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Canadians feted stateside for VFX prowess

Teams from Mr. X, Rodeo FX and Soho VFX picked up awards at Tuesday's Visual Effects Society awards in L.A.

By Jordan Pinto

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The Canadian team behind international coproduction *Vikings* has won the prize for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Photoreal Episode at the Visual Effects Society (VES) awards.

The nominated ensemble which consists of four Canadians from Toronto VFX studio Mr. X (Dominic Remane, Bill Halliday, Paul Wishart and Ovidiu Cinazan) and the U.K.'s Paul Byrne received the prize for their work on season three, episode eight "To The Gates!" at a ceremony in Los Angeles on Tuesday. *Vikings* is produced by Take 5 Productions and Ireland's World 2000; executive producer Sheila Hockin oversees *Vikings'* VFX alongside the Mr. X team.

"To the Gates!" was *Vikings'* most ambitious episode to date, featuring elaborate and complex VFX as the Viking army lays siege to the city of Paris.

Montreal-based Rodeo FX picked up an award for the third consecutive year for its work on *Game of Thrones* season five. The team – consisting of lead modeler Dominic Piché, Christine Leclerc, Patrice Poissant and Thomas Montminy-Brodeur - won the Outstanding Created Environment in an Episode award for its creation of the city of Volantis, which Rodeo created entirely in CG. **Last year** Rodeo won the Outstanding Special Visual Effects award for the studio's work on "The Dance of the Dragons."

Also picking up an award for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature were Montreal-based Nicolas Chevallier and B.C.'s Cameron Waldbauer from Soho VFX, who were part of *The Revenant's* VFX team. In addition, Vancouver's Charles Lai was part of the team who won the Outstanding Compositing in a Photoreal Feature for *The Revenant's* hauntingly realistic bear attack scene.

Also on the night, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* picked up the most feature film awards, taking home four prizes for Outstanding Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature, Outstanding Created Environment in a Photoreal Feature, Outstanding Virtual Cinematography in a Photoreal Feature, and Outstanding Models in a Photoreal or Animated Project. *Game of Thrones* also picked up four awards at the 14th annual edition of the ceremony.

The **20-episode fourth season** of *Vikings* is set to bow this month on History channel, with Shaw Media ordering an additional four episodes to its original 16-ep order.

TAGS:

Bill Halliday, Cameron Waldbauer, Charles Lai, Dominic Remane, Nicolas Chevallier, Ovidiu Cinazan, Paul Byrne, Paul Wishart, Visual Effects Society