

BREAKING NEWS



'Game Of Thrones' Star Emilia Clarke Joining 'Han Solo' Movie

AWARDS

VES Awards Live Blog: 14th Annual Visual Effects Society Ceremony

by Ross A. Lincoln
and Erik Pedersen

- February 2, 2016 7:53pm



are being handed out tonight at the Beverly Hilton, and Deadline is covering it live. The [Visual Effects Society](#) will dole out hardware in 23 film and TV categories. Patton Oswalt is hosting for the fifth time.

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VES Award Winners 2016 - Updated Live

Star Wars: The Force Awakens leads all films with seven nominations, and the leader on the TV side is HBO's *Game Of Thrones*, which crashes in with nine.

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Visual Effects On 'The Martian,' 'Ant-Man' And 'The Walk' Stand Out In Blockbuster Year For VFX

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Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 7:57 PM

We're under way from the Beverly Hilton.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 7:58 PM

The director of the WES just accidentally called

Ridley Scott “Sir Ridley Thomas”, which caused much laughter as he was corrected, apologized and embarrassingly moved on.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 7:59 PM

Visual Effect Society Eric Roth onstage: “Without using any special goggles or headsets, just turn to your right or left and you’ll see the most amazing visual artists on this or any planet.”

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 7:59 PM

He began his speech with a boozy (and fun) tribute to the work of visual effects workers throughout the



referencing the current diversity debate. Saying that the effects industry is diverse because it thinks on a global scale (referencing the dispersed VFX workforce), he then thanked several of tonight’s sponsors from tech and VFX companies around the world.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:00 PM

And now, our host the inestimable Patton Oswalt is coming onstage. Cue me freaking out.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:01 PM

“wow! Keep it going for Eli Roth, ladies and gentlemen, the fabulous Sir Eli Roth coming out here. Wow, how do you follow the electric excitement... I keep telling people “don’t let him open”, you can’t have JOhn Denver following Black Sabbath!”
– Patton Oswalt, being

hilarious and riffing on Roth's error.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:01 PM

"I'm your host, Emperor Pudgiosa!"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:02 PM

2015 has been crazy in terms of special effects. The Revenant, my god The Revenant, with Andy Serkis playing Leonardo DiCaprio fighting a real bear, how did he pull that off? It looked so real!"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:03 PM

"Also straight from their win at the AVN Awards,



referenced the film's oral sex scene. Big laughs.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:04 PM

Referencing Mad Max: Fury Road's feminist themes and discussion of sexual assault and patriarchy and rape, Oswalt calls it "an amazing documentary about life in 2015!"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:04 PM

"San Andreas tonight... it takes place in LA. You don't need to have a giant earthquake be a disaster. You could just make it "It's drizzling out," people would have the same level of freaking out!" Oswalt, again.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:08 PM

Patton talks at length about Star Wars: "Listen - I've had a lot of harsh things to say about the prequels,... but here's the miracle that JJ Abrams pulled off.

When Star Wars came out in 1977, it was like your amazing party friend who always had great coke and hookers. Then he comes back in 1980 with even better coke, then disappears for three years. Then he reappears three years later and he's got that crazy 80s coke. But then 15 years later he comes back, now he's sobered up up, he's really into religion and government, and you're like 'hey man let's do that coke', and he's like 'no, let's talk about where the coke came from, let's get into these hooker's back story.' BIG LAUGHS by the way. "And now his nephew comes along, his nephew has amazing wood and he's



So thank you JJ Abrams for the great coke.
CINEMATICALLY, my God!"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:10 PM

Oswalt kills it with this line: "There is a diversity problem in our industry, and way more than other aspects of it, this awards show does something about it. We have white shut ins that are abused by their producers, black shut ins that are abused by their producers, Asian, latino, it doesn't matter who you are as long as you're being screamed at and told to get it in a week early. It's all about diversity!"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:10 PM

Oswalt wraps it up, and now the first presenter, and it's Terry Crews!

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:11 PM

“Man, coke and hookers that was funny... I am honored to be here tonight. I owe a lot to the visual effects community. People in hollywood don't know this but I began my career as a visual effect. Nobody looks this amazing who wasn't designed by professionals” – Crews.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:13 PM

Winner:

Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Photoreal Episode

Vikings; To the Gates
Dominic Remane
Bill Halliday
Paul Wichert



Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:14 PM

You know what Erik? I'm good with this. Vikings is awesome.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:14 PM

Appropriately, one of the winners onstage is wearing a kilt. YES I KNOW KILTS ARE NOT NORDIC. I mean manliness.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:16 PM

Crews is presenting the second award – “Here are the nominees whose work stood out for not standing out, he says.” Well put. In other news I stayed up too late watching Bridesmaids on Friday night (rockstar life here) and had completely forgotten Crews is in that movie. And is great BTW.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:17 PM

Winner:

Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Photoreal Feature

The Revenant
Rich McBride
Ivy Agregan
Jason Smith
Nicolas Chevallier
Cameron Waldbauer

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:18 PM

They are keeping these acceptance speeches as clipped and speedy as the Oscars. Waiting to see who the first winner will be to get played offstage.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:20 PM

