

ANIMATION'S HIGHEST HONOR

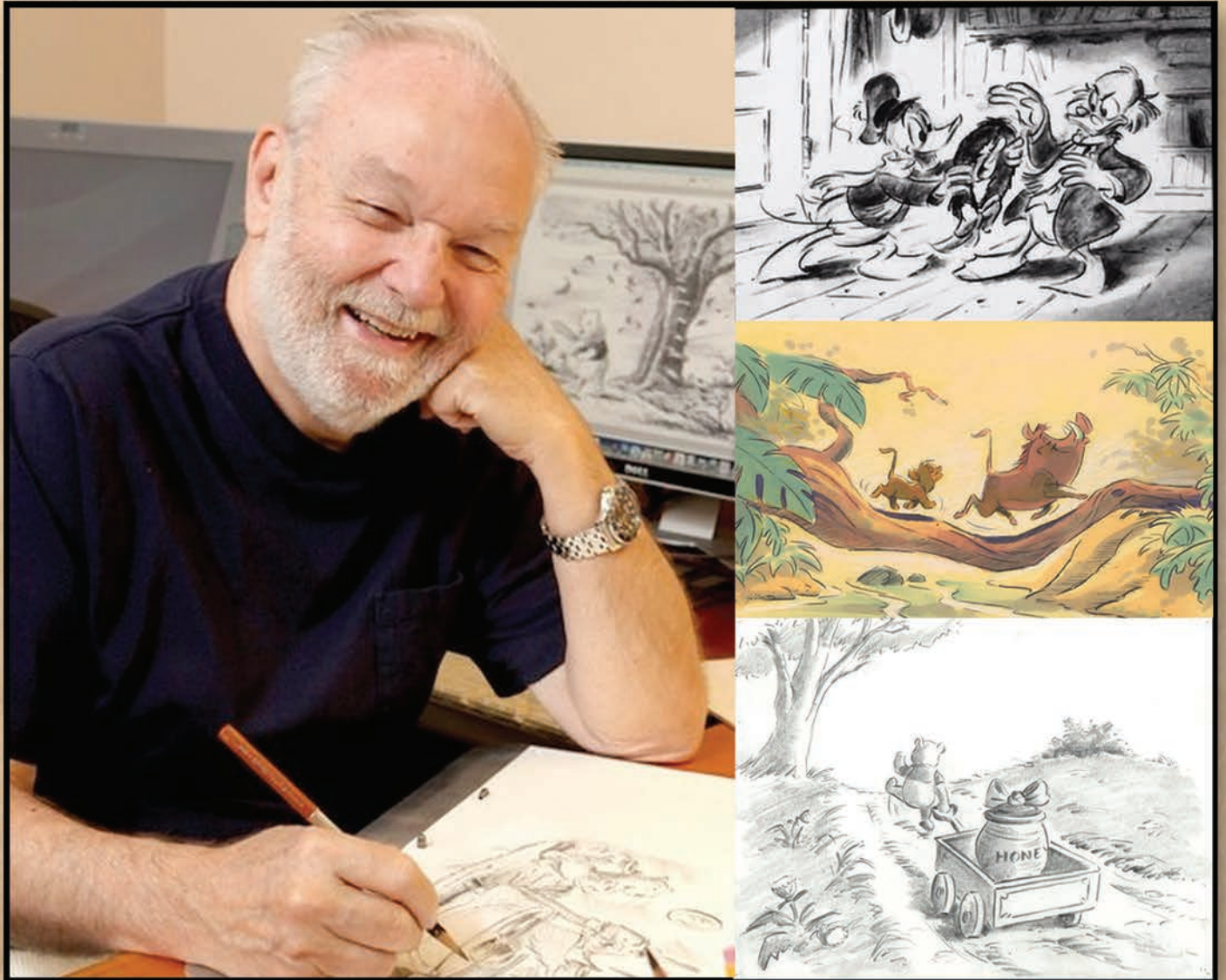


— FIFTY-ONE —
ANNIE
A W A R D S



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

THANK YOU, BURNY, FOR 70 YEARS OF DISNEY ANIMATION MAGIC



WALT DISNEY
ANIMATION STUDIOS

ILLUMINATION PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR

ANNIE AWARDS NOMINEES



BEST VOICE ACTING
FEATURE
JACK BLACK as the voice of BOWSER

Nintendo + ILLUMINATION
**THE SUPER
MARIO
BROS.
MOVIE**

BEST VOICE ACTING
FEATURE
TRESI GAZAL as the voice of GWEN

ILLUMINATION PRESENTS
MIGRATION



ILLUMINATION



SONY PICTURES
ANIMATION

*CONGRATULATES THIS YEAR'S ANNIE AWARDS
NOMINEES, INCLUDING THE TEAM BEHIND*

SPIDER-MAN
ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

**BEST FEATURE • BEST MUSIC - FEATURE • BEST FX - FEATURE • BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - FEATURE
BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - FEATURE • BEST EDITORIAL - FEATURE • BEST DIRECTION - FEATURE**

CREDITS



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Wesley Nitsckie

AWARD SCREENING PLATFORM

Indee Technologies
Kyle Brown, Reuben Jacob

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Olivia Hernandez, Odez Designs

PROGRAM BOOK EDITOR

Annette O'Neil

PROGRAM COVER

Russell Frazier

PROGRAM BOOK DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

Olivia Hernandez, Odez Designs

PRINTER

Terri Norman, Finline Printing

CATERING

Maxine Banks, Maxine Banks Events

EVENT MUSIC

Max Cole, Solid Selections

AWARD TROPHIES

John Billings, Billings Artworks
Original Design by Tom Woodward

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Joel Hindman
Megan Oliphant
David Yeh

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Azusa Pacific University Animation
Students

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Matthew Tishler
Brandon Treakle
Kara Vallow
William Villarreal



PROUDLY CONGRATULATES



THE BOY AND THE HERON

A HAYAO MIYAZAKI FILM

Best Feature

- Best Direction, Feature • Hayao Miyazaki
- Best Writing, Feature • Hayao Miyazaki
- Best Storyboarding, Feature • Hayao Miyazaki
- Best Music, Feature • Joe Hisaishi
- Best Character Animation, Feature • Takeshi Honda
- Best Production Design, Feature • Yoji Takeshige
- Winsor McCay Award • Joe Hisaishi



Ernest & Celestine A TRIP TO GIBBERITIA

Best Feature, Independent



FEBRUARY 17, 2024

UCLA ROYCE HALL - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



PROGRAM

Welcome to the 51st Annie Awards

Best Student Film

Best Short Subject

Best Production Design in an Animated TV/Media Production

Best Production Design in an Animated Feature Production

Best Special Production

Best Sponsored Production

Message from the President

Ub Iwerks Award

Special Achievement Award

Music in an Animated TV/Media Production

Music in an Animated Feature Production

Character Design in an Animated TV/Media Production

Character Design in an Animated Feature Production

Message from the Executive Director

June Foray Award

Character Animation in a Video Game

Character Animation in a Live Action Production

Character Animation in an Animated TV/Media Production

Character Animation in an Animated Feature Production

Animated Effects in an Animated TV/Media Production

Animated Effects in an Animated Feature Production

Editing in an Animated TV/Media Production

Editing in an Animated Feature Production

Winsor McCay Awards

Voice Acting in an Animated TV/Media Production

Voice Acting in an Animated Feature Production

Writing in an Animated TV/Media Production

Writing in an Animated Feature Production

In Memoriam

Best TV/Media Production for Preschool Children

Best TV/Media Production for Children

Best TV/Media Production for Mature Audiences

Best TV/Media Production, Limited Series

Storyboarding in an Animated TV/Media Production

Storyboarding in an Animated Feature Production

Directing in an Animated TV/Media Production

Directing in an Animated Feature Production

Best Animated Independent Feature

Best Animated Feature



NETFLIX

ASIFA-HO

AND PROUDLY CONGRATULATES

FILM

NIMONA

BEST FEATURE
BEST DIRECTION - FEATURE
BEST WRITING - FEATURE
BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - FEATURE
BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - FEATURE
BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - FEATURE
BEST STORYBOARDING - FEATURE
BEST VOICE ACTING - FEATURE
Chloë Grace Moretz as the voice of Nimona
BEST EDITORIAL - FEATURE

