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Academy award for best visual effects

The following individuals have received the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. The category has one subcategory: films that won the award for Best Visual Effects, which consists of 86 recipients. Out of a total of 177 pages, 177 are listed in this category. This list may not reflect recent changes made to the awards. This list includes notable visual effects artists and supervisors such as Nick Alder, Scott E. Anderson, Mark Ardington, and many others who have contributed to Oscar-winning films in the Best Visual Effects category. The Academy Award for Best Visual Effects is an annual honor bestowed upon individuals or teams responsible for outstanding achievements in visual effects. Since its inception, the award has undergone several name changes, from "Engineering Effects" in 1929 to its current title. The category was established to recognize the technical contributions of special effects to films, with the first recognition coming at the Academy's inaugural dinner in 1929. Initially, there was no specific category for visual achievements, but producer David O. Selznick petitioned the Academy Board of Governors to acknowledge animator Willis O'Brien's groundbreaking work on King Kong in 1933. Although a "Special Achievement Award for Special Effects" was given to Spawn of the North in 1938, it wasn't until 1939 that "Best Special Effects" became a recognized category. From 1939 to 1963, the award honored both visual and audio effects, with some years recognizing one or the other. The award for Best Visual Effects has been presented annually since its inception, with individuals like Dennis Muren receiving the most nominations (15) and Industrial Light & Magic holding the record for the most awards (15). The Academy Award for Best Visual Effects has undergone changes over the years. Initially, it was categorized under "Best Special Visual Effects" and then renamed to its current title in 1977. The nominees were previously selected by a steering committee, but now the visual effects branch executive committee makes the choices. In some cases, there have been no official nominees, as seen in 1990 when only Total Recall received a special achievement Oscar. Wholly animated films like The Nightmare Before Christmas and Kubo and the Two Strings have also been nominated, with Mary Poppins, Bedknobs and Broomsticks, and Who Framed Roger Rabbit being semi-animated winners. In 2024, Godzilla Minus One became the first non-English-language film to win in this category. Since 2010, the nomination process has involved a form of range voting, producing five nominees from an initial list of ten shortlisted finalists. The criteria for selecting winners include considering the visual effects' contribution to the overall production and the artistry, skill, and fidelity with which they were achieved. The table displays a list of Oscar nominees for Best Engineering Effects from various film categories, including the years they won and the individuals involved in creating special effects. The winners are denoted by an asterisk (*). Year Film Nominees 1927–28 Wings Roy Pomeroy Ralph Hammeras (photographic) Nugent Slaughter (photographic) 1938 Spawn of the North *Special Effects by Gordon Jennings, assisted by Jan Domela, Dev Jennings, Irmin Roberts and Art Smith. Transparencies by Farciot Edouart, assisted by Loyal Griggs. Sound Effects by Loren Ryder, assisted by Harry Mills, Louis Mesenkop and Walter Oberst. 