And now, next presenter,
Erik Pedersen



WINNER

Winner:

Outstanding Compositing in a Photoreal Episode

Game of Thrones; Hardhome
Eduardo Díaz
Guillermo Orbe
Oscar Perea
Inmaculada Nadela

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:23 PM

And Game of Thrones:
Hardhome wins. AKA the
single best episode of the
last season. Especially the
“Come at me bro!” Night’s
King. This team is my
hero.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:25 PM

Winner:

Outstanding Compositing in a Photoreal Commercial

SSE; Pier
Gary Driver

Greg Spencer
Grant Connor

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:25 PM](#)

For the 5th time tonight,
whoever is in charge of
piped in music plays a
Bowie song, this time
Heroes.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:28 PM](#)

Winner:

**Outstanding Compositing in
a Photoreal Feature**

The Revenant; Bear Attack

Donny Rausch

Alan Travis

Charles Lai



Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:28 PM](#)

That's two for the Revenant
already

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:28 PM](#)

The Revevant is cleaning
up tonight. Could this be
the film that finally ends
the "Whoever plays Leo in
a biopic will win an Oscar
for the role before Leo wins
one" meme?

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:29 PM](#)

For his sake, I hope so. But
I will miss that meme so so
much.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:29 PM](#)

They'll find a way to snub
him and give it to the bear.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:30 PM](#)

That would be the greatest
ever Academy Awards.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:30 PM](#)

Next presenter is Michael Pena! He comes out to the Star Wars fanfare.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:32 PM

“OK, teleprompter time! Every industry has its foundation myths, areospace has the wright brothers and kitty hawk... and visual effects has Gweorge Lucas and Industrial Light and Magic... it was their job to make the impossible, possible. I think most of you know by now they pulled it off. And that’s what they’ve continued to do over and over again for over 40 years.” He mentions several ILM



Both of those are really good.” And now cue the tribute to ILM.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:33 PM

OH I realize I dropped the lede. Pena is presenting the tribute to ILM. Knowledge is power, Deadline readers!

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:35 PM

and now the Chairman of the VES to present the award for Outstanding Models. He makes a very... politely received joke about fashion models. Ahem.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:37 PM

Winner:

**Outstanding Models in a
Photoreal or Animated
Project**

*Star Wars: The Force
Awakens*; BB-8
Joshua Lee
Matthew Denton

Landis Fields
Cyrus Jam

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:37 PM](#)

My kids will get a kick out of that.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:37 PM](#)

The winner of outstanding models goes to the clear, obvious winner. BB-8 is one of the most incredible practical effects I've ever seen up close. So much personality in a ball with a hat.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:39 PM](#)

Separate from any narrative criticisms



props and modeling was almost tear-inducing for me. It's absurd to talk about how something took you back to childhood, but it did.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:39 PM](#)



Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:39 PM](#)

Portia Doubelday now presenting outstanding created environment in an episode, commercial or real time project.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:40 PM](#)

Erik clearly knows the way to my heart. I LOVE YOU BB-8!

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:41 PM](#)

Winner:

**Outstanding Created
Environment in an Episode,
Commercial, or
Real-Time Project**

Game of Thrones; City of
Volantis

Dominic Piche

Christine Leclerc

Patrice Poissant

Thomas Montminy-Brodeur

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:41 PM

Those of you not here can't
hear it, but the music
supervisor for the evening
has amazing twee taste in
dance pop and I love them
for it



By the way, Ross, I'm
taping the hockey game —
so no spoilers.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:42 PM

YOU clearly think I'm
someone who likes Hockey.
I'm sorry for misleading
you ;)

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:43 PM

Walked right into that one.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:45 PM

Winner:

**Outstanding Created
Environment in an
Animated Feature**

The Good Dinosaur; The
Farm

David Munier

Matthew Webb

Matt Kuruc

Tom Miller

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:47 PM

I'm kind of surprised that the Good Dinosaur beat out Inside Out. The world of The Good Dinosaur is expansive and gorgeous, but I felt more connected personally to Imagination Land in Inside Out. Obviously this is why I don't work in the VFX industry. And I suppose considering the lackluster response Good Dinosaur got upon release it's great to see it recognized among its peers.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:49 PM

Agree, Ross. Sometimes Good Dino wide shots looked like live-action.



Outstanding Created Environment in a Photoreal Feature

Star Wars: The Force Awakens; Falcon Chase / Graveyard
Yanick Dusseault
Mike Wood
Justin van der Lek
Quentin Marmier

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:50 PM

The Force Awakens becomes tonight's second multi-winner. Now if we can get Kylo Ren to fight that bear.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:51 PM

Previous post is hilarious because the final act of The Force Awakens takes place in an icy waste just like the Revenant!

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:51 PM

Oswalt is back: “Folks we are one eight of the way through the show, we are blazing through, the doors are locked, try to conserve water.”

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:51 PM

How about Chewbacca vs. the Bear in a cage match?

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:52 PM

Oswalt once again mocks Roth’s error. Mentioning the tribute to ILM, he says “I hope you put together as interesting a package for Ridley Scoot. Mr. Ridley Scoot, he has so many amazing movies.”



