



PRESS COVERAGE



Animator, Gorilla and War Top VES Awards Wednesday February 15, 2006

Animation's sweetheart John Lasseter found himself wedged between the vfx giant pics WAR OF THE WORLDS and KING KONG as they all commanded the awards and praise at the 4th Annual VES Awards tonight, (Feb. 15, 2006) at the Hollywood Paladium in Hollywood to a sold-out crowd attending the Visual Effects Society black-tie fete recognizing outstanding visual effects in 20 categories of film, television, commercials, music videos and games. WAR OF THE WORLDS and KING KONG each won in three categories.

VES exec director Eric Roth opened the evening but the stage soon became dominated by celebrities all drawn to honor Lasseter, many of whom are featured as voices in his upcoming movie, CARS, he is directing for Pixar. More members of the press than usual were drawn to check out the Pixar/Disney proclaimed heir to the feature animated portion of the Walt Disney kingdom.

There were many more pr handlers at this year's awards the Pixar awardees, Lasseter (recipient of the Georges Méliès Award for Artistic Excellence) and Jim Morris (given the VES Board of Directors Award), whose own handlers diligently monitored their access. Morris, VES founding chairman, is working on a film at Pixar he could not comment on and Lasseter was limited about discussing the future of projects under his upcoming watch at Disney Feature Animation and Pixar.

The actors poured on the praise for Lasseter, not only for his artistry, storytelling and dedication, but for also bringing great joy and a child-like enjoyment and sense of discovery to the work.

His tallest fan there and a new giant spokesman for animation was Craig T. Nelson who said he is completely in love with the animation art form, especially independent animation. He admitted to AWN that he actually preferred the Annie Awards ceremony, which he felt had more heart and enjoyed the looseness, complete with guys in funny checkered suits coming to the stage to accept their awards.

There were several new categories or expanded categories to accommodate the growing fields of videogames, commercials, music videos and 3-D works. Nominees were chosen by a panel of more than 60 visual effects professionals (all VES members) that viewed hundreds of entry submissions at the screening facilities of FotoKem in Burbank.

The winners are:

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Visual Effects Driven Motion Picture
KING KONG
Eileen Moran, Joe Letteri, Christian Rivers, Eric Saindon

Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Motion Picture
KINGDOM OF HEAVEN
Wes Sewell, Victoria Alonso, Tom Wood, Gary Brozenich



Outstanding Visual Effects in a Broadcast Miniseries, Movie or Special
WALKING WITH MONSTERS

Tim Greenwood, Jo Nodwell, Neil Glasbey, Darren Byford

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Broadcast Series

ROME, "Episode 1"

Barrie Hemsley, James Madigan, Duncan Kinnaird, Joe Pavlo

Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Broadcast Program

LOST, "Exodus Part 2"

Kevin Blank, Mitchell Ferm, Eric Chauvin, John Teska

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Commercial

Guinness "noitulovE"

William Bartlett, Scott Griffin, Andrew Boyd, Dan Seddon

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Music Video

Nine Inch Nails ONLY

Eric Barba, Lisa Beroud, Jay Barton, Jim Gaczowski

Best Single Visual Effect of the Year

WAR OF THE WORLDS, Fleeing the Neighborhood

Dennis Muren, Pablo Helman, Sandra Scott, Marshall Krasser

Outstanding Real Time Visuals in a Video Game

NEED FOR SPEED MOST WANTED

Habib Zargarpour, Greg D'Esposito, Eduardo Agostini, Colin O'Connor

Outstanding Pre-Rendered Visuals in a Video Game

PRINCE OF PERSIA: THE TWO THRONES, The Battle Cinematic

Jean-Jacques Tremblay, Raphael Lacoste, Kun Chang

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Special Venue Project

MAGNIFICENT DESOLATION: WALKING ON THE MOON 3-D

Jack Geist, Sean Phillips, Johnathan Banta, Jerome Morin

Outstanding Animated Character in a Live Action Motion Picture

KING KONG, Kong

Andy Serkis, Atsushi Sato, Guy Williams, Eric Saindon

Outstanding Animated Character in an Animated Motion Picture

WALLACE & GROMIT: THE CURSE OF THE WERE-RABBIT, Gromit

Loyd Price

Outstanding Animated Character in a Live Action BATTLESTAR GALACTICA, "Season 2," "Episode 03,"
"Fragged," Cylon

Gary Hutzel, Andrew Karr, Gary Hughes, Allan Henderson

Outstanding Created Environment in a Live Action Motion Picture

KING KONG, New York Dawn Attack

Dan Lemmon, R. Christopher White, Matt Aitken, Charles Tait



Outstanding Created Environment in a Live Action Broadcast Program, Commercial or Music Video
INTO THE WEST, Mini-Series Movies I, II and III
Cedric Tomacruz, David Bailey, Valeri Pfahning, Siddhartha Jayakar

Outstanding Models and Miniatures in a Motion Picture
WAR OF THE WORLDS
Ed Hirsh, Steve Gawley, Joshua Ong, Russell Paul

Outstanding Models and Miniatures in a Broadcast Program
LAS VEGAS Series, "Episode 308," "Bold, Beautiful and Blue"
Michael Cook, Anthony O'Campo, Eugene Kim, Renaud Talon

Outstanding Compositing in a Motion Picture
WAR OF THE WORLDS
Marshall Krasser, Michael Jamieson, Jeff Saltzman, Regan McGee

Outstanding Compositing in a Broadcast Program, Commercial or Music Video
EMPIRE
Stefano Trivelli, Michele Moen, Kelly Bumbarger, Sean Wilson

A complete list of all the nominees for the 4th Annual Awards is also available on the VES Awards website at www.vesawards.com.

Founded in 1997, the Visual Effects Society is a professional, honorary society, dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences and applications of visual effects and to improving the welfare of its members by providing professional enrichment and education, fostering community and promoting industry recognition. The VES is the entertainment industry's only organization representing the full breadth of visual effects practitioners, including artists, technologists, model makers, educators, studio leaders, supervisors, PR/marketing specialists and producers in all areas of entertainment from film, television and commercials to music videos and games. Comprised of a diverse group of about 1,350 global members, the VES strives to enrich and educate its own members and members of the entertainment community at large through a multitude of domestic and international events, screenings and programs.