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News: Visual Effects Society Announces JJ Abrams as Next Recipient of its Visionary Award

## News: Visual Effects Society Announces JJ Abrams as Next Recipient of its Visionary Award

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(Los Angeles, California--September 23, 2014) Today, the Visual Effects Society (VES), the industry's professional honorary society, named director-producer-writer-composer J.J. Abrams as the next recipient of its Visionary Award in recognition of his enormous contributions to filmed entertainment. The award will be presented at the 13h Annual VES Awards on February 4, 2015 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.



The VES Visionary Award, bestowed by the VES Board of Directors, recognizes an individual who has uniquely and consistently employed the art and science of visual effects to foster imagination and ignite future discoveries by way of artistry, invention and groundbreaking work. VES will honor Abrams, a fiercely inventive storyteller, for his distinctive ability to harness craft and technology in creating mysterious new worlds that transport and transfix audiences.

A two-time Emmy Award winner, Abrams is the Founder and President of Bad Robot Productions. In partnership with Paramount Picture and Warner Bros. Studios, Bad Robot has produced iconic films and television series including *Cloverfield*, *Star Trek*, *Super 8*, *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*, *Star Trek Into Darkness*, *Alias*, *Lost*, *Fringe* and *Person of Interest*.

As Co-Creator and Executive Producer of *Lost* – a bona fide pop culture phenomenon – Abrams received Emmy Awards for Outstanding Directing and Outstanding Drama Series, as well as awards from the PGA and WGA. He also received accolades for his writing on *Alias* and *Lost*, and served as a composer on *Alias*, *Fringe*, *Lost*, *Person of Interest*, *Revolution* and *Felicity*, his first TV series. He is currently Executive Producer of *Person of Interest* and is Executive Producing the upcoming HBO series *Westworld*, upcoming Showtime series *Roadies* and upcoming Hulu miniseries *11/22/63*, based on Stephen King's bestselling novel.

In 2006, Abrams directed his first feature film, *Mission: Impossible 3*, followed by *Star Trek*, *Super 8* and *Star Trek Into*

*Darkness*. He is currently working on the much-anticipated next installment in the **Star Wars** saga – *Star Wars: Episode VII* – serving as director, writer and producer.

“J.J. Abrams has consistently elevated not just the technical aspect of visual effects, but also the emotional,” said Jeffrey A. Okun, VES Board Chair. “The context and expertise with which J.J. and his team have evolved visual effects is both groundbreaking and inspirational. He has redefined the relationship between the viewer and the story – you can easily see this from the epic cult followings of his highly engaging work, a testament to his expert blending of visual effects, evocative characters and a remarkable imagination.”

“I am very touched to be receiving the Visionary Award this year,” said Abrams. “As a lifelong fan of visual effects in film and TV, I feel so lucky to get to work with such remarkable VFX artists, and look forward to celebrating their incredible work at the VES event.”

Previous winners of the VES Visionary Award have been Christopher Nolan, Ang Lee and Alfonso Cuarón.

### **About the Visual Effects Society**

The Visual Effects Society is a professional 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' almost 3,000 members in 30+ 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 <http://www.visualeffectssociety.com> and follow us on Twitter @VFX Society.

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