*AARDMAN
**CHICKEN RUN
DAWN OF THE NUGGET**

BEST FX - FEATURE
BEST STORYBOARDING - FEATURE

LEO

BEST EDITORIAL - FEATURE

TELEVISION

DREAMWORKS
**the BAD
GUYS
A VERY BAD
HOLIDAY**

BEST FX - TV/MEDIA

**BIG
MOUTH**

"THE INTERNATIONAL SHOW"
BEST TV/MEDIA - MATURE

**碧眼
BLUE EYE
SAMURAI**

"PILOT: HAMMERSCALE"
BEST TV/MEDIA - MATURE
BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
"ALL EVIL DREAMS AND ANGRY WORDS"
BEST FX - TV/MEDIA
"EPISODES 101, 104, 106"
BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - TV/MEDIA
"THE GREAT FIRE OF 1657"
BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
**"EPISODE 105: THE TALE OF THE RONIN
AND THE BRIDE"**
BEST WRITING - TV/MEDIA
BEST EDITORIAL - TV/MEDIA

THANKS

OLLYWOOD

OUR ANNIE AWARD® NOMINEES

TELEVISION



"THE FOREST FOOD BANDIT"
BEST TV/MEDIA - PRESCHOOL



**"#2 WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND, PSYDUCK?"**
BEST DIRECTION - TV/MEDIA



"CHAPTER 8: THE FAIRY ISLE"
BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN
"CHAPTER 6: THE FORGOTTEN LAKE"
BEST EDITORIAL - TV/MEDIA



"WATER PROTECTORS"
BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - TV/MEDIA



"APOK-TA-POKALYPSE NOW, PART II"
BEST STORYBOARDING - TV/MEDIA



"FRACTIONS"
BEST TV/MEDIA - PRESCHOOL



"BIZARRE RIDE"
BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN
BEST DIRECTION - TV/MEDIA





BEST STUDENT FILM



From The Top - Rich Farris



Kolaj - Besen Dilek



La quête de l'humain - Mélina IENCO,
Lucie JURIC, Caroline LEIBEL,
Faustine MERLE, Claire PELLET



Quem Salva - Laure Devin,
Maxime Bourstin, Nathan Medam,
Charles Hechinger, Titouan Jaouen



The Little Poet - Justine King

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE NOMINEES

FOR THE 51ST ANNUAL ANNIE AWARDS

Well done!



BEST ANIMATED SHORT SUBJECT



Carne de Dios - Ojo Raro & Fedora Productions



Daffy in Wackyland - Warner Bros. Animation



HUMO - Outik Animation, 3rd Street Video, Mindsoup Entertainment, IMCINE



PINA - Punchline Cinema / Next Days Films



WAR IS OVER! Inspired by the Music of John & Yoko - ElectroLeague

Congratulations!

Sheridan grads receive Annie Award nominations

2024 nominees:

+ **Mike Beaulieu** (Animation '00), Best Character Animation – Live Action, *Ahsoka*.

+ **Nikolas Ilic** (Bachelor of Animation '11), Best Character Design – Feature, *Merry Little Batman*.

+ Plus, former Bachelor of Illustration student **Patrick O'Keefe**, Best Production Design – Feature, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*.

Join us in cheering for them — and the many more Sheridan grads who contributed to nominated films — at the 51st annual Annie Awards on February 17.

sheridancollege.ca

Sheridan



PRODUCTION DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



Blue Eye Samurai, Episode: The Great Fire of 1657 – A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions – Toby Wilson, James Wilson, Emil Mitev

Production Designer Toby Wilson joined Disney after more than seven years in the video game industry at Electronic Arts. He served as production designer on the 2011 installment of *Medal of Honor* and was a lead concept artist and story artist on several games, including *Medal of Honor Airborne*, *Boom Blox*, *Lord of the Rings RTS* and *Goldeneye: Rogue Agent*. He is a Southern California native and graduate of Otis College of Art & Design.



With over 25 years in animation, James Wilson joined *Blue Eye Samurai* as Art Director to engage all the skills of innovation, design, and management that he has acquired over his time in the industry.

Emil Mitev has been in the animation industry for 20 years, but remains excited and passionate about breaking ground in animation, seamlessly blending design, lighting, and color, and building unique worlds to excite hungry eyes and minds. After graduating from Fine Art Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria with an M.F.A. in Scenic and Costume Design—and creating major set and costume designs for theatrical performances across Bulgaria and France—Emil found his calling in animation. He moved to Los Angeles, where he remains today.



Scavengers Reign, Episode: The Storm – Max in association with Titmouse Animation and Green Street – Charles Huettner, Jonathan Djob Nkondo, Pauline Mauvière, Hugo Moreno, Jon Juarez

Charles Huettner is a Pennsylvania-based artist working in animation. After years of making short films and freelancing for various companies, he co-created the TV show *Scavengers Reign* in 2021, where he served as a co-showrunner, Writer and Art Director.



Star Wars: Visions, Episode: Sith – Lucasfilm Ltd. – Carlos Salgado

With more than 15-year career as a Concept Artist and Designer, Carlos has worked on films such as *Pacific Rim*, *Colossal*, *Color Out of Space*, *Open Windows* and *Automata*. Parallel to his work as Concept Artist, Carlos has directed multiple 2D animation projects as opening titles or animation sequences in Spanish films such as *Gernika*, *Zip y Zap 2* and *Torrente V*. In 2020, he finished his short film *Wayback*, nominated for three Quirino awards and selected a candidate for the Goyas. His most recent work is the art direction for *Sith*, the short film directed by Rodrigo Blaas, part of the *Star Wars Visions* series.



What If...?, Episode: What if... Nebula Joined the Nova Corps? – Marvel Studios – Paul Lasaine, Kristina Vardazaryan, Cynthia Halley, Ryan Magno, Simon Dunsdon

PRODUCTION DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Elemental – Pixar Animation Studios – Don Shank, Maria Yi, Dan Holland, Jennifer Chang, Laura Meyer



Nimona – Annapurna Animation for Netflix – Aidan Sugano, Jeff Turley

Aidan is a graduate of San Jose State University where he studied in the Animation / Illustration program. He always had a love for art and animation gave him a way to help bring it to life. In his short career, Aidan has worked on projects including *Spies in Disguise* (character design), *Ice Age: Collision* (Character Design, Set Design, Color Design) and *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (Junior Designer). He currently serves as a production designer and character art director on Netflix's *Nimona*. Aidan loves the outdoors, traveling, climbing and surfing in his free time.



