



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 Keys 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

Sebastian “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
François 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 Zoogether!

Richard 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
Xiyang Zhai
Enrique Mateo-Sagasta

Superman; Krypto the Superdog

Loïc 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
Ferdinand 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 Matamoros
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
Pierric Danjou
Chloé Ostiguy
Jonathan Bourdua

IT: Welcome to Derry; “Winter Fire;” Pennywise

Théo Peronnard
Yan Morin-Dubuisson
Yan Detang
Jonathan Fleming-Bock

Stranger Things; “Chapter Eight: The Rightside Up;” Mind Flayer

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. Hshieh
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 Boutemour
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
A.J. Briones
Zachary Brake
Andrew Moffett

Tron: Ares

Jhon Alvarado
Michael Beaulieu
Jayden Beveridge
Hayley Haetsal 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 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 Pélissier
Klaudio Ladavac
Conner Wessinger

17. OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Avatar: Fire and Ash; Simulating Pandora

Nicholas James 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

Dmitriy Kolesnik

Stephen Paschke

David Sellares

The Bad Guys 2

Michael Losure

Landon Gray

Zachary Glynn

Steve Avoujageli

Zootopia 2

Sujil Sukumaran

Stuart Griese

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 Mind Flayer

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-Burkarth

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

Saruta Puff Pisanwalerd
Jean-Baptiste Noyau
Marion Nove-Josserand
Sue Nelson

22. OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN A COMMERCIAL

Disney; “Best Christmas Ever”

Hudson Martins Ribeiro

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 Cavalletti

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 Christopher 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 Rowntree
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 and follow us on [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), and [X](#). Read our award-winning publication VFX Voice at www.vfxvoice.com.

###

Press Contact:

Shannon Deoul, Raz Public Relations
shannon@razpr.com