



## Visual Effects Society Reveals Nominees for 24th Annual VES Awards

‘Avatar: Fire and Ash’ Leads with Ten Nominations

Los Angeles (January 13, 2026) – Today the [Visual Effects Society](#) (VES), the VFX industry’s professional global honorary society, announced the nominees for its 24th Annual VES Awards, encompassing 25 categories across film, television, special venue projects, technological innovation, student projects, and more. Recognized as the craft’s marquee awards celebration, the VES Awards will be held on February 25, 2026 at The Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles.

From 20th Century Studios and Lightstorm Entertainment, *Avatar: Fire and Ash* is this year’s most-nominated project with ten nominations, including in the key category of Outstanding Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature. Among animated contenders, there is a three-way tie for top nominations – with Netflix and Sony Pictures Animation’s *KPop Demon Hunters*, Disney and Pixar’s *Elio*, and Disney’s *Zootopia 2* each receiving five nominations. Netflix’s *Stranger Things*, HBO’s *The Last of Us*, and Apple TV+ and BBC Studios’ *Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age* are tied atop the episodic field, with four nominations each.

Nominees were selected by VES members worldwide over the weekend via the Society’s Global Nomination Event, which hosted 46 in-person and 14 virtual judging panels. The 60 peer-led judging panels in seven worldwide regions – Asia, Europe, India, Oceania, and three in North America – show the Society’s global reach and engagement.

“Visual effects artists and producers are at the forefront of cinematic artistry and technological innovation, whether their work is being seen on the big screen in a movie theater, on the device in your pocket, or in a special venue setting,” said VES Board Chair, Kim Davidson. “We’re thrilled to celebrate all of this year’s nominees, and we’re grateful to our member volunteers from around the world who make our rigorous peer review process possible.”

“The next generation of creators is advancing visual storytelling through bold ideas, emotional depth, and technical craft,” said Diana Colella, Executive Vice President of Media & Entertainment at Autodesk, sponsor of the VES Student Award. “This year’s student film submissions showcase the creative vision and incredible skill of up-and-coming filmmakers and visual effects artists. Congratulations to all of the student nominees.”

As previously announced, comedy duo Randy and Jason Sklar (the Sklar Brothers) will return to host the 24th Annual VES Awards for the second consecutive year. This year’s special honorees will include acclaimed film producer Jerry Bruckheimer receiving the VES Lifetime Achievement Award, and Wētā Workshop co-founder and Chief Creative Officer Sir Richard Taylor receiving the VES Visionary Award.

Below is the full list of nominees for the 24th Annual VES Awards:

**1. OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE**

**F1: The Movie**

Ryan Tudhope  
Nikeah Forde  
Robert Harrington  
Nicolas Chevallier  
Keith Alfred Dawson

**Jurassic World: Rebirth**

David Vickery  
Carlos Ciudad  
Steve Aplin  
Charmaine Chan  
Neil Corbould, VES

**The Lost Bus**

Charlie Noble  
Gavin Round  
David Zaretti  
Russell Bowen  
Brandon K. McLaughlin

**Avatar: Fire and Ash**

Richard Baneham  
Peter Litvack  
Eric Saindon  
Nicky Muir  
Steve Ingram

**How To Train Your Dragon**

Christian Manz  
Christopher Raimo  
Glen McIntosh  
Glenn Melenhorst  
Terry Palmer

**2. OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE**

**Dongji Rescue**

Tim Crosbie

Celeste Chen  
Christian Sjöstedt  
Lea Benjovitz

**A House of Dynamite**

Chris Harvey  
Dione Wood  
Jon Mitchell  
Matthew Lane

**Warfare**

Simon Stanley-Clamp  
Kaley Edwards  
Andrew Kinnear  
Samir Ansari  
Ryan Conder