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse – Sony Pictures Animation – Patrick O'Keefe, Dean Gordon

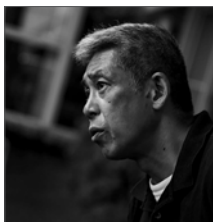
Production Designer and Art Director Patrick O'Keefe has worked on a variety of films, video games, commercials, shorts, virtual reality short films and television shows. He has contributed as a visual development artist, a background painter and a concept artist. O'Keefe studied illustration at Sheridan College before transferring to the Emily Carr University of Art and Design, where he received his Bachelor of Media Arts in Film and Animation Design.

Art Director and visual development artist Dean Gordon graduated from the Art Center College of Design, joining Sony Pictures Animation in 2007. Gordon started his career in television as a background color stylist and background artist on series such as *A.L.F.*, *BraveStarr*, *She-Ra: Princess of Power* and *Ghostbuster*, then worked for 16 years at the Walt Disney Animation Studios as an art director and background supervisor artist on many features (including *Aladdin*, *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*).



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem – Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies Yashar Kassai, Arthur Fong, Tiffany Lam

Mutant Mayhem is a teenage coming of age story masquerading as an action film. The audience experiences the world of *Mutant Mayhem* through the lens of young teen protagonists. To honor this, the movie's entire design language pays reverence to a sacred time in all our lives: beginners' art class. The art department peeled away their years of formal training and drew as if they were fifteen years old again. Every character, building, and car drawn by the shaky and unskilled hand of a young teen artist. Objects in the world are imperfect, unfinished and riddled with mistakes. Teenage art wants to be taken seriously but lacks the necessary skill to accomplish that, and this gap between intention and skill is what makes it so endearing. This design language is balanced with surreal lighting and alien color schemes that embrace darkness and feel more akin to live-action film.



The Boy and the Heron – Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS – Yoji Takeshige

Born in Philadelphia in 1964, Takeshige studied at the Tama College of Art, majoring in oil painting. His first credit for a Studio Ghibli film was on *My Neighbor Totoro*, as a background artist. After working on several Studio Ghibli films, he first became the art director on the short feature *On Your Mark* and served as Art Director on *Princess Mononoke*, *My Neighbors the Yamadas*, *Spirited Away*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Tales from Earthsea* and *The Wind Rises*. He shared the Art Director credit with Noburu Yoshida for *The Secret World of Arrietty* and was the Art Director of Miyazaki's *The Boy and the Heron*. Besides Ghibli films, he was also credited in feature films including *Oneami's No Tsubasa*, *Patlabor The Movie* and *Ghost in the Shell*. He was awarded Best Production Design at the 9th Tokyo Anime Award for his work on *Summer Wars*.

We thank ASIFA
and proudly congratulate our Annie Awards nominees

DC
MERRY LITTLE
BATMAN

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN — FEATURE
Nikolas Ilic

BEST VOICE ACTING — FEATURE
David Hornsby (Character: Joker)

Warner Bros. Animation • DC Entertainment



THE LEGEND OF
VOX MACHINA

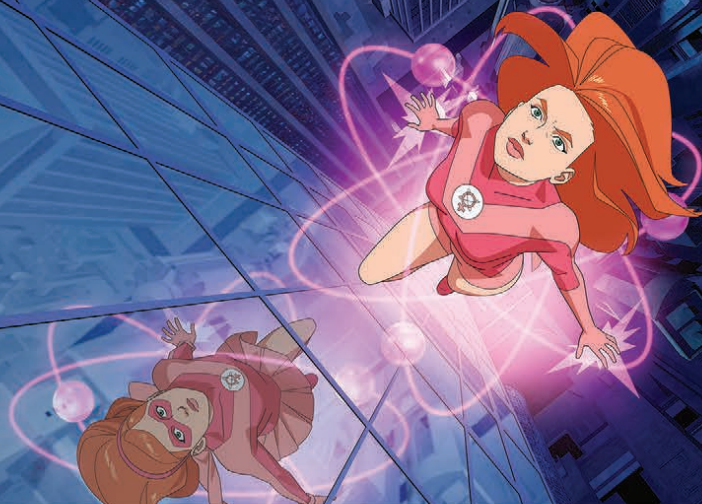
BEST EDITORIAL - TV/MEDIA
"The Sunken Tomb"

Todd Raleigh & Joelle Kristy
Critical Role Productions • Titmouse



INVINCIBLE
ATOM EVE

BEST SPECIAL PRODUCTION
Skybound



BEST SPECIAL PRODUCTION



Invincible: Atom Eve - Amazon MGM Studios, Skybound Entertainment



Shape Island: The Winter Blues - Bix Pix Entertainment in association with Apple



Snoopy Presents: One-of-a-Kind Marcie - WildBrain Studios in association with Apple



The Smeds and The Smoos - Magic Light Pictures



The Velveteen Rabbit - Magic Light Pictures in association with Apple

BEST ANIMATED SPONSORED PRODUCTION



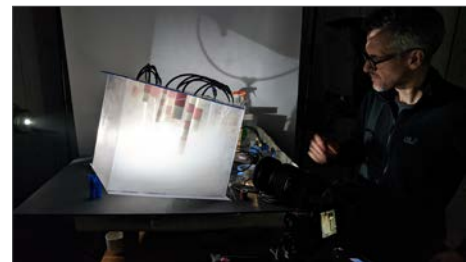
"Video Games" by Tenacious D - Pinreel Inc.



Alzheimer's Research UK *'Change The Ending'* - Passion Pictures



Laugh Track - The National (featuring Phoebe Bridgers) - Bernard Derriman



Up in smoke - NOMINT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 51st Annie Awards! We are honored to celebrate another incredible year in animation with all of you tonight. Wow! Just one look at the Annie Award nominees this year, and you can see the pure creative strength and artistic visions that permeate our screens.

Last year was our 50th anniversary and it was a banner year indeed. Our organization is stronger than ever! Our dedicated board of directors and hardworking staff meet regularly to identify ways to support and promote important initiatives for the animation community at large.

Here is a summary of the work we've done, and goals achieved in 2023:

- We sponsored AMPAS (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) with a matching donation to preserve and display the Steven Spielberg collection of rare animation cels.
- ASIFA-Hollywood's Film Preservation Initiative funded several important restoration projects, including: Terrytoons "French Fried" (1930), a Max Fleischer Color Classic "Hold It!" (1938), and the rare trailer for the Fleischer "Superman" (1941) cartoon series.
- ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum (AEF) provided more faculty grants and student scholarships this year than ever before with \$50K in student scholarship and \$30K in faculty grants.
- The ASIFA-Hollywood diversity committee inspired the board to form new relationships and support orgs who's goals and commitment to DEIA align with ours, including: the BRIC Foundation, Afro Animation Summit, and the Abidjan Animation Film Festival.
- Our board members and staff connected with so many of you at a variety of conventions, film festivals, events and screenings and panels that we hosted thought the year to packed houses.
- And... ASIFA-Hollywood sponsored our first film production with a goal of bringing empathy and education to war-torn areas in the short, animated PSA "Jasmine" (heading to the festival circuit).
- And of course...we continued our tradition of honoring the best of the best in animation at
- the 50th Annies, our flagship black-tie award show - where we all get to re-connect and celebrate our fabulous community.

We couldn't do this without all of you! Our membership has grown to 3300+ strong- this is a powerful creative diverse group of artists. You continue keeping animation on the cutting-edge and relevant by pushing the boundaries of what this incredible artform can do.

