 20% of cereal and breakfast foods now contain protein claims

NIQ Label insights (Feb 2021)



Pre Challenger

Dark Chocolate

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger

**IMPACT** 

## **FROM**

All fun & delicious cereal is sugary, unhealthy and off limits of adults

## TO

You can have the cereals you crave and eat it too!
Without the guilt

Category

# Yogur **Chobani**®



# Pre Challenger Category Dynamics



Yogurt-women dominated category

Yogurt brands targeted to women mostly



Products high in sugar & additives

Conventional yogurt with preservatives & artificial flavors



#### Greek Yogurt: Lack of Awareness & distribution

Greek only available specialty stores and often at a premium price

#### **PAIN POINTS**

The healthy Yogurt options bringing health but not tasty

The overall Yogurt brands, lacking health benefits very sugary

Mainstream cup package, makes difficult to reach it until the last drop

**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

Principle

#### **Chobani Launched in 2007**







Shift towards healthy & conscious eating

Eating more fermented food seen as a way to improve health and wellbeing

#### Protein-obsessed environment

Protein-obsessed environment with demands for meal replacement bars

# Photo based social Media influencing health behavior

People start to think more about how they look, because they were more often sharing pictures on social media (FB at the time)

Click here for more information

Click here for more information

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger

Cultural Context

Opportunity

Principle



#### Launched in 2007

Chobani saw the category was missing

A nutritious & tasty yogurt recipe that's more natural, higher in protein, lower in sugar and carbs that everyone can enjoy

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity Principle Impact

## Chobani's Challenger Brand Principles

2

# Innovate on the fringes

to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone

**User Obsession** 

8

# Design is more than graphics!

Innovation should be driven by user experience

**Aesthetically Polarizing** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**enger vs Mainstream

User Obsession PRINCIPLE: Innovate on the fringes to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone



The ads were targeted mostly to women & focused on diet. Mainstream players were engaged on winning share points via new flavor, probiotics & fat free.

Chobani looked for people
who were seeking for a
healthier yogurt option and
needed something quick,
easy and tasty



Protein & Naturals interest

Chobani has overturned long held prejudices about the American palate. Big companies pushed sugary, unhealthy & processed food into grocery stores.

Chobani identified the unmet need of protein & for naturalness & addressed it by using Greek yogurt. Greek yogurt offers a lot of protein without much cholesterol & carbs & has a milder taste. Chobani figured it out that if they made it thicker, people would like it better & they did it without adding sugar

Pre Challenger

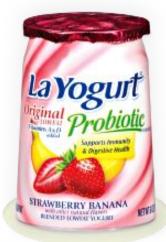
**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

#### Aesthetically Polarizing PRINCIPLE: Design is more than graphics! Innovation should be driven by user experience





The general category design and packaging looked very similar and targeted for Women using feminine driven cues

**Chobani** offered a product that had a distinct value proposition, a unique & functional package design

The cup was shorter & fatter than the regular yogurt container and displayed vivid colors. That provided a symbol of the new subcategory that helped customers recognize which option was Greek.



Revolutionized the yogurt industry by putting the product in the dairy section, focusing on Greek yogurt, natural ingredients, with a new brand identity & packaging

Pre Challenger C

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

Greek yogurt was 1% of the yogurt market in 2007 - 44% in 2013. As of 2022, U.S. yogurt sales came to over 7.2 billion U.S. dollars. In the previous year, Greek yogurt accounted for approximately 51 percent of U.S. yogurt sales.









Suddenly, Icelandic, Australian, and French yogurts were crowding grocery aisles, marketing themselves as more curated choices for food lovers. Most recently is the introduction of plant-based alternatives.

# Current Yogurt shelf for everyone!

Late 2013, a high-protein Greek yogurt brand called Powerful Yogurt emerged, becoming the first brand to market itself as yogurt for men.

