



Visual Effects Society Reveals 24th Annual VES Awards Special Honorees

Iconic Filmmaker Jerry Bruckheimer to Receive VES Lifetime Achievement Award;

Wētā Workshop Co-founder Sir Richard Taylor to Receive VES Visionary Award

at Gala Event in February Hosted by the Sklar Brothers

Los Angeles (January 6, 2026) – Global professional honorary society the [Visual Effects Society](#) (VES) today announced that renowned film producer Jerry Bruckheimer will receive the VES Lifetime Achievement Award and Wētā Workshop co-founder and Chief Creative Officer Sir Richard Taylor will receive the VES Visionary Award at the 24th Annual VES Awards. Taking place on February 25, 2026 at The Beverly Hilton, the event recognizes exceptional contributions to the visual effects (VFX) industry, including outstanding work, technological innovation, and pioneering leadership. Actor-comedians Randy and Jason Sklar – the Sklar Brothers – will host the gala again this year.

“The VES Awards are our marquee event, honoring exceptional creative achievement and recognized as one of the entertainment industry’s most prestigious celebrations. We’re immensely appreciative of the respective and sustained industry contributions of Jerry Bruckheimer and Sir Richard Taylor, and look forward to celebrating their remarkable achievements at this year’s awards ceremony,” said VES Board Chair, Kim Davidson. “We’re also thrilled to welcome back the Sklar Brothers, who bring a healthy dose of levity while honoring the talent and craft of visual effects.”

“I have been a filmmaker for over fifty years and have seen firsthand how the evolution of the VFX industry has unlocked amazing new types of storytelling time and time again. From *Armageddon*, to the *Pirates of the Caribbean* series, to *F1: The Movie*, and dozens of other films and television series, some of the most memorable collaborations of my career have been on projects where the VFX artists and technologists bring their magic to the screen. I am in awe of your talent, and am very grateful to the VES for this tremendous recognition,” said Jerry Bruckheimer.

Co-founder of the Wētā companies and Wētā Workshop co-owner and Chief Creative Officer Richard Taylor said, “I’m honoured by this recognition from the Visual Effects Society, a community of artists and practitioners that I feel blessed to have been a part of since its inception. I accept this award on behalf of all of our crew at Wētā Workshop, whose work has always been in creative service - using practical effects, design, and physical craftsmanship to help expand what’s possible in collaboration with VFX and film-making teams around the world. For me this award reflects the dedication, ingenuity, and generosity of spirit by so many of our artists that have joined me on this journey over the past 38 years. I’m incredibly grateful to the VES for celebrating the creative and collaborative journey that I have been on (with my colleagues) in our efforts to bring imagined worlds to life.”

Bestowed by the VES Board of Directors, the VES Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes significant and lasting contributions to the art and science of the VFX industry by way of vision, artistry, invention, and innovation. The Society selected Jerry Bruckheimer for this honor for his blockbuster producing career and direct influence on major feature films and episodic television

series that used VFX as key storytelling tools. His expansive credits reflect a wealth of cultural touchstones, including the *Pirates of the Caribbean* franchise, *F1: The Movie*, *Top Gun*, *Flashdance*, *Beverly Hills Cop*, *Remember the Titans*, the *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* franchise, the *Amazing Race* franchise, and 2023 Best Motion Picture Academy Award® nominee *Top Gun: Maverick*. Bruckheimer's work is a testament to how creativity and VFX creates boundless storytelling.

Previous recipients of the VES Lifetime Achievement Award include George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Kathleen Kennedy & Frank Marshall, James Cameron, Sir Ridley Scott, and Martin Scorsese.

Bestowed by the VES Board of Directors, the VES Visionary Award recognizes an individual who has uniquely and consistently employed the art and science of VFX to foster imagination and ignite future discoveries by way of artistry, invention, and groundbreaking work. The Society selected Sir Richard Taylor for this honor for his undeniable impact on the VFX industry as co-founder of the Wētā companies. Winner of five Academy Awards® across three disciplines, special effects makeup, VFX, and costume design, Taylor has also received four BAFTAs and more than 35 national and international awards for his work within the creative industries. Wētā Workshop has provided the design and physical effects for more than 160 films, including the globally acclaimed *The Lord of the Rings*, *The Hobbit* and *Avatar* trilogies, as well as *Chronicles of Narnia*, *King Kong*, *District 9*, the *Thor* series, *Black Panther*, and *Alien: Romulus*. Taylor was also a founding Board member of mixed reality technology company Magic Leap.

Previous recipients of the VES Visionary Award include Christopher Nolan, Ang Lee, Alfonso Cuarón, J.J. Abrams, Syd Mead, Victoria Alonso, Jonathan Nolan, and Roland Emmerich. The 2025 VES Visionary Award recipient was Academy Award-winning filmmaker Takashi Yamazaki (*Godzilla Minus One*).

Bruckheimer and Taylor will receive their awards at the 24th Annual VES Awards, which will present awards in 25 categories for outstanding VFX. Event hosts and stand-up duo the Sklar Brothers will once again bring their critically acclaimed and accessibly nerdy style of comedy to the gala. Writers, actors, and directors, the pair notably hosted and produced History Channel's *United States of America* and created and starred in the ESPN cult hit series *Cheap Seats*. Their television credits include *Glow*, *Agent Carter*, *Playing House*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*, *Entourage*, and *Comedy Central Presents*, among others. Currently, they are developing the pilot for *Dumb People Town* with Will Arnett's Electric Avenue, and *Val Kilmer Ruined Our Lives* with Bill Lawrence.

Nominees for the 24th Annual VES Award will be announced on January 13. For more information about the VES, visit <https://www.vesglobal.org/>.

About the Visual Effects Society

The Visual Effects Society is a nonprofit global community of more than 5,600 VFX professionals across 50+ countries, dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences, and applications of visual effects while upholding the highest standards for the profession. As the entertainment industry's only official organization representing the extended global VFX community—including supervisors, artists, producers, technology developers, educators, and studio executives—VES members contribute to all areas of entertainment: film, television, commercials, animation, games, and new media. To learn more, visit www.vesglobal.org and follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#). Read our award-winning publication VFX Voice at www.vfxvoice.com.

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