We thank you all for an amazing year!



Aubry Mintz

Aubry Mintz
Interim Executive Director,
ASIFA-Hollywood



Sue Shakespeare

Sue Shakespeare
President, ASIFA-Hollywood



Yup, I loved this gig...and I am very, very proud of what we have accomplished over the past dozen years. But I am also not one to stay too long at the fair, so now that we have survived the pandemic and the Annies 50th anniversary, the time is ripe for new voices and ideas.

I've already stepped down from my position as ASIFA-Hollywood's executive director and will soon hang up my gloves as the Annie Awards executive producer too. It has been a good run and an honor to work with so many extraordinary people for so many wonderful years. I am content in the knowledge that these positions are in good and capable hands, and confident that ASIFA and the Annies will continue to move forward to even brighter days ahead.

Gratefully and most sincerely,

Frank Gladstone



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - LIVE ACTION

Cocaine Bear
Carmelo Leggiero
Steve Braggs
Kevin Kelm
Cedric Enriquez Canlas
Kane Elferink

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - LIVE ACTION

Transformers: Rise of the beasts
Kevin Estey
Kai-Hua Lan
Blaine Toderian
Richard John Moore
Joseph C.K. Leong



THANK YOU TO ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD FOR RECOGNIZING OUR WORK



JACK BLACK



DREAMWORKS
**KUNG FU
PANDA
4**

IN THEATERS MARCH 8

UB IWERKS AWARD



For technical advancements that make a significant impact on the art or industry of animation.



JOHN OXBERRY

John Oxberry, a pioneering figure in animation camera engineering, revolutionized the industry with his groundbreaking innovations. Born in 1918 in New York, Oxberry displayed a natural aptitude for engineering from a young age, beginning his animation career making training films in the Army Signal Corps during WWII, where his passion for precision and creativity merged.

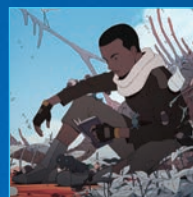
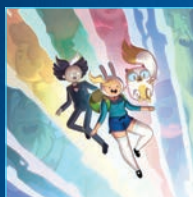
After the war, John started developing the Oxberry Animation Stand, a specialized camera system designed to capture the frame by frame process of filming animation with unparalleled accuracy and efficiency. This invention revolutionized traditional animation techniques, allowing animators to achieve smoother and more complicated camera movements and intricate photographic details with ease.

Throughout his career, Oxberry collaborated with animation studios large and small, earning accolades for his technical expertise and innovative solutions. His animation stands and optical printers were, for many years, the industry's diamond standard, but he wasn't satisfied to make his equipment available only to his professional clients, designing the Oxberry Super 8 animation stand for young people just starting out. His dedication to advancing the art of animation earned him widespread recognition and cemented his legacy as a trailblazer in the field.

Even today, while animation has become digitized and Oxberry stands are mostly remembered fondly by those of us who used them, John Oxberry's contributions and passion for exactitude tempered with flexibility still influence the animation industry, with his name revered among animators and engineers alike.

CONGRATULATIONS

to our 51st annual ANNIE AWARDS™ NOMINEES



max ORIGINAL
BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION – TV/MEDIA
"The Winter King"
Alex Small-Butera



max ORIGINAL
BEST CHARACTER DESIGN – TV/MEDIA
"Let's Try This Again"
Tara Billinger



max ORIGINAL
BEST TV/MEDIA – LIMITED SERIES
"Yellowbird"

BEST WRITING – TV/MEDIA
"Yellowbird"
Tsvetelina Zdraveva,
Jerred North



max ORIGINAL
BEST TV/MEDIA – MATURE
"The Signal"
BEST DIRECTION – TV/MEDIA
"The Fall"
Diego Porral

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN – TV/MEDIA
"The Storm"
Charles Huettner, Jonathan Djob Nkondo,
Pauline Mauvière, Hugo Moreno, Jon Juarez

max ORIGINAL
BEST STORYBOARDING – TV/MEDIA
"Never Give Up"
Kristine Lee

BEST WRITING – TV/MEDIA
"The Reunion"
Sean Buckelew

Thank you, ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD MEMBERS, for your recognition.





CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ARTISTS OF

WALT DISNEY
ANIMATION STUDIOS

ON THE SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Recognizing a unique and outstanding achievement not recognized within the existing award categories. structure.

THE ARTISTS OF WALT DISNEY ANIMATION

The artists of Disney Animation Studios are the magicians behind some of the most beloved and iconic characters in cinematic history. From the first groundbreaking successes in the 1920s to today, Disney artists have continually pushed the boundaries of animation, bringing imagination to life on the silver screen.

The heart of Disney Animation has always been a talented team of artists who possess a diverse range of skills, both artistic and technical, all working to create characters that resonate with audiences of all ages, each with their own unique personalities and traits. Whether it's the innocence of Mickey Mouse or the determination of Mulan, Disney characters have a special place in the hearts of millions around the world.

Disney artists do more than just create characters; they also craft entire worlds filled with enchanting landscapes, vibrant colors palettes and intricate details. Each Disney animated film, be it a short or a full length feature, is a visual feast thanks to the artistry of its creators.

Finally, all of these artists and their skills merge into a culture devoted to storytelling. Since the studio's earliest days, Disney artists have understood the importance of emotion, pacing, and visual language in creating memorable and impactful films. Their works transport audiences to magical worlds, evoke laughter, tears, and joy, ultimately leaving a lasting impression that continues to transcend generations.

The artists of Disney Animation Studios are the heroes behind some of the most beloved and enduring films in cinematic history. Their passion, creativity and dedication continue to inspire audiences around the world, making what they have created timeless and unforgettable.





MUSIC IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Animaniacs, Episode: Talladega Mice* - Warner Brothers Animation/Amblin Entertainment/HULU Originals - Steven Bernstein, Julie Bernstein**

Five-time Emmy-winner Steven Bernstein and four-time Emmy-winner Julie Bernstein have worked in animation as composers, orchestrators, arrangers, song-writers, conductors, singers and spouses. They most recently teamed up for the reboot of the animated series *Animaniacs*, as well as the animated short *The Boys: Diabolical* (Laser Baby's Day Out). Julie and Steven have individually received commissions for orchestral works, string quartet arrangements and large-scale choral works.



***Babylon 5: The Road Home, Special Production* - Warner Bros. Animation - Michael McCuistion, Kristopher Carter, Lolita Ritmanis**

Michael McCuistion is an Emmy Award-winning composer who writes for film, television, multimedia and the concert hall. Nominated for ten Emmy Awards and five Annies, he also collaborated with the world-famous Griffith Observatory Planetarium to score the celebrated *Time's Up*.

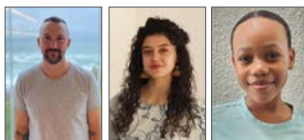
Kristopher Carter received an Emmy for *Batman Beyond*, seven other Emmy nominations and five Annie nominations. He also has written music for many award-winning feature film, co-composed the Emmy-nominated *Mayhem of the MusicMeister* and composed lauded piano/orchestra works.

Grammy-, Emmy- and SCL Award-winning Lolita Ritmanis composed the Oscar®-shortlisted symphonic score for *Blizzard of Souls*, as well as for projects from *Justice League to Teen Titans, Batman Beyond to Ben 10*. She co-founded the Alliance for Women Film Composers. Her music has been performed at the Lincoln and Kennedy Centers, as well as Carnegie Hall.



