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## Alfonso Cuarón's 'Gravity' Still Reigns at the 12th Visual Effects Society Awards

By Melissa Castellanos



Gravity

Alfonso Cuarón's Gravity is a visual masterpiece to the human eye and its dynamic effects continue to wow as it was the top winner at Wednesday night's 12th Visual Effects Society Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

The innovative 3-D film, starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, is nominated for 10 Academy Awards -- and it also won a whopping six VES Awards. Among the categories it led were visual effects in a visual effects-driven feature motion picture, virtual cinematography in a live action feature motion picture and models in a feature motion picture, [The Los Angeles Times](#) reports.

During the ceremony, Bullock, who received a nomination for Best Actress in a Motion Picture, Drama, but lost out to Cate Blanchett (Blue Jasmine), presented the VES Visionary Award to Cuarón.

"The real visionaries are the people who made this movie, like Tim Webber and Framestore," the director said, adding that this is a "historic time in film making," according to [The Hollywood Reporter](#).

Recently, Mexican writer/director Cuarón took home his first Golden Globe award for Best Director --Motion Picture.

Many anticipate that Gravity will be "a bigger Oscar heavyweight at the Academy Awards, which honor technical categories that the Golden Globes don't," according to an earlier report by The Associated Press.

THR points out that since the inception of the VES Awards in 2002, the winner of the top category of outstanding visual effects in a VFX-driven feature has gone on to win the visual effects Oscar eight of the past 11 times. Once, the Oscar went to the winner in the VES' supporting VFX

category (Hugo).

Including Gravity, the contenders nominated for the Oscar in VFX are Iron Man 3, The Hobbit, Star Trek into Darkness and The Lone Ranger.

Gravity was the brainchild of writer-director Cuarón, who directed Children of Men, Y Tu Mamá Tambièn and Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. His son, Jonès, who is Cuarón's biggest advocate, co-wrote the film, which was a challenging four-and-a-half-year journey.

"We shot space scenes in a sort of virtual-reality box that had the characters' environments projected on the walls. The actors had very little room to change their timing or their positions. But we adapted," Cuarón told Wired. "Sandra Bullock trained like crazy to be able to be a part of all these technological challenges. It was choreography for her. I think her background as a dancer helped a lot. It was so much by numbers. After all the training and all the rehearsals, she was able to just focus on the emotional aspect of her performance."

As for the rest of the VES awards, in the animated feature categories, Disney's Frozen was anything but -- the film was on fire -- winning four honors including animation in an animated feature motion picture, animated character and FX and simulation animation in an animated feature motion picture.

Additionally, HBO's Game of Thrones won three awards in the TV categories, and "PETA: 98% Human" picked up three trophies in the commercial categories.

The VES awards are handed out by an organization with about 3,000 members in 32 countries, the LA Times adds.

Click [here](#) for a complete list of winners and nominees.