**Sinners**

Michael Ralla  
James Alexander  
Nick Marshall  
Espen Nordahl  
Donnie Dean

**After the Hunt**

Fabio Cerrito  
Virginia Cefaly  
Marco Fiorani Parenzi  
Maura Manfredi

**3. OUTSTANDING ANIMATION IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE**

**The Bad Guys 2**

Pierre Perifel  
Damon Ross  
Matt Baer  
Benjamin Willis

**KPop Demon Hunters**

Joshua Beveridge  
Jacky Priddle  
Benjamin Hendricks  
Clara Chan

**Zootopia 2**

Gregory Smith

Laurie Au

Marlon West

Shweta Viswanathan

**In Your Dreams**

Sacha Kapijimpanga

Carey Smith

Nicola Lavender

Steve Pilcher

**Elio**

Claudia Chung Sanii

Mary Alice Drumm

Harley Jessup

Dave Quirus

**4. OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL EPISODE****Andor; “Who Are You?”**

Mohen Leo

TJ Falls

Scott Pritchard

Olivier Beaulieu

Luke Murphy

**It: Welcome to Derry; “Winter Fire”**

Daryl Sawchuk

Steve Dellerson

Pier Lefebvre

Steven Tether

Darcy Callaghan

**The Last of Us; “Through the Valley”**

Alex Wang

Fiona Campbell Westgate

Nick Epstein

Philip Engström

Joel Whist

**Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age; “The Big Freeze”**

Russell Dodgson

Tracey Gibbons

Francois Dumoulin  
Gavin McKenzie

**Stranger Things; “Chapter Eight: The Rightside Up”**

Betsy Paterson  
Tessa Roehl  
Michael Maher Jr.  
Martin Hill

**5. OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL EPISODE**

**Man vs Baby; “Chapter One”**

Rob Duncan  
Ashlee Turner  
Jean-Nicolas Costa  
Adrian Eugene Daniel Williams

**The Residence; “The Fall of the House of Usher”**

Seth Hill  
Tesa Kubicek  
John Nelson  
Gabriel Vargas

**The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon; “Costa Da Morte”**

Jao M'Changama  
Justine Paynat-Sautivet  
Sébastien Voisin  
Xavier Allard  
Pau Costa Moeller