1939 *Fred Sersen (photographic); E. H. Hansen (sound) *Jack Cosgrove (photographic); Fred Albin and Arthur Johns (sound) *Roy Davidson (photographic); Edwin C. Hahn (sound) Byron Haskin (photographic); Nathan Levinson (sound) Union Pacific *Farciot Edouart and Gordon Jennings (photographic); Loren Ryder (sound) A. Arnold Gillespie (photographic); Douglas Shearer (sound) 1940 The Thief of Bagdad Lawrence Butler (photographic); Jack Whitney (sound) The Blue Bird *Fred Sersen (photographic); E. H. Hansen (sound) A. Arnold Gillespie (photographic); Douglas Shearer (sound) The Boys from Syracuse John P. Fulton (photographic); Bernard B. Brown and Joseph Lapis (sound) Dr. Cyclops Gordon Jennings and Farciot Edouart (photographic) Foreign Correspondent Paul Eagler (photographic); Thomas T. Moulton (sound) The Invisible Man Returns John P. Fulton (photographic); Bernard B. Brown and William Hedgcock (sound) 1941 I Wanted Wings *Farciot Edouart and Gordon Jennings (photographic); Louis Mesenkop (sound) Alomarc (photographic); Arthur Johns (sound) The South Seas *Farciot Edouart and Gordon Jennings (photographic); Louis Mesenkop (sound) Dive Bomber Byron Haskin (photographic); Nathan Levinson Flight Command A. Arnold Gillespie (photographic); Douglas Shearer (sound) That Hamilton Woman Lawrence Butler (photographic); William H. Wilmarth (sound) Topper Returns - Roy Seawright (photographic); Elmer Raguse (sound) A Yank in the R.A.F. - Fred Sersen (photographic) E. H. Hansen (sound) 1942(15th) Reap the Wild Wind - Gordon Jennings, Farciot Edouart, and William Pereira (photographic); Louis Mesenkop (sound) The Black Swan - Fred Sersen (photographic). Roger Heman and George Leverett (sound) Desperate Journey - Byron Haskin (photographic). Nathan Levinson (sound) Flying Tigers - Howard Lydecker (photographic). Daniel J. Bloomberg (sound) Invisible Agent - John Fulton (photographic). Bernard B. Brown (sound) Jungle Book - Lawrence Butler (photographic). William H. Wilmarth (sound) Mrs. Miniver - A. Arnold Gillespie and Warren Newcombe (photographic); Douglas Shearer (sound) The Navy Comes Through - Vernon L. Walker (photographic). James G. Stewart (sound) One of Our Aircraft Is Missing - Ronald Neame (photographic). C. C. Stevens (sound) The Pride of the Yankees - Jack Cosgrove and Ray Binger (photographic); Thomas T. Moulton (sound) 1943(16th) Crash Dive - Fred Sersen (photographic). Roger Heman (sound) Air Force - Hans Koenekamp and Rex Wimpy (photographic); Nathan Levinson (sound) Bombardier - Vernon L. Walker (photographic). James G. Stewart and Roy Granville (sound) The North Star - Clarence Slifer and R. O. Binger (photographic); Thomas T. Moulton (sound) So Proudly We Hail! - Gordon Jennings and Farciot Edouart (photographic); George Dutton (sound) Stand By for Action - A. Arnold Gillespie and Donald Jahraus (photographic); Michael Steinore (sound) 1944(17th) Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo - A. Arnold Gillespie, Donald Jahraus, and Warren Newcombe (photographic); Douglas Shearer (sound) The Adventures of Mark Twain - Paul Detlefsen and John Crouse (photographic); Nathan Levinson (sound) Days of Glory - Vernon L. Walker (photographic), James G. Stewart and Roy Granville (sound) Secret Command - David Allen, Ray Cory, and Robert Wright (photographic); Russel Malmgren and Harry Kuislick (sound) Since You Went Away - Jack Cosgrove (photographic); Arthur Johns (sound) The Story of Dr. Wassell - Farciot Edouart and Gordon Jennings (photographic); Roger Heman (sound) 1945(18th) Wonder Man - John P. Fulton (photographic); Arthur Johns (sound) Captain Eddie - Fred Sersen and Sol Halperin (photographic); Roger Heman and Harry Leonard (sound) Spellbound - Jack Cosgrove (photographic) They Were Expendable - A. Arnold Gillespie, Donald Jahraus, and Robert A. MacDonald (photographic); Michael Steinore (sound) A Thousand and One Nights - Lawrence W. Butler (photographic); Ray Bomba (sound) 1946(19th) Blithe Spirit - Thomas Howard (visual) A Stolen Life - William McGann (visual); Nathan Levinson (audible) 1947(20th) Green Dolphin Street - A. Arnold Gillespie and Warren Newcombe (visual); Douglas Shearer and Michael Steinore (audible) Unconquered - Farciot Edouart, Devereux Jennings, Gordon Jennings, W. Wallace Kelley, and Paul Lerpae (visual); George Dutton (audible) 1948(21st) Portrait of Jennie - Paul Eagler, Joseph McMillan Johnson, Russell The Academy Awards have recognized outstanding achievements in visual effects over the years. Notable winners include Clarence Slifer for his work on "Mighty Joe Young" in 1949 and Roger Heman for "Deep Waters." A year later, Walter Wanger's "Destination Moon" was nominated alongside Cecil B. DeMille's "Samson and Delilah." The late 1950s saw a surge in nominations, with John Hench, Joshua Meador, and Walt Disney Studios earning recognition for "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." Another notable year was 1964 when Peter Ellenshaw, Eustace Lycett, and Hamilton Luske took home awards for their work on "Mary Poppins." Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" received a nod in 1968, alongside Hal Millar and Joseph McMillan Johnson. In the early 1970s, A. D. Flowers and L. B. Abbott were recognized for their work on "Tora! Tora! Tora!" The following year, Jim Danforth and Roger Dicken earned nominations for "When Dinosaurs Ruled the Earth." The Academy has continued to honor outstanding visual effects in recent years, with Carlo Rambaldi, Glen Robinson, and Frank Van der Veer earning recognition for their work on "King Kong" in 1976. The following is a list of winners and nominees for the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects from 1977 to 1991. The table includes the year, film, and nominees for each category. #### 1970s-1980s Awards * 1977: Star Wars - John Dykstra, Richard Edlund, Grant McCune, and Robert Blalack * 1978: Superman - Les Bowie, Colin Chilvers, Denis Coop, Roy Field, Derek Meddings, and Zoran Perisic * 1979: Alien - H. R. Giger, Carlo Rambaldi, Brian Johnson, Nick Alder, and Dennis Ayling * 1980: The Empire Strikes Back - Brian Johnson, Richard Edlund, Dennis Muren, and Bruce Nicholson, and Robert A. MacDonal (photographic); Michael Steinore (sound) A Thousand and One Nights - Lawrence W. Butler (photographic); Ray Bomba (sound) 1983: Return of the Jedi - Richard Edlund, Dennis Muren, Ken Ralston, and Phil Tippett * 1984: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom - Dennis Muren, Michael J. McAlister, Lorne Peterson, and George Gibbs #### 1980s-1990 Awards * 1985: Cocoon - Ken Ralston, Ralph McQuarrie, Scott Farrar, and David Berry * 1986: Aliens - Robert Skotak, Stan Winston, John Richardson, and Suzanne M. Benson * 1987: Innerspace - Dennis Muren, William George, Harley Jessup, and Kenneth F. Smith * 1988: Predator - Joel Hynes, Robert M. Greenberg, Richard Greenberg, and Stan Winston * 1989: The Abyss - John Bruno, Dennis Muren, Hoyt Yeatman, and Dennis Skotak #### 1990s Awards * 1990: Total Recall - Eric Brevig, Rob Bottin, Tim McGovern, and Alex Funke * 1991: Terminator 2: Judgment Day - Dennis Muren, Stan Winston, Gene Warren Jr., and Robert Skotak Here is a rewritten version of the given text with added spelling errors (SE), following the specified probability: Sullivan and Michael Lantieri won in 1992 for their work on "Death Becomes Her" along with Ken Ralston, Doug Chiang, Douglas Smythe, and Tom Woodruff Jr. They also worked on "Alien 3" which was awarded to Richard Edlund, Alec Gillis, Tom Woodruff Jr., and George Gibbs. The following year's award for visual effects went to Michael L. Fink, Craig Barron, John Bruno, and Dennis Skotak for their work on "Batman Returns." The winners of the 66th Academy Awards included Dennis Muren, Stan Winston, Phil Tippett, and Michael Lantieri for their work on "Jurassic Park," Cliffhanger's visual effects were handled by Neil Krepela, John Richardson, John Bruno, and Pamela Easley. The Nightmare Before Christmas' Pete Kozachik, Eric Leighton, Ariel Velasco Shaw, and Gordon Baker also won in this category. In 1994, the winners included Ken Ralston, George Murphy, Stephen Rosenbaum, and Allen Hall for their work on "Forrest Gump." Scott Squires, Steve Spaz' Williams, Tom Bertino, and Jon Farhat won for their work on "The Mask" and John Bruno, Thomas L. Fisher, Jacques Strouweis, and Patrick McLung were awarded for their work on "True Lies." 2005(78th) - King Kong Joe