



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Naomi Goldman, NLG Communications

T: 424-293-2113 or 310-770-2765

naomi@nlgcommunications.com

Visual Effects Society Announces Nominees for 21st Annual VES Awards

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER Leads Feature Film Field with Record-Breaking 14 Nominations; GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S PINOCCHIO is Top Animated Contender; THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RINGS OF POWER Leads the Broadcast Field

Los Angeles (January 17, 2023) – Today, the Visual Effects Society (VES), the industry's professional global honorary society, announced the nominees for the 21st Annual VES Awards, the prestigious yearly celebration that recognizes outstanding visual effects artistry and innovation in features, animation, television, commercials and video games and the VFX Supervisors, VFX Producers and hands-on Artists who bring this work to life. Awards will be presented at the 21st Annual VES Awards on February 15, 2023 at The Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles. (Twitter tags @VFXSociety #VESAWards)

AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER leads the feature film field with a VES Awards record-breaking 14 nominations. *GUILLERMO DEL TORO'S PINOCCHIO* is the top animated contender with five nominations. *THE LORD OF THE RINGS: THE RINGS OF POWER* leads the broadcast field with seven nominations. Nominees in 25 categories were selected by VES members at 27 in-person and virtual nomination events conducted worldwide. This year marks the presentation of the first VES Emerging Technology Award, which celebrates the creators of the technology behind the visuals and honors the inventors of a novel and uniquely innovative tool, device, software or methodology of outstanding value to the art and science of visual effects, gaming or animation.

"We're honored to keep shining a light on remarkable visual effects artistry and innovation," said VES Chair Lisa Cooke. "In all of our nominees, we see best in class work that elevates the art of storytelling and exemplifies the spirit of adaptation and ingenuity -- talents that have kept audiences engaged and uplifted, now, more than ever. The VES Awards is the only venue that showcases and honors these outstanding global artists across a wide range of disciplines, and we are extremely proud of all our nominees!"

"For more than 16 years, since the founding of the VES Student Award, Autodesk has proudly ushered in and supported the rise of a new generation of VFX Talent," said Dara Treseder, Chief Marketing Officer, Autodesk, sponsor of the VES-Autodesk Student Award. "Visual effects are critical. They enable us to bring stories alive in ways that inspire, move, and challenge us. This year's student film submissions showcase the power of artistry, the mastery of technical innovation, and the beauty of sophistication. Together with the VES, we are thrilled to celebrate these talented up-and-coming visual effects artists."

The nominees for the 21st Annual VES Awards in 25 categories are as follow:

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Avatar: The Way of Water

Richard Baneham
Walter Garcia
Joe Letteri
Eric Saindon
JD Schwalm

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

Christian Mänz
Olly Young
Benjamin Loch
Stephane Naze
Alistair Williams

Jurassic World: Dominion

David Vickery
Ann Podlozny
Jance Rubinchik
Dan Snape
Paul Corbould

The Batman

Dan Lemmon
Bryan Searing
Russell Earl
Anders Langlands
Dominic Tuohy

Top Gun: Maverick

Ryan Tudhope
Paul Molles
Seth Hill
Bryan Litson
Scott Fisher

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Death on the Nile

George Murphy
Claudia Dehmelt
Mathieu Raynault
Jonathan Bowen
David Watkins

I Wanna Dance With Somebody

Paul Norris
Tim Field
Don Libby
Andrew Simmonds

The Fabelmans

Pablo Helman
Jennifer Mizener
Cernogorods Aleksei
Jeff Kalmus
Mark Hawker

The Gray Man

Swen Gilberg
Viet Luu
Bryan Grill
Cliff Welsh
Michael Meinardus

The Pale Blue Eye

Jake Braver
Catherine Farrell
Tim Van Horn
Scott Pritchard
Jeremy Hays

Thirteen Lives

Jason Billington
Thomas Horton
Denis Baudin
Michael Harrison
Brian Cox

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio

Aaron Weintraub
Jeffrey Schaper
Cameron Carson
Emma Gorbey

Mad God

Chris Morley
Phil Tippett
Ken Rogerson
Tom Gibbons

21st Annual VES Awards Nominees

Strange World

Steve Goldberg
Laurie Au
Mark Hammel
Mehrdad Isvandi

The Bad Guys

Pierre Perifel
Damon Ross
Matt Baer
JP Sans

The Sea Beast

Joshua Beveridge
Christian Hejnal
Stirling Duguid
Spencer Lueders

Turning Red

Domee Shi
Lindsey Collins
Danielle Feinberg
Dave Hale

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL EPISODE

House of the Dragon; The Black Queen

Angus Bickerton
Nikeah Forde
Sven Martin
Michael Bell
Michael Dawson

Prehistoric Planet; Ice Worlds

Lindsay McFarlane
Fay Hancocks
Elliot Newman
Kirstin Hall

Stranger Things 4; The Piggyback

Jabbar Raisani
Terron Pratt
Niklas Jacobson
Justin Mitchell
Richard E. Perry

21st Annual VES Awards Nominees

The Boys; Payback

Stephan Fleet
Shalena Oxley-Butler
Tristan Zerafa
Anthony Paterson
Hudson Kenny

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Udûn

Jason Smith
Ron Ames
Nigel Sumner
Tom Proctor
Dean Clarke

OUTSTANDING SUPPORTING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL EPISODE