***Pacemaker, Short Film - A Running Commentary* - Christopher Lennertz**

Christopher Lennertz is an acclaimed composer and songwriter who has left his mark on every genre imaginable. With two Emmy nominations, a Grammy-winning album, and over twenty BMI awards, Lennertz has become a sought-after storytelling partner. Now, adding writer and director to his resume, he becomes one of Hollywood's brightest and most respected musical creators and storytellers.



***Star Wars: Visions, Episode: Aau's Song* - Lucasfilm Ltd. - Markus Wormstorm, Nadia Darries, Dineo du Toit**

Signed to Sound Ink NY records at 19, Markus Wormstorm is a Composer, Game Developer and Writer currently completing a MA at UCT. He has scored campaigns for global brands, created a mobile game, and taken wins and nominations for several awards (including a Cannes Lion, Clio, Canal+, SAFTA and Anney Award).

Nadia Darries is a director, animator, songwriter and co-founder of Goon Valley Animation. Born in the Cape Flats, Darries has worked since 2015 in animated film and motion design as an animator, project manager, creative director and director. She animated on the award-winning BBC films *Stick Man, Revolting Rhymes* and *Highway Rat*.

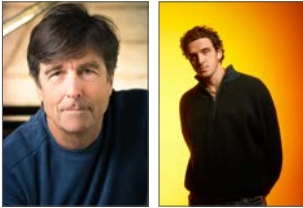
Dineo Grace du Toit has always had a flair for the dramatic. A natural dancer, she started ballet at the age of three and later moved to gymnastics where she thrived, earning herself many medals. She was cast as the singing voice of "Aau" in the Triggerfish/Lucasfilm short *Aau's Song*, then as "Kiya" on Disney's *Kiya & the Kimoja Heroes*.



***The Smeds and the Smoos, Short Film* - Magic Light Pictures - René Aubry**

A multi-instrumentalist and prolific composer for dance, theatre and cinema, René Aubry is the creator of some unclassifiable sound universes listened to (and loved) for more than 40 years. As an eminently solitary composer, he works all by himself from his wooded studio-house: guitars, mandolin, strings, keyboards, percussions, machines, he plays everything and, as a freedom-loving researcher, creates a music full of uniqueness and with its own strongly recognisable colour. René has composed 11 films for Magic Light Pictures.

MUSIC IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Elemental* - Pixar Animation Studios - Thomas Newman, Ari "LAUV" Leff**

Thomas Newman has composed music for more than 80 motion pictures and television series and has earned 15 Academy Award nominations, one Emmy Award and six Grammy Awards. He has contributed distinctive and evocative scores, over the past several decades, to a long list of acclaimed films.

For as much as LAUV (Steal the Show song: Music by/Lyrics by/Performed by) is known for his intriguing and inventive soundscapes, the multi-Platinum chart-topping singer, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist asserts himself as a storyteller, first and foremost. His stories continue to enchant audiences everywhere by converting the magic around him into generational anthems. His global smash *I Like Me Better* went sextuple-Platinum in the US and platinum in twelve other countries.



***Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* - Sony Pictures Animation - Daniel Pemberton, Metro Boomin**

Daniel Pemberton is an Academy Award®-nominated and Emmy-winning composer and songwriter. He has scored films for legendary figures such as Ridley Scott, Danny Boyle, Michael Mann, Aaron Sorkin, David O Russell, Phil Lord and Chris Miller, Edward Norton and Guy Ritchie. He has written songs with the likes of Mick Jagger, Iggy Pop, Drake and Celeste.

Leland Taylor Wayne, aka Metro Boomin, is a Grammy Award-nominated, diamond-certified producer, DJ, and artist who has defined not only the sound, but the direction of hip-hop. With 52 Billboard Hot 100 hits as a lead artist, his discography encompasses a veritable treasure room of platinum. The official soundtrack for *Spider-Man: Across The Spider-Verse* has vaulted into the Top 10 of the Billboard 200 and logged seven straight weeks on the Billboard Top Soundtrack Albums Chart.



***Suzume* - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. - Kazuma Jinnouchi, RADWIMPS**

Born in 1979 in Hiroshima Prefecture, Kazuma's original score composition for the Metal Gear Solid video game series put him on that map in 2006. From there, he continued to score various video games, films and anime soundtracks. In 2016, he was nominated for the BAFTA Best Music award for his work on *Halo 5: Guardians* and worked on the 2019 release of Marvel's *Iron Man VR*. He currently splits his time between Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and Tokyo, Japan.

Formed in 2001, Japanese rock band RADWIMPS made their major debut in 2005. The band's music for Shinkai's previous record-breaking animated feature films—*Your Name*. and *Weathering with You*—led to a Japanese Academy Award for Best Original Score. RADWIMPS tour extensively around the world.



***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* - Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies - Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross**

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross, renowned for their evocative musical compositions, approached their work on the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* project by immersing themselves in the vibrant world of the beloved characters. Drawing inspiration from the energy and spirit of the Ninja Turtles' universe, they meticulously crafted a score that captures the essence of the story. Incorporating a mix of electronic elements, their music added layers of excitement and emotion to the on-screen adventures. Through their collaborative process, Reznor and Ross succeeded in infusing the iconic franchise with their unique sonic signature while honoring the nostalgic charm that has captivated audiences for years.



***The Boy and the Heron* - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS - Joe Hisaishi**

Born in Nagano, Japan, Joe Hisaishi started his career as a contemporary music composer in 1981 with his composition *MKWAJU* in 1981, and the release of his first album *Information* in 1982, marked the kickoff of his prolific career as a solo artist. Since then, he has released nearly 40 solo albums. Hisaishi has produced the music for 12 films by director Hayao Miyazaki, including *My Neighbor Totoro* and *Spirited Away*, and continues to tour the music worldwide through his production 'Joe Hisaishi Symphonic Concert: Music from the Studio Ghibli Films of Hayao Miyazaki'.



CHARACTER DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Clone High, Episode: Let's Try This Again* - Max in association with Lord Miller, Doozer, ShadowMachine, and MTV Entertainment - Tara Billinger**

Tara Billinger grew up as a TV kid being obsessed with animation, with a single mom who supported her passion for art, even when they were struggling. Not being able to afford college, Tara did art commissions to help her family and to fund her big move to LA. Tara's first job in the animation industry was at Disney TVA; from there, she worked as a character designer, storyboard artist and writer for *Mickey Mouse Shorts* and *The Wonderful World of Mickey Mouse*, as well as doing designs for the Disneyland ride *Mickey and Minnie's Runaway Railway*. She also co-created her own independent pilot, *Long Gone Gulch*. Recently Tara, became Art Director of the continuation of the beloved cult classic *Clone High for Max*. She's also done work for Cartoon Network, Warner Bros, King Features, Gorillaz and Genndy Tartakovsky's *Unicorn: Warriors Eternal*.



***Jessica's Big Little World, Episode: Bedtime Routine* - Cartoon Network Studios - Nick Winn**

Nick Winn is an artist/ animator from Phoenix, Arizona. He has done character, prop and VFX Designs for various shows, as well as storyboards and visual development for clients and studios such as Cartoon Network and Netflix. Currently, Nick enjoys making comics and reconnecting with his art on a personal level. His days include: drawing, learning how to play guitar, making house music, and making sure his partner's dog doesn't eat anything bad off the ground. His prime vacation spot would be the Chao Garden, and his favorite Sonic The Hedgehog character is not Sonic. it's Knuckles.



***Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, Episode: You Give Me Heart* - Triggerfish Animation for Disney+ - Lesego Vorster**

Lesego Vorster was born and raised in Diepkloof, Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa. As a graduate of Fine Arts from Witwatersrand and a Masters at Gobelins l'ecole de l'image in Paris, France, his was a traditional approach to the education of art and animated film-making. His company, The Hidden Hand Studios, focuses on high-end animation with a strong focus on African 2D aesthetics. Lesego was instrumental in starting up the fast-growing animation internship at Tshimologong Precinct in Brammfontein, Johannesburg, which is now in its fifth successful year. He just completed directing his short film with Disney+ as part of an African anthology that aired earlier in the year. Lesego's biggest aim is to establish Authentic African Aesthetics as a best-in-class modality.



***Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Episode: 515M-106 (The Beyonder)* - Disney Television Animation / Cinema Gypsy Productions - Jose Lopez**

Los Angeles-born Emmy Award winner Jose Lopez is the character art director of *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*, based on Marvel's hit comic books. With over 25 years of professional experience in animation, Lopez's additional credits include *Transformers Prime*, for which he earned an Emmy Award in the Outstanding Individual in Animation category; *The Batman*; *Jackie Chan Adventures*; *Men in Black: The Series*; *My Little Pony: The Movie*; *Big Hero 6 The Series*; *Glitch Techs*; *Generator Rex*; and *Secret Ponchos*. Lopez spent eight years of his childhood in Guadalajara, Mexico, and currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, two sons and their dog.



***Spirit Rangers, Episode: Water Protectors* - Laughing Wild / Netflix - Marie Delmas**

Marie Delmas graduated with a degree in 2D Animation from Emile Cohl in Lyon, France. Her short film *The Headgear* won the PISAF Grand Prize in 2008, earning her a scholarship to the Vancouver Film School. This opportunity facilitated a seamless transition from 2D to CGI, culminating in her graduation in Digital Character Animation in 2009. Embarking on her professional journey as an animator, Marie returned to her 2D roots, specializing in pre-production and key production roles. She showcased expertise in concepts, color keys, and background painting. From mid-2020 to the end of 2023, Marie served as the Art Director for Netflix Animation's series *Spirit Rangers*. Actively engaged in every stage of production, Marie shaped the series from core graphic codes to the entire artistic universe. In 2023, Marie received Concept Art Award nominations in the Visual Development and Environment categories, ultimately winning the Environment category.

CHARACTER DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Elemental* – Pixar Animation Studios – Maria Yi**

Maria Yi began at Pixar Animation Studios in September 2018 as a Character Designer on Disney and Pixar's *Onward*. She continued her incredible work as a character designer on *Soul*, *Luca*, and *Turning Red* before serving as character art director on *Elemental*. As a Production Designer, Maria specializes in partnering with a film's director to develop the look of the project as well as managing the artistic side of production (including visual direction for characters, sets, and shading). Maria grew up in Seoul, Korea before attending Ringling College of Art and Design. She currently resides in Berkeley, California.



***Merry Little Batman* – Amazon MGM Studios, Warner Bros. Animation, DC Entertainment – Nikolas Ilić**

Nikolas Ilić is an Emmy award winning production artist. He specializes in character design, illustration and visual development for the animation industry and children's books.



***Nimona* – Annapurna Animation for Netflix – Aidan Sugano**

Aidan Sugano is a graduate of San Jose State University where he studied in the Animation/Illustration program. He always had a love for art, and animation gave him a way to help bring it to life. Across his short career, Aidan has worked on projects including *Spies in Disguise* (for Character Design), *Ice Age: Collision* (for Character, Set and Color Design) and *Ice Age: Continental Drift* (as Junior Designer). He currently serves as Production Designer and Character Art Director on Netflix's *Nimona*. Aidan loves the outdoors, traveling, climbing and surfing in his free time.



***Robot Dreams* – Arcadia Motion Pictures – Daniel Fernández Casas**

Daniel Fernández Casas most recently worked as Lead Character Designer on *Robot Dreams*. Previously, he served as Character Designer on *The Super Mario Bros Movie* and *Migration*, released the same year. Daniel has worked in the animation industry for the past 12 years as Character Designer and Art Director on both 2D and 3D films, including the renowned *Klaus* (2019), *The Grinch* (2018) and *Minions: The Rise of Gru* (2022). Prior to his professional career in animation, Daniel worked as a comic book artist and children's book illustrator.



***Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* – Sony Pictures Animation – Jesús Alonso Iglesias**

Character Designer Jesús Alonso Iglesias is best known for *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, the Oscar®-winning *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* and *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, for which he received an Annie Award nomination for Best Character Design. He was born and raised in Madrid, Spain. After receiving his degree in Design from UCM, he began his career in the animation industry creating layouts, storyboards and character designs for several TV series and animated films (*Pippi Longstocking*, *The Three Wise Men*, *Dragon Hill*) and also as a comic artist, with books published in different languages. He won the Best Album Award at the Barcelona Comic-Con for *Ghost of Gaudi*, and two nominations for both Eisner and Harvey Awards and the Prix Elvis d'Or for the biographical *Judee Sill*. He is currently combining his dual careers as a comic artist and character designer for various publishers and productions.



Disney · PIXAR
ELEMENTAL

Congratulations to our
Annie Award Nominees

Best FX

Chris Chapman, Tim Speltz, Krzysztof Rost
Amit Baadkar, Ravindra Dwivedi

Best Character Animation

Jessica Torres

Best Character Design

Maria Yi

Best Music

Thomas Newman, Ari "LAUV" Leff

Best Production Design

Don Shank, Maria Yi, Dan Holland
Jennifer Chang, Laura Meyer

Best Editorial

Stephen Schaffer, Amara Rizk, Gregory Snyder
Jen Jew, Kevin Rose-Williams

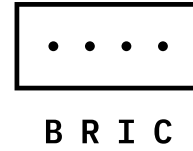
JUNE FORAY AWARD



Significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation.

BRIC FOUNDATION

Nicole Hendrix and Alison Mann,
co-founders



BRIC Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to increasing representation in Entertainment, Gaming, Media, and Tech. Co-founded by Alison Mann and Nicole Hendrix, BRIC Foundation strategically engages with leaders across these industries, along with Government and Education partners, to *Break, Reinvent, Impact, and Change* the foundations of these businesses and create inclusive opportunities for women and underrepresented people to be successful.

Since 2018, BRIC has united these partners to align California's K-12 Arts, Media, and Entertainment curriculum with industry standards; pioneer the first federally and state-recognized Animation, Visual Effects, and Gaming Youth Apprenticeship program; and offer career-readiness education and resources for rising talent, students, parents, and teachers through its annual Summit and year-round programming. BRIC strives to be a bridge that connects industry, government, education, and creative talent, and is proud to help enact change to support a more diverse workforce.



(left to right : Nicole Hendrix, Alison Mann)





CHARACTER ANIMATION IN A VIDEO GAME



***Atomic Heart* - Mundfish - Mundfish Animation Team**

In 2017, four people decided to create something extraordinary in the computer game industry, and that is when we got together and founded this company. The talented global team that leads Mundfish is solely focused on creating an original, captivating, and unique gaming experience, with the intention of inspiring gamers with awe and childlike joy for gaming.