**Severance; “Hello, Ms. Cobel”**

Eric Leven  
Sean Findley  
Brian Holligan  
Radost Ridlen

**Death By Lightning; “The Man from Ohio”**

Rainer Gombos  
Steve Kullback  
Marko Ljubez  
David Ramos

**6. OUTSTANDING VISUAL ARTS IN A REAL-TIME PROJECT**

**Ghost of Yōtei**

Jason Connell  
Matt Vainio  
Joanna Wang  
Jasmin Patry

**Death Stranding 2: On the Beach**

Hideo Kojima  
Yoji Shinkawa  
Shota Hirasawa

**Doom: The Dark Ages**

Todd Boyce  
Andrew Willis  
Ian Malerich  
Derek Best

**South of Midnight**

Ian Mac Gregor  
Yasmeen Leclerc  
Petro Kosariekov  
Connor Bugni

**Battlefield 6**

Chris Bayol  
Sean Tomek  
Skye White  
Jacob Bergman

**7. OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A COMMERCIAL****Coors Light; “Slow Monday”**

Bruno Fukumothi  
Ella Glazer  
David Fleet  
Martino Madeddu

**BMW; “Heart of Joy | Meet Okto the Octopus”**

Tom Raynor  
Helen Tang  
Jack Harris  
Alex Kulikov

**Virgin Media; “Trunk Trucker”**

Sebastian Caldwell  
Larisa Covaciu  
Ben Cronin  
Alex Grey

**Columbia Sportswear; “Engineered for Whatever”**

Kamen Markov  
Alexia Paterson  
David Lochhead  
Henrique Campanha

**Battlefield 6; “It's Good to Be Back”**

Michael Ralla  
James Alexander  
Brian Creasey  
Luca Pelegatta

**8. OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A SPECIAL VENUE PROJECT**

**The Wizard of Oz at Sphere**

Ben Grossmann  
Tamara Watts Kent  
Dr. Irfan Essa  
Matt Dougan  
Glenn Derry

**Zootopia: Better Zogether!**

Rich Enders  
Kirk Bodyfelt  
Darin Hollings  
Darren Simpson

**Monsters Unchained: The Frankenstein Experiment**

Alan Woods  
Maximilian McNair MacEwan  
Jason Fox  
Iris Chailloux

**Disney Tales of Magic**

Tim Lutkin  
Patrick Aigouy  
Adrien Mourey  
Lydia Caplan

**Stranger Things: Escape the Dark**

Julien Héry  
Antoine Sitruk  
Simon Lecavalier  
Martin Hesselink

**9. OUTSTANDING CHARACTER IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE**

**A Minecraft Movie; Queen Malgosha**

Kevin Estey  
Fabio Leporelli  
Matteo Stirati  
Nick Grace

**Lilo & Stitch; Stitch**

Matthew Shumway  
Claus Pedersen  
Xiying Zhai  
Enrique Mateo-Sagasta

**Superman; Krypto the Superdog**

Loic Mireault  
Martine Chartrand  
Marianne Morency  
Matthias Schoenegger

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; Varang: Leader of the Ash Clan**

Stephen Clee  
Stuart Adcock  
Keven Norris  
Joseph Kim

**10. OUTSTANDING CHARACTER IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE**

**Elio; Ooooo the Liquid Supercomputer**

Catherine Luo  
Anna-Christine Lykkegaard  
Ferdi Scheepers  
Julian Teo

**Elio; Glordon**

Marco Burbano  
Edgar Rodriguez  
Ben Rush

Patrick Yu Wang

**Zootopia 2; Gary De'Snake**

Adam Green

Jennifer Stratton

Christoffer Pedersen

Jesse Erickson

**KPop Demon Hunters; Rumi**

Sophia (Seung Hee) Lee

Andrea Centeno

Marc Souliere

Joshua Beveridge

**11. OUTSTANDING CHARACTER IN AN EPISODIC, COMMERCIAL, GAME CINEMATIC, OR REAL-TIME PROJECT**

**It: Welcome to Derry; “The Thing in the Dark;” The Pickle Monster**

Philip Harris-Genois

Pierrick Danjou

Chloe Ostiguy

Jonathan Bourdúa

**It: Welcome to Derry; “Winter Fire;” Pennywise**

Théo Perronard

Yan Morin-Dubuisson

Yan Detang

Jonathan Fleming-Bock

**Stranger Things; “Chapter Eight: The Rightside Up;” Mindflayer**

James Moore

Layne Howe

Shawn Warawa

Yoshihiro Harimoto

**Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age; Female Smilodon**

Alvise Avati

Marc-André Coulombe

Youen Leclerc

Andrea De Martis

**12. OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENT IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE**

**Tron: Ares; Dillinger's Grid City**

Jared Michael  
Noor Valibhoy  
Cody Gramstad  
Stefan Litterini

**The Lost Bus; The Wildfires of Roe Road**

Jamie Haydock  
Francesco Ferraresi  
Sergei Konorev  
Frederick Vallee

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; Bridgehead Industrial City**

Gianluca Pizzaia  
Steve Bevins  
Dziga Kaiser  
Zsolt Máté

**The Lost Bus; Feather River Canyon by the Pulga Bridge**

David Schulz  
Mareike Loges  
Björn Markgraf  
Philipp Hafellner

**The Gorge; The Bodyweb**

Daniel James Cox  
Yosuke Inomata  
Clint Rea  
Gabriel Pires

**13. OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENT IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE**