Letteri,Brian Van't Hul, Christian Rivers, and Richard Taylor 2006(79th) - Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest John Knoll,Hal Hickel, Charles Gibson, and Allen Hall 2007(80th) - The Golden Compass Michael L. Fink,Bill Westenhofer, Ben Morris, and Trevor Wood 2008(81st) - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button Eric Barba,Steve Preeg, Burt Dalton, and Craig Barron 2009(82nd) - Avatar Joe Letteri,Stephen Rosenbaum, Richard Baneham, and Andrew R. Jones 2010(83rd) - Inception Paul Franklin,Chris Corbould, Andrew Lockley, and Peter Bebb 2011(84th) - Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2 Tim Burke,John Richardson, Christian Manz, and Nicolas Aithadi 2012(85th) - Life of Pi Bill Westenhofer,Guillaume Rocheron, Erik-Jan de Boer, and Donald R. Elliott 2013(86th) - Gravity Tim Webber,Chris Lawrence, Dave Shirk, and Neil Corbould Star Trek Into Darkness and other films' visual effects teams were recognized in various years from 2014 to 2021. In 2014, the winners included Interstellar's Paul Franklin, Andrew Lockley, Ian Hunter, and Scott R. Fisher, as well as Captain America: The Winter Soldier's Dan DeLeeuw, Russell Earl, Bryan Grill, and Dan Sudick, among others. In 2015, the nominees for best visual effects included Ex Machina's Mark Williams Ardington, Sara Bennett, Paul Norris, and Andrew Whitehurst, Mad Max: Fury Road's Andrew Jackson, Dan Oliver, Andy Williams, and Tom Wood, and The Martian's Anders Langlands, Chris Lawrence, Richard Stammers, and Steven Warner, among others. The winners in 2016 included The Jungle Book's Robert Legato, Adam Valdez, Andrew R. Jones, and Dan Lemmon, Deepwater Horizon's Craig Hammack, Jason Snell, Jason Billington, and Burt Dalton, Doctor Strange's Stéphane Ceretti, Richard Bluff, Vincent Cirelli, and Paul Corbould, among others. In 2017, the nominees for best visual effects included Blade Runner 2049's John Nelson, Gerald Neizer, Paul Lambert, and Richard R. Hoover, Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2's Christopher Townsend, Guy Williams, Jonathan Favkner, and Dan Sudick, Kong: Skull Island's Stephen Rosenbaum, Jeff White, Scott Benza, and Mike Meinardus, Star Wars: The Last Jedi's Ben Morris, Mike Mulholland, Neal Scanlan, and Chris Corbould, War for the Planet of the Apes' Joe Letteri, Daniel Barrett, Dan Lemmon, and Joel Whist, among others. The winners in 2018 included First Man's Paul Lambert, Ian Hunter, Tristan Myles, and J. D. Schwalm, Avengers: Infinity War's Dan DeLeeuw, Kelly Port, Russell Earl, and Dan Sudick, Christopher Robin's Chris Lawrence, Mike Eames, Theo Jones, and Chris Corbould, Ready Player One's Roger Guyett, Grafty Crofer, Matthew E. Butler, and David Shirk, Solo: A Star Wars Story's Rob Bredow, Patrick Tubach, Neal Scanlan, and Dominic Tuohy, among others. In 2019, the nominees for best visual effects included 1917's Guillaume Rocheron, Greg Butler, and Dominic Tuohy, Avengers: Endgame's Dan DeLeeuw, Russell Earl, Matt Aitken, and Dan Sudick, The Irishman's Pablo Helman, Leandro Estebecorena, Nelson Sepulveda-Fausser, and Stephane Grabli, The Lion King's Robert Legato, Adam Valdez, Andrew R. Jones, and Elliot Newman, Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker's Roger Guyett, Neal Scanlan, Patrick Tubach, and Dominic Tuohy, among others. The winners in 2020 included Tenet's Andrew Jackson, David Lee, Andrew Lockley, and Scott Fisher, Love and Monsters' Matt Sloan, Genevieve Camilleri, Matt Everitt, and Brian Cox, The Midnight Sky's Matt Kasmir, Chris Lawrence, Max Solomon, and David Watkins, Mulan's Sean Andrew Faden, Anders Langlands, Seth Maury, and Steve Ingram, The One and Only Ivan's Nick Davis, Greg Fisher, Ben Jones, and Santiago Colomo Martinez, among others. In 2021, the nominees for best visual effects included Dune's Paul Lambert, Tristan Myles, Brian Connor, and Here are the nominees for Best Visual Effects: 2022: Avatar: The Way of Water (Joe Letteri), No Time to Die (Charlie Noble), Spider-Man: No Way Home (Kelly Port), Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings (Christopher Townsend) 2023: Top Gun: Maverick (Ryan Tudhope), Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (Geoffrey Baumann), The Batman (Dan Lemmon) Other notable nominees include: 1984: Dune, Gremlins, The Last Starfighter, Star Trek III: The Search for Spock 1993: Addams Family Values, Alive, Hocus Pocus, Super Mario Bros. 1994: The Hudsoner Proxy, Interview with the Vampire, The Lion King, Speed 1995: Batman Forever, Casper, Jumanji, The Indian in the Cupboard, Waterworld And many more... The nominees are chosen by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee, based on a long list of up to 20 titles. A "bake-off" is then held where balloting determines the five nominees. List of notable action films released between 2003 and 2018. Some movies include: Men in Black II, xXx, Hulk, Peter Pan, Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, X2: X-Men United, The Aviator, The Day After Tomorrow, Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events, Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow, Batman Begins, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith, Casino Royale, Eragon, Night at the Museum, X-Men: The Last Stand. Other movies include Beowulf, Live Free or Die Hard, National Treasure: Book of Secrets, Rataouille, Spider-Man 3, Sunshine, The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep, The Bourne Ultimatum, Evan Almighty, I Am Legend, 300, Australia, Hellboy II: The Golden Army. Marvel Studios announces its winners for the Visual Effects Society Awards, with Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania taking home the top honor for Outstanding Visual Effects in a Photoreal Episode. VFX Superstar Denis Muren Wins Big at the Oscars Renowned visual effects artist Dennis Muren has taken home eight prestigious awards from the Academy Awards, a record that cemented his position as one of the most awarded VFX artists in history. With 15 nominations under his belt, Muren has consistently pushed the boundaries of filmmaking magic. Conversely, Dan Sudick found himself on the losing side of the awards stage, with a staggering 13 nominations that yielded no wins. The Academy Award for Best Special Effects has had its share of peculiarities over the years. The award was first introduced in 1939 and was initially a combined category for visual and sound effects. This was until 1962, when the two categories were split into separate awards. In 1942, an unusual situation occurred where "Dive Bomber" was nominated in place of "The Sea Wolf," with both films being produced by Warner Bros. productions featuring photographic effects by Byron Haskin and sound effects by Nathan Levinson. The nomination was later replaced with "The Sea Wolf." The Academy Awards have a specific set of rules and procedures for visual effects nominees, which are outlined in the official rules document. The process begins with shortlists being announced each year, where a limited number of films are selected to move on to the next round. The shortlist is usually reduced to seven films that will ultimately compete for the Oscar award. Over the years, various publications and websites have reported on the visual effects nominees, including IndieWire, Variety, and RogerEbert.com. These sources have provided information on the shortlists, nominees, and winners of the Oscar awards in the visual effects category. Some notable examples include the films "The Aviator", "Ratatouille", and "Beowulf" that were nominated for Oscars in recent years. The list of nominees is usually announced in January of each year, and the winners are typically announced at the Academy Awards ceremony. It's worth noting that the process has evolved over time, with changes to the rules and procedures being implemented to improve the accuracy and fairness of the awards. Despite these changes, the visual effects category remains one of the most competitive and