***Hogwarts Legacy* - Avalanche Software - The Hogwarts Legacy Animation Team**

Developed by Avalanche Software and published by Warner Bros. Games under the Portkey Games label, *Hogwarts Legacy* is an immersive, action, open-world role-playing-game set in the 1800s wizarding world. Beginning as a fifth year, players will embark on a journey through new and familiar locations, explore and discover magical beasts, craft potions, master spell casting, upgrade talents and customize their character to become the witch or wizard they want to be.



***Let's! Revolution!* - BUCK - BUCK Animation Team**

Let's! Revolution! is the first original game by BUCK, a global, talent-driven, creative company. For 20 years, BUCK has driven creative innovation in the world of commercial animation for the biggest companies in the world, including Meta, Apple, Amazon, and Google, producing projects such as Share Your Gifts (Apple) and Spectacle of the Real (David Blaine). The artists behind *Let's! Revolution!* were drawn from BUCK's offices in New York, Los Angeles, Sydney, Amsterdam and London, and were led by Emily Suvanvej (Art Director) and Thea Glad (Lead Animator). The game's cell-animated intro cinematic was directed by Audrey Yeo and art directed by Sol Lee. Michael Highland was the game's overall Creative Director, with Marla Anyomi producing.



***Marvel's Spider-Man 2* - Insomniac Games - Insomniac Games Animation Team**

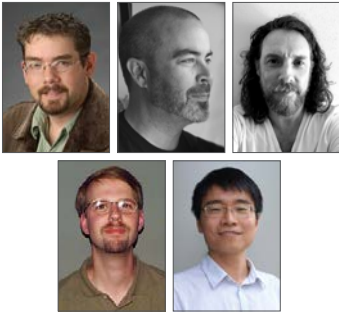
Insomniac's vision and mission is to "create games that have a positive and lasting influence on people's lives." In service of that mission, the team creates games that promote positive messages, telling stories about good overcoming evil that focus on positive themes like friendship, self-sacrifice and fighting for the greater good.



***Teslagrad 2* - Rain Games - Aslak Helgesen**

Aslak Helgesen has been the Lead Animator, Technical Animator and Character Artist at Rain Games for more than ten years. He started work on the original *Teslagrad* and was principally responsible for all character and creature animations on *Teslagrad 2*. For the last leg of production he was joined by junior animator Kristine Teksle. Together, this powerhouse team of two continues to bring strange worlds to life.

CHARACTER ANIMATION IN A LIVE ACTION PRODUCTION



Ahsoka - FX Wētā FX - Production Company: Lucasfilm Ltd., FX Production Company: Industrial Light & Magic - Rick O'Connor, Mike Beaulieu, Stewart Alves, Kevin Reuter, Wai Kit Wan



Cocaine Bear - Production Company: Wētā FX, FX Production Company: Wētā FX - Carmelo Leggiero, Steve Braggs, Kevin Kelm, Cedric Enriquez Canlas, Kane Elferink



Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 - Production Company: Marvel Studios, FX Production Company: Framestore - Fernando Herrera, Chris Hurtt, Nathan McConnel, Daniel Cabral, Chris McGaw



The Little Mermaid - Production Company: Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, FX Production Company: Framestore - Pablo Grillo, Kayn Garcia, Ferran Casas, Stuart Ellis, Joseph Lewis



Transformers: Rise of the Beasts - Production Company: Wētā FX, FX Production Company: Wētā FX - Kevin Estey, Kai-Hua Lan, Blaine Toderian, Richard John Moore, Joseph Leong



CHARACTER ANIMATION IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Adventure Time: Fionna and Cake, Episode: The Winter King* - Cartoon Network Studios - Alex Small-Butera**

Alex Small-Butera makes up one half of the Emmy Award-winning Smallbu animation duo (along with his wife, Lindsay Small-Butera). The pair works together out of their home studio in Massachusetts, on traditional animation that is often a bit goofy. Some of Alex's notable works include the acclaimed web series *Baman Piderman*, animated video game *Later Alligator*, and various specialty sequences for the likes of *Adventure Time*, *Clarence*, *The Owl House*, *Amphibia* and more. Thank you for watching!



***Blue Eye Samurai, Episode: Episodes 101, 104 and 106* - A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions - Alex Bard**

A native of Orléans, Alex cultivated a passion for drawing and film from an early age. He discovered his passion for 3D animation at Esmi Bordeaux school, now Brassart, which led to an internship in 2019 at Blue Spirit Studio. Alex trained on *Alice and Lewis*, an in-house children's series, before obtaining a position as an animator. That role enabled him to work on productions such as *Arthur and the Children of the Round Table*, *Gigantosaurus* and *Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai*, followed by the incredible *Blue Eye Samurai* adventure!



***Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, Episode: Moremi, Surf Sangoma, Stardust* - Triggerfish Animation for Disney+ - André DeVilliers**

Animation Director André de Villiers brings over 16 years of animation experience, spanning feature films, television, and branded entertainment. Beyond animation, his skills as a painter are grounded in a lifelong observation of human and animal behavior. In 1999, André earned the grand prize in The Lions International Peace Poster Contest, followed by an exhibition of his oil paintings at La Concorde Gallery in Franschoek. His animation credits include *Free Willy 4*, *Resident Evil: Final Chapter*, *Marvel Avengers: Age of Ultron* and the animated Netflix feature *Seal Team*. Graduating in 2007 from The Animation School, André collaborates globally with acclaimed studios, currently serving as a senior animator at Sunrise Productions on their upcoming feature *David* in Cape Town, South Africa.



***Star Wars: Visions, Episode: I Am Your Mother* - Lucasfilm Ltd. - Laurie Sitzia**

Laurie has been a stop-motion animator for over 20 years, spending the last 18 predominantly with Aardman. Broadening her skillset on *Creature Comforts 2* and *Purple and Brown*, Laurie was integral in developing and fleshing out the characters for *Shaun the Sheep* series one. She has gone onto work on every subsequent *Shaun the Sheep* series since, plus numerous commercials, shorter projects and feature films. After developing the characters of the Pirate King and Cutlass Liz for *The Pirates! In an Adventure with Scientists!*, Laurie was given her first official lead development role on the *Shaun the Sheep Movie*, helping take Shaun from series to the big screen. Her development of Goona for Nick Park's *Early Man* was nominated for an Annie award in 2019. Laurie's most recent credits include *The Epic Adventures of Morph*, *I Am Your Mother* from *Star Wars: Visions Volume 2* and the upcoming *Wallace & Gromit* film.



***THE AMAZING DIGITAL CIRCUS: PILOT, Episode: 1* - Glitch Productions - Kevin Temmer**

Kevin Temmer is an award-winning animator, songwriter, and composer. Throughout his time in the industry, he has worked on projects at several different studios (including Blue Sky Studios, Sony Interactive Entertainment, and JibJab). He joined Glitch Productions in 2023. There, he is currently the Lead Animator, developing the animation styles on projects such as *The Amazing Digital Circus* and *Murder Drones*, and helping the studio nail their very first Annie Award nomination. (Woo!)