Five Days at Memorial; Day Two

Eric Durst
Danny McNair
Matt Whelan
Goran Pavles
John MacGillivray

See; I See You

Chris Wright
Parker Chehak
Tristan Zerafa
Oscar Perea
Tony Kenny

Severance; Pilot

Vadim Turchin
Nicole Melius
David Piombino
David Rouxel

The Old Man; Episode III

Erik Henry
Matt Robken
Jamie Klein
Sylvain Thérout
J.D. Streett

Vikings: Valhalla; The Bridge

Ben Mossman
Melanie Callaghan
Matt Schofield
Chris Cooper
Paul Byrne

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A REAL-TIME PROJECT

God of War: Ragnarok

Christopher Lloyd
Carrie Watts
James Adkins
Kevin Huynh

Gotham Knights

Jay Evans
Bryan Theberge
Mathieu Houle
Alexandre Bélanger

Supermassive Games; The Quarry

Aruna Inversin
Paul “Pizza” Pianezza
Kevin Williams
Kimberly Cheifer

The Callisto Protocol

Glen Schofield
Steve Papoutsis
Chris Stone
Demetrius Leal

The Last of Us Part I

Erick Pangilinan
Evan Wells
Eben Cook
Mary Jane Whiting

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A COMMERCIAL

B&Q; Flip

Patrick Krafft
Holly Treacy
Alex Snookes

Frito-Lay; Push It

Tom Raynor
Sophie Harrison
Ben Cronin
Martino Madeddu

Ladbrokes; Rocky

Greg Spencer
Alex Fitzgerald
Mickey O'Donoghue
Adame Boutrif

Minions: The Rise of Gru

Gerome Viavant
Gilles de Lusignan
Benjamin Le Ster

Virgin Media; Highland Rider

Amir Bazzazi
George Reid
Sebastian Caldwell
Alex Kulikov

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A SPECIAL VENUE PROJECT

ABBA: Voyage

Ben Morris
Edward Randolph
Stephen Aplin
Ian Comley

Avengers: Quantum Encounter

Alan Woods
Bernice Howes
Scott Sohan
Jason Fox

Guardians of the Galaxy: Cosmic Rewind

Christopher Smith
Meghan Short
William George
Jon Alexander

Jumanji: The Adventure

Martin Cutbill
Liam Thompson
Baptiste Roy
Marco Parenzi

Star Wars: Galactic Star Cruiser

Rob Blue
Patrick Kearney
Khatsho Orfali
Gabe Sabourin
Daniel Joseph

Stranger Things: The Experience

Javier Roca
Antoine Sitruk
Cale Jacox
Julien Forest
Camille Michaud

OUTSTANDING ANIMATED CHARACTER IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Avatar: The Way of Water; Kiri

Anneka Fris
Rebecca Louise Leybourne
Guillaume Francois
Jung-Rock Hwang

Beast; Lion

Alvise Avati
Bora Şahin
Chris McGaw
Krzysztof Boyoko

Disney's Pinocchio; Honest John

Christophe Paradis
Valentina Rosselli
Armita Khanlarpour
Kyoungmin Kim

Slumberland; Pig

Fernando Lopes Herrera

Victor Dinis

Martine Chartrand

Lucie Martinetto

OUTSTANDING ANIMATED CHARACTER IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio; Geppetto

Charles Greenfield

Peter Saunders

Shami Lang-Rinderspacher

Noel Estevez-Baker

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio; Pinocchio

Oliver Beale

Richard Pickersgill

Brian Leif Hansen

Kim Slate

Strange World; Splat

Leticia Gillett

Cameron Black

Dan Lipson

Louis Jones

Turning Red; Panda Mei

Christopher Bolwyn

Ethan Dean

Bill Sheffler

Kureha Yokoo

OUTSTANDING ANIMATED CHARACTER IN AN EPISODE, COMMERCIAL OR REAL-TIME PROJECT

She-Hulk: Attorney at Law; She-Hulk

Elizabeth Bernard

Jan Philip Cramer

Edwina Ting

Andrew Park

Skull & Bones; Sam

Jonas Skoog

Jonas Törnqvist

Goran Milic

Jonas Vikström

The Callisto Protocol; Jacob Lee

Martin Contel
Glauco Longhi
Jorge Jimenez
Atsushi Seo

The Umbrella Academy; Pogo

Aldan Martin
Hannah Dockerty
Olivier Beierlein
Miae Kang

OUTSTANDING CREATED ENVIRONMENT IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Avatar: The Way of Water; Metkayina Village