**Zootopia 2; Marsh Market**

Limei Z. Hsieh  
Alexander Nicholas Whang  
Joshua Fry  
Ryan DeYoung

**Elio; The Communiverse**

Steve Arguello  
Christopher M. Burrows  
Andy Lin  
Laura Murphy

**KPop Demon Hunters; Seoul**

Rafael Lescano  
Gunsik Kim  
Tyquane Wright  
Hee-Chel Nam

**The Bad Guys 2; Cairo City**

John J. Lee  
Greg Hettinger  
Mikael Genachte-Le Bail  
Mayumi Shimokawa

**14. OUTSTANDING ENVIRONMENT IN AN EPISODIC, COMMERCIAL, GAME CINEMATIC, OR REAL-TIME PROJECT**

**Foundation; “A Song for the End of Everything;” Clarion Station**

Sylvain Lesaint  
Ilyes Bouteemeur  
Blake Dewoody  
Benjamin Rojek

**Andor; “Welcome to the Rebellion;” The Senate District**

John O’Connell  
Falk Boje  
Hasan Ilhan  
Kevin George

**The Last of Us; Post-Apocalyptic Seattle**

Romain Simonnet  
Abraham Ibanez  
David Desplat  
Minguk Lee

**The Residence; “Dial M for Murder;” The White House Exterior**

Gabriel Vargas  
Eric Schoellnast  
Andrew Wilkins  
Omer Gurkan

**15. OUTSTANDING CG CINEMATOGRAPHY**

**Zootopia 2**

Tyler Kupferer  
Daniel Rice  
Griselda Sastrawinata-Lemay

**Avatar: Fire and Ash**

Steve Deane  
AJ Briones  
Zachary Brake  
Andrew Moffett

**Tron: Ares**

Jhon Alvarado  
Michael Beaulieu  
Jayden Beveridge  
Hayley Kim

**KPop Demon Hunters**

Benjamin Hendricks  
Gary H. Lee  
Randolph Lizarda  
Linh Mai Nguyen Chan

**16. OUTSTANDING MODEL IN A PHOTOREAL OR ANIMATED PROJECT****Mickey 17; The Niflheim Spaceship**

Bikas Panigrahi  
Nikolai Razuev  
Ajinkya Nitin Phokmare  
Manoj Vijay Kamble

**Wicked: For Good; Bison**

Marco Chau  
Giorgio Pennisi  
Sowmya Ramakumar  
Balazs Meszaros

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; The Windtraders' Gondola**

Michael Smale  
Sam Sharplin  
Joe W. Churchill  
Jacqi Dillon

**Superman; The Fortress of Solitude**

Crystal Bretz  
Martin Pelissier  
Klaudio Ladavac  
Conner Wessinger

## **17. OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE**

### **Avatar: Fire and Ash; Simulating Pandora**

Nicholas Illingworth

Sarah C. Farmer

James Robinson

Ryan Bowden

### **Superman; Metropolis City Destruction**

Rick Hankins

Marcel Kern

Eric Hollands

Masoud Aziminajjar

### **The Lost Bus; Escape from Hell**

Billy Copley

Mathieu Chardonnet

Chetan Patkar

David Schott

### **Together**

Darcy George

Andrew Dunkerley

Ray Leung

Steve Oakley

## **18. OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE**

### **In Your Dreams**

Stephanie McNair

Dmitiry Kolesnik

Stephen Paschke

David Sellares

### **The Bad Guys 2**

Michael Losure

Landon Gray

Zachary Glynn

Steve Avoujageli

### **Zootopia 2**

Sujil Sukumaran

Stuart Giese

Zoran Stojanoski  
Paul Carman

**KPop Demon Hunters**

Filippo Maccari  
Nikolaos Finizio  
Daniel La Chapelle  
Srdjan Milosevic

**19. OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN AN EPISODE, COMMERCIAL, GAME CINEMATIC, OR REAL-TIME PROJECT**

**Battlefield 6**

Björn Åkerstedt  
Anders Egleus  
Kasra Kalami  
Craig Moroney

**The Last of Us; “Through the Valley;” The Infected Horde**

Duarte Victorino  
Claudio Gonzalez  
Andre Castelao  
Igor Bondar

**Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age; The Big Freeze**

Edward Ferrysienanda  
Kevin Christensen  
Guy Schuleman  
Kevin Tarpinian

**Stranger Things; “Chapter Eight: The Rightside Up;” Assault on the Mindflayer**

Michael Chrobak  
Brandon James Fleet  
Yasunobu Arahori  
Hoi Ying Fung

**20. OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN A FEATURE**

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; Bridgehead Industrial City**