prestigious in the film industry. The article lists a series of news articles and websites that reported on the nominees for the Visual Effects Oscar category in various years between 2011 and 2021. The sources include Deadline Hollywood, IndieWire, Collider, and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Each source provides information about the shortlist or finalists for the VFX Oscar award in a specific year. The Oscars: Unveiling the Shortlists for the 95th Academy Awards The shortlists for the 95th Academy Awards have been unveiled, marking an exciting milestone in the film industry. This year's ceremony promises to be a celebration of outstanding achievements in various categories. According to recent news articles, some notable films that made it to the shortlist include "Barbie," which leads the way in several categories. Other notable mentions include "Wicked," "Dune 2," and "Mufasa." In related news, the Academy Award for Best Visual Effects has been consistently presented since its rebranding in 1977. The winners of this award have had a significant impact on the film industry, with some truly game-changing films being recognized. Some of the most notable winners in the history of the Best Visual Effects Oscar include "Terminator 2: Judgment Day," which revolutionized on-screen effects with its groundbreaking morphing effects. Another standout winner is "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," which showcased innovative visual techniques that blended live-action and animation seamlessly. These films, among others, have redefined what can be accomplished in the world of visual effects, leaving a lasting impact on the industry. The art of filmmaking has been elevated by several iconic movies that have pushed the boundaries of visual effects, animation, and storytelling. The 1988 film, Jurassic Park, is notable for its seamless blend of live-action and animation, making it feel like a convincing world in which dinosaurs exist. Not all prehistoric creatures were created using computer-generated imagery (CGI) in Spielberg's original Jurassic Park; some were brought to life with puppets or animatronics. However, the CGI T-Rex left viewers believing that real dinosaurs could roam the Earth again. The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring was a groundbreaking fantasy film in 2001 that showcased Weta Digital's exceptional special effects capabilities. In addition to being an outstanding fantasy movie, it served as a coming-of-age for Weta Digital as one of the world's top visual effects companies. The team, led by Jim Rygiel, Randall William Cook, Richard Taylor, and Mark Stetson, convincingly brought Middle-earth to life in vivid detail. Their work also earned two more Oscars for The Two Towers and The Return of the King, solidifying Weta Digital's status as a leader in visual effects. The 2009 film Avatar was another milestone in Weta Digital's history, with its stunning visuals and groundbreaking use of virtual performances that made characters seem realistic. In contrast, the 1999 film The Matrix introduced audiences to a world very much like our own, but with advanced morphing capabilities and bullet time effects. Forty-eight years might be a bit early to become a granddaddy figure, but the original Star Wars film paved the way for every effects-driven blockbuster that followed. In 1977, audiences had never witnessed such groundbreaking sci-fi visuals, leaving them eagerly devouring the epic space saga unfolding on screen. The Oscar-recognized special effects team behind the film consisted of John Stears, John Dykstra, Richard Edlund, Grant McCune, and Robert Blalack, while those from The Empire Strikes Back and Return of the Jedi also took home visual effects awards. Although George Lucas chose to replace some original effects in his Special Editions of the trilogy, the first versions remain masterpieces that continue to shape the cinematic landscape for better or worse - hopefully the former.