Ryan Arcus
Lisa Hardisty
Paul Harris
TaeHyoungh David Kim

Avatar: The Way of Water; The Reef

Jessica Cowley
Joe W. Churchill
Justin Stockton
Alex Nowotny

Jurassic World Dominion; Biosyn Valley

Steve Ellis
Steve Hardy
Thomas Dohlen
John Seru

Slumberland; The Wondrous Cuban Hotel Dream

Daniël Dimitri Veder
Marc Austin
Pavan Rajesh Uppu
Casey Gorton

OUTSTANDING CREATED ENVIRONMENT IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio; In the Stomach of a Sea Monster

Warren Lawtey
Anjum Sakharkar
Javier Gonzalez Alonso
Quinn Carvalho

Lightyear; T’Kani Prime Forest

Lenora Acidera
Amy Allen
Alyssa Minko
Jose L. Ramos Serrano

Strange World; The Windy Jungle

Ki Jong Hong
Ryan Smith
Jesse Erickson
Benjamin Fiske

The Sea Beast; The Hunting Ship

Yohan Bang
Enoch Ihde
Denil George Chundangal
John Wallace

Wendell & Wild; The Scream Fair

Tom Proost
Nicholas Blake
Colin Babcock
Matthew Paul Albertus Cross

OUTSTANDING CREATED ENVIRONMENT IN AN EPISODE, COMMERCIAL, OR REAL-TIME PROJECT

Andor; Reckoning; Ferrix

Pedro Santos
Chris Ford
Jeff Carson-Bartzis
Alex Murtaza

The Book of Boba Fett; In the Name of Honor; Mos Espa

Daniel Schmid Leal
Phi Tran
Hasan Ilhan
Steve Wang

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Adar; Númenor City

Dan Wheaton
Nico Delbecq
Dan LeTarte
Julien Gauthier

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Adrift; Khazud Dûm

James Ogle
Péter Bujdosó
Lon Krung
Shweta Bhatnagar

OUTSTANDING VIRTUAL CINEMATOGRAPHY IN A CG PROJECT

ABBA: Voyage

Pär M. Ekberg
John Galloway
Paolo Acri
Jose Burgos

Avatar: The Way of Water

Richard Baneham
Dan Cox
Eric Reynolds
A.J Briones

Prehistoric Planet

Daniel Fotheringham
Krzysztof Szczepanski
Wei-Chuan Hsu
Claire Hill

The Batman; Rain Soaked Car Chase

Dennis Yoo
Michael J. Hall
Jason Desjarlais
Ben Bigiel

OUTSTANDING MODEL IN A PHOTOREAL OR ANIMATED PROJECT

Avatar: The Way of Water; The Sea Dragon

Sam Sharplin
Stephan Skorepa
Ian Baker
Guillaume Francois

The Sea Beast

Maxx Okazaki
Susan Kornfeld
Edward Lee
Doug Smith

Top Gun: Maverick; F-14 Tomcat

Christian Peck
Klaudio Ladavac
Aram Jung
Peter Dominik

Wendell & Wild Dream Faire

Peter Dahmen
Paul Harrod
Nicholas Blake

OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN A PHOTOREAL FEATURE

Avatar: The Way of Water; Fire and Destruction

Miguel Perez Senent
Xavier Martin Ramirez
David Kirchner
Ole Geir Eidsheim

Avatar: The Way of Water; Water Simulations

Johnathan M. Nixon
David Moraton
Nicolas Illingworth
David Caeiro Cebrian

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever; City Street Flooding

Matthew Hanger
Alexis Hall
Hang Yang
Mikel Zuloaga

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore

Jesse Parker Holmes
Grayden Solman
Toyokazu Hirai
Rob Richardson

OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE

Lightyear

Alexis Angelidis
Chris Chapman
Jung-Hyun Kim
Keith Klohn

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Derek Cheung
Michael Losure
Kiem Ching Ong
Jinguang Huang