Ziad Shureih  
Stefano Oggeri  
Jaume Creus Costabella  
Hugo Debat-Burkhardt

**F1: The Movie; Modern Race and POV Footage**

Hugo Gauvreau

Chris Davies

Raushan Raj

Amaury Rospars

**Superman; Fights and Metropolis City Destruction**

Can Chang

Nicolas Caillier

Bryan Smeall

Elona Musha

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; The Wind Traders, Bridgehead, Rivers and Ocean**

Alex Klaricich

Gianfranco Sgura

Brad Floyd

Ari Ross

**21. OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN AN EPISODE**

**The Residence; “Pilot”**

Spencer Hecox

Gunnar Heiss

Alexander Greenberg

Eric Schoellnast

**Stranger Things; “Chapter Eight: The Rightside Up;” The Abyss and Vecna’s Face**

Ben Roberts

Rachel E. Herbert

Don Bradford

Ken Lam

**The Last of Us; “Through the Valley;” A Storm of Ice, Fire and Flesh**

Tobias Wiesner

Mark Julien

Owen Longstaff

Brendan Naylor

**Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age**

Puff Pisanwalerd

Jean-Baptiste Noyau

Marion Nove-Josserand

Sue Nelson

## **22. OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN A COMMERCIAL**

### **Disney; “Best Christmas Ever”**

Hudson Martins

Luke Warpus

Jinhui Wang

Alex Miller

### **BMW; “Heart of Joy | Meet Okto the Octopus”**

Alex Kulikov

Jack Harris

Adam Chabane

Nicola Borsari

### **Virgin Media; “Trunk Trucker”**

Alex Grey

Sebastian Caldwell

Nicola Borsari

Giacomo Cavaletti

### **Genesis; “No Old Ideas”**

Greg McKneally

Christian Block

Alberto Pizzocchero

Alessandro Granella

## **23. OUTSTANDING SPECIAL (PRACTICAL) EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL PROJECT**

### **Gen V; “Bags”**

Hudson Kenny

Curtis Carlson

John Koyama

Bruno Larizza

### **Andor; “Who Are You?”**

Luke Murphy

Dean Ford

Jody Eltham

Darrell Guyon

## **24. EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

### **Win or Lose; Detached Facial Features**

David Munier

Ana Gabriela Lacaze  
Jonathan Page  
Anna-Christine Lykkegaard

**Mickey 17; REVIZE**

John Bastian  
Ben Ward  
Thomas Rountree  
Robert Beveridge

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; BodyOpt**

Christoph Sprenger  
Tobias Mack  
Florian Fernandez  
Niall Ryan

**Elio; Real-Time High Fidelity Animation System Using Signed Distance Functions**

Andrew Butts  
Trent Crow  
Anna-Christine Lykkegaard  
Catherine Luo

**Avatar: Fire and Ash; Kora Fire Toolset**

Alexey Dmitrievich Stomakhin  
John Edholm  
Murali Ramachari  
Aleksandr Isakov

**25. OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A STUDENT PROJECT**

**Au Delà des Mots**

Antoine Barbannaud  
Leandro Leijnen  
Timothé Vergught  
Mathis De Sauvecanne

**Flying From War**

Ciara Borgards

**Two Kings**

Eliot Hervier Blondel  
Mathieu Keraudran  
Adrian Delmotte  
Jonas Lopez Del Castillo

**Azimuth**

Thomas Teisseire  
Cassandre Cinier  
Martin Bluy  
Mathis Giraudeau

**A Sparrow's Song**

Tobias Eckerlin  
Vincent Maurer  
Elias Weber  
Lilli-Luisa Heckmann

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 over 5,500 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](http://www.vesglobal.org) and follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#). Read our award-winning publication VFX Voice at [www.vfxvoice.com](http://www.vfxvoice.com).

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