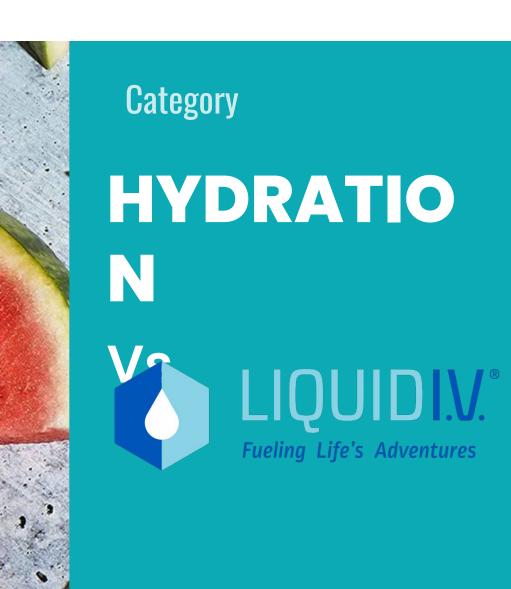


# **FROM**

Yogurt as a snack/treat

# TO

Greek yogurt as a complete meal





#### Pre Challenger

### **Category Dynamics**



# Hydration for specific usage Occasions

Pedialyte offering hydration for sick kids

Gatorade offering hydration for sports enthusiasts



# Hydration only available in Liquid Form

Technology behind new forms not mainstream yet



#### Water is not enough

75% of Americans are chronically dehydrated, consumers unaware of the importance of hydration

#### **PAIN POINTS**

No faster & effective method of hydration due to absence of electrolytes

Sports drinks filled with artificial dyes and preservative ingredients -Natural rapid hydration only offered for kids

**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

**Principle** 

#### Liquid IV launched in 2012









In 2010, 8 MM Metric tons of plastic goes into the Ocean = 90 aircraft carriers, and the problem continues to grow.

#### Health & wellness

Focus on health & overall wellness, sustainability in products, organic without artificial colors & preservatives

Click here for more information

#### American Binge Drinking lifestyle

According to National Institute of Health, 18.3% of Americans were binge drinkers in 2012, up from 9% in 2005

Click here for more information.

Pre Challenger	Cultural Context	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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#### Launched in 2012

BRAND saw the category was missing

# Functional & simple product that hydrates more rapidly than water alone, combining science, flavor & sustainability

Pre Challenger	Cultural context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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## Liquid IV Challenger Brand Principles

3

# Treat People as innovators

Understand & activate on how people are using your products, not just how you want them to use it

**User Obsession** 

5

If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it

Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.

**Humanification of Marketing** 

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

USER OBSESSION: Understand & activate on how people are using your products, not just how you want them to use it

Liquid IV has successfully woven a narrative that transcends the functional benefits of its products.

Aligned with people concerns, Liquid IV has positioned itself as more than just a product – a lifestyle choice.



Liquid I.V. "Fuel Your Play": showing variety of usage occasions, different activities, different locations & target diversity

Liquid I.V. fostering the word of mouth created by people on social media around Hangover Cure - leveraging how some people are using it!





Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

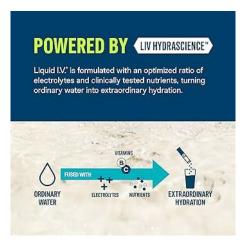
**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

HUMANIFICATION OF MARKET: If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it. Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.

Liquid IV campaign reflects the brand's passion to help everyone to live healthier. A very clear messaging across different touchpoints







Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

#### Liquid I.V. Takes Hydration Beyond Sports - and moves the market with it!

The water enhancer market is forecast to reach \$4 billion by 2032 with a variety of new competitors entering









Pedialyte primarily targeted towards infants and children, expanded its communication: **In 2015**, **one-third of Pedialyte sales came from adult use**, a growth of 57% since 2012.



News

# Unilever invests in production of Liquid IV beverage brand

"Securing supply chain resiliency for Liquid IV is a key factor in continuing to drive growth for the brand" – Unilever.