Chewie would win, hands down. He has that bowcaster. Though the bear might be Chewie’s mitochondrial eve.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:54 PM

Winner:

Outstanding Visual Effects in a Special Venue Project

Fast and Furious:

Supercharged

Chris Shaw

Alysia Cotter

Ben White

Diego Guerrero

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:55 PM

Fast And Furious Supercharged acceptance speech was played on by the latest from Tame Impala. This DJ has excellent taste people. Excellent. Also, I hope this comforts Vin since Fast Seven wasn’t nominated for Best Picture.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:56 PM](#)

Now it's time for the nominees for virtual cinematography.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:58 PM](#)

Winner:

Outstanding Virtual Cinematography in a Photoreal Project

Star Wars: The Force Awakens; Falcon Chase / Graveyard
Paul Kavanagh
Colin Benoit
Susumu Yukuhiro
Greg Salter



Star Wars winners played onstage by The Weekend "I Can't Feel My Face". God dang I love this dj so much.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 8:59 PM](#)

Star Wars now has the most wins of any film tonight, and given the loud cheers in the room every time it's mentioned, I'm not shocked. Also, I saw the movie so I'm also not shocked because of that.

Ross A. Lincoln [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:00 PM](#)

Sadly, they missed the opportunity to have Anthony Daniels come out to trash-talk *The Revenant* in character as Three P-O.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:01 PM](#)

What is this "Star Wars"? I can't keep up with your little French indie pics, Ross.

Erik Pedersen [FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:02 PM](#)

Winner:

**Outstanding Visual Effects
in a Real-Time Project**

The Order: 1886

Nathan Phail-Liff

Dana Jan

Anthony Vitale

Scot Andreason

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:03 PM

Given how abused and exploited in terms of pay versus hours, time and job security – it's rough work people – the creative side of the video game industry is, I'm glad to see The Order win this one.



Oswalt is back, making yet another joke at Roth's expense by mispronouncing Ridley Scott's name. Honestly, it never gets old.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:05 PM

Now the student award is being presented.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:08 PM

Winner:

**Outstanding Visual Effects
in a Student Project**

Citipati

Andreas Feix

Francesco Faranna

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:09 PM

The nominees for student projects were *Citipati*, *Skål*, *Jagon* and *Korser*.

Huh?

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:09 PM

By the way, I haven't been quoting from the acceptance speeches very much. Suffice to say, these people really value their team members and humbly acknowledge the sheer number of people who help this work come together. (Not snark by the way, just saving time.)

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:13 PM

Scott Ross just introduced the tribute to Syd Mead before they give him the VES Visionary Award. "The oracle from Saint Paul Minnesota has designed movies... luxury automobiles, consumer products... theme parks,



was to design something that no one had seen before. And time after time, he's done just that... I've personally had the pleasure of watching this man give so much of his time to young artists... and while his creativity takes him to other worlds, he has his feet firmly planted in the here and now."

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:14 PM

Scott Ross goes on: "The best advice I've heard him give young artists is this — "If they don't pay you, it's a hobby." Don't we all know that. This man is the whole package, he's brilliant, talented, caring, funny, and practical."

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:15 PM

Mead has worked on so many projects it's hard to keep count.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:15 PM

Syd's onstage now.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:20 PM

“this is phenomenal,” he says to a standing ovation. “Thank you for receiving this award. It’s at once humbling and exhilarating.”

He mentions the first film he worked on start to finish was Blade Runner, thanking Ridley Scott and others, then pays tribute to his life partner Roger, who Mead says, has worked with him “40 years to stabilize our personal, social and business lives.” He ended his speech with a nod to the VES. “So thank



expertise in this room. It’s the best in the world.”

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:21 PM

Winner:

**Outstanding Effects
Simulations in an Episode,
Commercial, or
Real-Time Project**

Game of Thrones; Hardhome

David Ramos

Antonio Lado

Piotr Weiss

Félix Bergés

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:21 PM

Another win for Game Of Thrones, and the second tonight for the greatest episode of season 5 and a contender for the best ever in the entire series.

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:24 PM

Winner:

**Outstanding Effects
Simulations in an Animated
Feature**

The Good Dinosaur

Stephen Marshall

Magnus Wrenninge

Michael Hall

Hemagiri Arumugam

Erik Pedersen

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:25 PM

That's twice The Good Dinosaur has topped Inside Out.

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:26 PM

The Good Dinosaur didn't connect with audiences but the VFX community loves it.



Winner:

**Outstanding Effects
Simulations in a Photoreal
Feature**

Mad Max: Fury Road; Toxic Storm

Dan Bethell

Clinton Downs

Chris Young

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:28 PM

Mad Max finally wins one, and honestly I'm a bit surprised it hasn't cleaned up more. Then again, there isn't a "HOLY CRAP DID YOU SEE THAT CAR" trophy tonight"

Ross A. Lincoln

FEBRUARY 2, 2016 - 9:29 PM

Oswalt comes onstage as Ziggy Stardust is playing off The Good Dinosaur team, and says "Don't play Bowie! It makes me sad he's gone. Can't you guys get together and CGI him back? Too soon?"