Strange World

Deborah Carlson
Scott Townsend
Stuart Griese
Yasser Hamed

The Sea Beast

Spencer Lueders
Dmitriy Kolesnik
Brian D. Casper
Joe Eckroat

OUTSTANDING EFFECTS SIMULATIONS IN AN EPISODE, COMMERCIAL, OR REAL-TIME PROJECT

Guillermo del Toro's Cabinet of Curiosities; Graveyard Rats

Amit Khanna
Oleg Memukhin
Mario Marengo
Josh George

Stranger Things 4; Hawkins Destructive Fissures

Ahmad Ghourab
Gavin Templer
Rachel Ajourque
Eri Ohno

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Udûn; Volcano Destruction

Kurt Debens
Hamish Bell
Robert Kelly
Gabriel Roccisano

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Udûn; Water and Magma

Rick Hankins
Aron Bonar
Branko Grujcic
Laurent Kermel

OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN A FEATURE

Avatar: The Way of Water; Landing Rockets Forest Destruction

Miguel Santana Da Silva
Hongfei Geng
Jonathan Moulin
Maria Corcho

Avatar: The Way of Water; Water Integration

Sam Cole
Francois Sugny
Florian Schroeder
Jean Matthews

The Batman; Rainy Freeway Chase

Beck Veitch
Stephen Tong
Eva Snyder
Rachel E. Herbert

Top Gun: Maverick

Saul Davide Galbiati
Jean-Frederic Veilleux
Felix B. Lafontaine
Cynthia Rodriguez del Castillo

OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN AN EPISODE

House of the Dragon; The Black Queen; Dance of Dragons

Kevin Friederichs
Sean Raffel
Florian Franke
Andreas Steinlein

Love, Death and Robots; Night of the Mini Dead

Tim Emeis
José Maximiano
Renaud Tissandié
Nacere Guerouaf

The Book of Boba Fett; From the Desert Comes a Stranger; Luke Alike

Peter Demarest
Tami Carter
Brandon McNaughton
Sirak Ghebremusse

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Udûn; Tirharad Cavalry Charge

Sornalingam P
Ian Copeland
Nessa Mingfang Zhang
Yuvaraj S

OUTSTANDING COMPOSITING & LIGHTING IN A COMMERCIAL

Cartier; Tank

Stephane Pivron
Mathias Barday
Valentin Lesueur
Eric Lemains

Ladbroke's; Rocky

Greg Spencer
Theajo Dharan
Georgina Ford
Jonathan Westley

Samsung; Playtime is Over

Damien Canameras
Guillaume Dadaglio
Sébastien Podsiadlo
Christophe Plouvier

Samsung; The Spider and the Window

Marta Carbonell Amela
Stefan Susemihl
Lonni Wong
Jiyoung Lee

OUTSTANDING SPECIAL (PRACTICAL) EFFECTS IN A PHOTOREAL PROJECT

Avatar: The Way of Water; Current Machine and Wave Pool

JD Schwalm
Richie Schwalm
Nick Rand
Robert Spurlock

Black Adam; Robotic Flight

JD Schwalm
Nick Rand
Andrew Hyde
Andy Robot

Mad God

Phil Tippett
Chris Morley
Webster Colcord
Johnny McLeod

The Lord of the Rings: The Rings of Power; Adrift; Middle Earth Storm

Dean Clarke
Oliver Gee
Eliot Naimie
Mark Robson

OUTSTANDING VISUAL EFFECTS IN A STUDENT PROJECT (AWARD SPONSORED BY AUTODESK)

A Calling. From the Desert to the Sea

Mario Bertsch
Max Pollmann
Lukas Löffler
Till Sander-Titgemeyer

Boom

Romain Augier
Charles Di Cicco
Gabriel Augerai
Laurie Pereira De Figueiredo

Macula

Hady Abou Ghazale
Lothaire Rialhe
Marta Rodriguez-Noriega Nava
Jules Machicot

Maronii

Maxime Guitet
Dimitri Allonneau
Lucas Plata
Ngoc Mai Nguyen

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY AWARD

Avatar: The Way of Water; Depth Comp

Dejan Momcilovic
Tobias B. Schmidt
Benny Edlund
Joshua Hardgrave

Avatar: The Way of Water; Facial System

Byungkuk Choi
Stephen Cullingford
Stuart Adcock
Marco Revelant

Avatar: The Way of Water; Water Toolset

Alexey Dmitrievich Stomakhin

Steve Lesser

Sven Joel Wretborn

Douglas McHale

Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio; 3D Printed Metal Armature

Richard Pickersgill

Glen Southern

Peter Saunders

Brian Leif Hansen

Turning Red; Profile Mover and CurveNets

Kurt Fleischer

Fernando de Goes

Bill Sheffler

About the Visual Effects Society

The Visual Effects Society is a professional global honorary society dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences and applications of visual effects and to upholding the highest standards and procedures for the visual effects profession. It is the entertainment industry's only official organization representing the extended global community of visual effects practitioners, including supervisors, artists, producers, technology developers, educators and studio executives. VES' nearly 4,500 members in 45 countries worldwide contribute to all areas of entertainment – film, television, commercials, animation, music videos, games and new media. To learn more about the VES, visit www.vesglobal.org and follow us on Twitter @VFX Society. Read our award-winning signature publication *VFX Voice* at www.vfxvoice.com.

#