Conor Reynolds March 6, 2024

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger

## **FROM**

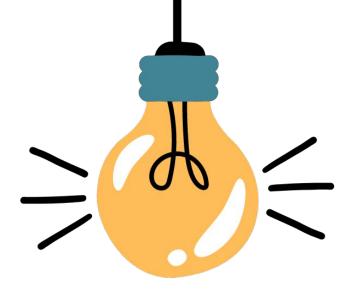
Hydration solution for specific usage Occasions

## TO

Everyday Rapid Hydration For Everyone

# WHAT IF WE...





Category

# MILK

Vs

THE ORIGINAL





### Pre Challenger

### **Category Dynamics**







#### Lactose intolerant

68% of the world is estimated to be lactose intolerant

# People questioning the health benefits of Milk

Hormones & Inflammatory effects present on dairy

# Dominance of soy and Almonds milk

These were the primary plant-based options.

#### **PAIN POINTS**

Lactose intolerance, concerns about hormones & antibiotics in conventional milk

Ethical or environmental issues related to dairy farming

**Pre Challenger** 

**Cultural** context

Opportunity

Principle

### Oatly launched in 2015









People more aware of what is good for their body, redefining health & food culture. Growing veganism too

Click here for more information

#### **Better for Animals**

Rising veganism and awareness of the impact of meat consumption are driving demand for meat-free products substitutes Click here for more information

#### Better for the environment

196 countries for a climate change agreement to keep global warming below 2 degree celsius

Click here for more information

Pre Challenger Cultural Opportunity Principle Impact	Pre Challenger
------------------------------------------------------	----------------



#### Re-Launched in 2015

Oatly saw the category was missing

Healthier & Nutritions more environmentally-sustainable alternative to cow milk that still tastes like milk.

Pre Challenger Cultural context	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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## Oatly Challenger Brand Principles

2

# Innovate on the fringes

to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone

**User Obsession** 

6

# Mass Market is not always the First step it's often the last.

Build your innovation within your target audience first to create congregation around your product

Humanification of Marketing

Use Design as a superpower

to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook

**Aesthetically Polarizing** 

Pre	Chal	lenger
FIE	Cridi	ienger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**allenger vs Mainstrea

USER OBSESSION: Innovate on the fringes to uncover deeper burning pain-points that will be in service of everyone



Oatly identified the user experience issues of alternative milks and acts against it

Oatly has been dedicated to helping the planet with a more than palatable plant-based alternative to dairy milk.



And created a tasty & exciting product that meet the needs of a growing market of lactose intolerant & eco-conscious consumer



Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle** allenger vs Mainstrean

HUMANIFICATION OF MARKETING: Mass /Brick and Mortar is not the answer every time. Build your innovation within your target audience first to create congregation around your product



Oatly made alternative option available everywhere, really being present across people journey.

Launched first in cafe's, where patrons were more likely to seek an alternative to dairy then moved to mass



Oatly uses the ad space creatively to make fun of all the large corporations that run traditional & stale marketing campaigns



Oatly knows its audience inside-out and as such creates messaging that strikes a personal chord with its audience across just about every touchpoint imaginable.

Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity Principle
Challenger vs Mainstream Impact

In 2018, 2 years after introducing themselves to the US market, oat milk sales cumulated to \$6 million. One year later, they were at \$40 million.

The surge in demand for oat milk and other 'free-from' food and beverages in recent years has expanded the offerings on supermarket and café shelves.



Plant based dairy brands branching out into categories











In 2023, market research firm Data Bridge forecasted the North American plant-based milk market will be worth more than \$10.8 billion by 2030.

Pre Challenger

**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

Mainstream Vs Challenger

AESTHETICALLY POLIRIZING: Use Design as a superpower to emotionally connect with people in ways the category tends to overlook





Using design, Oatly managed to communicate that their product was a solid alternative for baristas and challenged the milk industry to show their sustainability chops

In a sea of brightly colored dairy box design, Oatly came with a BOLD pack, engaging language, tone of voice, unique, authentic & humorous tone of voice, literally talking to people.













Pre Challenger

Cultural context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

## **FROM**

A typical dairy milk product

# TO

A healthy, tasty & fun milk alternative

Category

# VITAMIN S



#### Pre Challenger

### **Category Dynamics**



# Focus on the ingredients

Emphasis on the ingredients, rather than on benefits



#### All bottles look the same, no differentiation

The vitamin aisle was lined with similar round bottles, with dull, bland packaging



# People questioning the quality of drugstore supplements

No brands in the nutritional supplement aisle that resonated with consumers as "better for you"

#### PAIN POINTS

People not aware of ingredients vs benefits

Messy journey:

- Daily vitamins as a confusing chore
- Confusion & pressure in people who do not know where to start in their wellness journeys

Vitamins available only in the form of pills

Tasty chewable options for kids, not good for adults

Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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#### Olly Launched in 2015









The desire for a "healthy" lifestyle bypassed trend status and now firmly established as part of a larger, sweeping cultural movement

Click here for more information.

Pre Challenger		Cultura Contex
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# Rise of everyday items with expectation of counter-worthiness

People looking for support in organizing their lives - Influenced by social media & instagramable organized lifestyle: the way things look matters to people

#### Click here for more information

	Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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# Self care through beauty supplements

Next gen pills & powders to inspire to be a better you



#### Launched in 2015

BRAND saw the category was missing

Supplements focusing on clear benefits rather than pure ingredients & science, matched with a tasty, fun & easy to use experience

Pre Challenger	Cultural context		Opportunity	Principle	Impact
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L

# If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it.

Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity

**Humanification of Marketing** 

8

# Design is more than graphics!

Innovation should be driven by user experience

**Aesthetically Polarizing** 

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Pre	Chal	lenger
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**Cultural context** 

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream

HUMANIFICATION OF MARKETING: If a 7 year old can't understand it we shouldn't be saying it. Don't make people work hard, Marketing language is the enemy of clarity.





The mainstream focus on the ingredients





Olly made nutrition health journey fun & easy, understanding people journeys and clearly communicating the benefits people are looking for



Pre Challenger Cultural context Opportunity	<b>Principle</b> Challenger vs Mainstream	Impact
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#### AESTHETICALLY POLARIZING: Design is more than graphics! Innovation should be driven by user experience













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rie	CHIC	ıner	ıaeı

Cultural context

Opportunity

**Principle**Challenger vs Mainstream







Source: Gummy Vitamins Market Research 2032 study, Allied Market Research

#### **Gummy Vitamins on the rise!**

Gummies have become a popular supplement and pharmaceutical companies are exploring more possibilities. North America constituted the most significant chunk of new product launches in the gummy supplement market.





Pre Challenger	Cultural context	Opportunity	Mainstream Vs Challenger	Impact	
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## **FROM**

Boring, bland & confusing vitamin in pill form

## TO

Fun & engaging gummy bear shaped vitamins, organic, effective & sweet tasting

#### **KEY THEMES**

# HOW MAINSTREAM BRANDS BORROW FROM THE CHALLENGER MINDSET TO WIN

- 1. LOOK FOR THE CRACKS & BE BIG AND BOLD TO BREAKTHROUGH: looking to counter culture for inspiration and New Product development.
- 2. **FALL IN LOVE WITH THE PROBLEM:** Listening to the people who currently use your products and innovate for their needs & Pains.
- 3. TREAT EVERY DETAIL AS A DIALOGUE WITH YOUR USER: Any new proposition should be intrinsically linked to the holistic user experience of the product including Packaging, design, semiotics, technology.
- 4. **ALWAYS SAY YES AND:** Just because we can't do it today does not mean we shouldn't do it for tomorrow. Innovate for the future and stretch capabilities to meet new needs
- 5. **BASICS ROCK SO KEEP IT SIMPLE:** Everyone's life is filled with clutter and nonsense. Your job is to provide clarity where there is confusion for everyone. Be clear about what you're solving for and how you provide value to their lives.



# CASE STUDIES

# **CHALLENGER BRANDS**