CHARACTER ANIMATION IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Elemental* - Pixar Animation Studios - Jessica Torres**

As an animator, Jessica Torres sees herself as, essentially, the actor living inside the characters. In that mode, she brings the characters to life. Torres compares animation to puppeteering: that is to say, acting as a model inside the computer by manipulating hundreds of controls to create a single pose. Torres began at Pixar Animation Studios as an animator in January of 2009. Since joining the studio, Torres has worked on *Monsters University*, *The Good Dinosaur*, *Cars 3* and *Incredibles 2*. She also worked on the Academy Award®-winning feature films *Toy Story 3*, *Brave*, *Inside Out* and *Coco*. Torres also worked on *Onward* and, most recently, served as Character Developer and Animator on *Elemental*.



***Nimona* - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Toby Seale**

Toby is currently a Lead Animator at DNEG Animation. His passion for animation began at age 12, after watching the behind-the-scenes of *The Lion King*. (Andreas Deja's masterful work on Scar remains, to this day, one of Toby's biggest inspirations.) He graduated from the Arts University Bournemouth in 2013 after directing his grad film, *Sapling*, and soon secured his first job at TeamTO in France. Upon returning to London, Toby has worked at various studios—including Mikros, Studio AKA, Axis Studios and Jellyfish Pictures—on shows such as *Ron's Gone Wrong*, *Scrooge: A Christmas Carol* and *Spirit Untamed*. Toby is passionate about bringing stories to life that reflect the diversity of our society and allow future generations to feel seen and understood.



***Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken* - DreamWorks Animation - Prashanth Cavale**

Prashanth Cavale is a native of the South Indian city of Bangalore, with an animation career spanning over the past 14 years. He has served as an Animator, Lead, and Supervisor in distinguished feature animation and VFX films and franchises, including DreamWorks' *Kung Fu Panda*, *Madagascar*, *Boss Baby*, *The Bad Guys* and *Trolls*, in addition to *Mowgli: Legend of the Jungle* and *Paddington*. Cavale is currently in production as a Lead Animator on *The Wild Robot* for writer/director Chris Sanders. He is perhaps best known for his exceptional animation of the 'Panic Attack' sequence in the Oscar-nominated *Puss In Boots: The Last Wish*. Cavale is a proud member of the Visual Effects Society (VES) and actively contributes to mentoring emerging talents in the field of animation.



***Suzume* - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. - Kenichi Tsuchiya**

Kenichi Tsuchiya was born in 1967 in Japan's Kanagawa Prefecture. After contributing to Studio Annapuru and Walt Disney Animation Japan, he emerged as the main animator at Answer Studio. His notable works include *The Tigger Movie/Pooh's Grand Adventure* (2000) and *Winnie the Pooh: A Very Merry Pooh Year* (2005). Tsuchiya's first collaboration with Makoto Shinkai was as the co-animation director in *Children Who Chase Lost Voices* (2011). He took on the role of Character Design and Animation Director in *The Garden of Words* (2013), contributing to the visual aesthetics of a realistic contemporary setting, and worked on the animation director team of *Your Name* (2016).



***The Boy and the Heron* - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS - Takeshi Honda**

Born in 1968, Takeshi Honda made his debut as an inbetween animator at Atelier Giga. Since then, Honda has worked for animation studios including Gainax, Madhouse and Production I.G. After that, he worked at Khara as the chief supervising animator for *Shin Evangelion: Q* and was responsible for the original design and character design for *Nishi Ogikubo Station*, *20-minute walk*, *2LDK*, *2 months key deposit*, *no pets allowed*. He is currently a member of Studio Ghibli's production team and was supervising animator for *The Boy and the Heron*.



**CARTOON
NETWORK
STUDIOS**

Congratulations

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NOMINEES!

DAFFY  in
**WACKY
LAND**

BEST SHORT SUBJECT



BATWHEELS
DC

BEST TV/MEDIA-PRESCHOOL

"To the Batmobile!"





CRAIG: BEFORE THE CREEK

BEST VOICE ACTING -TV/MEDIA

Vico Ortiz as SERENA

BEST STORYBOARDING -TV/MEDIA

Erik Fountain



MERRY LITTLE BATMAN

BEST VOICE ACTING -FEATURE

David Hornsby as JOKER

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN -FEATURE

Nikolas Ilic



JESSICA'S BIG little WORLD

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN -TV/Media

Nick Winn, "Bedtime Routine"



ADVENTURE TIME Finn and Jake

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION -TV/MEDIA

Alex Small-Butera, "The Winter King"

GREMLINS SECRETS OF THE MOGWAI

**BEST STORYBOARDING -
TV/Media**

Kristine Lee, "Never Give Up"



BEST MUSIC -TV/MEDIA

Michal McCuiston
Kristopher Carter
Lolita Ritmanis



BABYLON THE ROAD HOME

ANIMANIACS



BEST MUSIC -TV/MEDIA

Steven Bernstein & Julie Bernstein
"Talladega Mice"



BEST ANIMATED EFFECTS IN TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



Blue Eye Samurai, Episode: All Evil Dreams and Angry Words - A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions, Blue Spirit - Thomas Decaens, Karl Burtin, Laurent Bretonniere

A child of the 90s, Thomas grew up in the golden age of 2D animation, bridging into the beginning of 3D in animation and video games. Nourished by all this creativity, Thomas graduated in 2015 from Pivaut, in Nantes. For the past five years, Thomas has enjoyed working as a supervisor, redoubling his team's efforts and sharing the pleasure of making super-cool VFX shots.

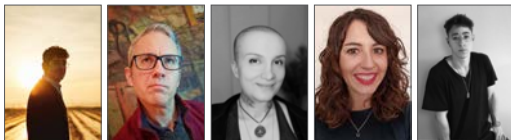
Originally from the French city of Rouen, Karl Burtin has cultivated a passion for stories, drawing and comic books since childhood. As he grew older, these passions quickly extended to animation. The arrival of 3D technology in the 90s inspired Karl, and the hybridization of these two worlds became Karl's ultimate goal. To meet it, he moved to Paris. First, he studied at Isart Digital, then worked in various Parisian studios after graduation.

Paris-born Laurent Bretonniere has cultivated a lifelong passion for computers, video games and images. After studying business and doing a short stint in sales, Laurent taught himself computer graphics and began working on promotional films, 3D films and water-screen projections for amusement parks and commercials. Since joining Blue Spirit, Laurent has worked in FX and as a lead for several projects.



Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, Episode: Moremi - Triggerfish Animation for Disney+, Lucan - Matthew Dunwoody, Dmitry Sarkisov, Podchasha Yuri Anatolyevich, Richard Bothma, Emile Van Straaten

This action-packed animated sci-fi anthology presents ten futuristic visions from Africa inspired by the continent's diverse histories and cultures. Executive produced by Oscar®-winning director Peter Ramsey, these ten short films made by a new generation of animation creators draw on uniquely African perspectives to imagine brave new worlds of advanced technology, aliens, spirits, and monsters. This is Africa as you've never seen it before.



Star Wars: Visions, Episode: Sith - Lucasfilm Ltd., El Guiri Studios - Jonatan Catalán, Alberto Sánchez, Phoebe Arjona, Virginia Cantaro, Rubén Hinarejos



The Bad Guys: A Very Bad Holiday, Episode: The Bad Guys: A Very Bad Holiday - DreamWorks Animation, DreamWorks Animation and 88 Pictures - Sateesh Malla, Russell Richardson Jr., Akash Gopal, Basavaraj P, Kevin Rumold



What If...?, Episode: 206 - Marvel Studios, SDFX Studios - Ryan Barringer, Rajkumar Gurudu, Bipin Kumar Patra, Pranil Ravindra Mahajan

BEST ANIMATED EFFECTS IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget – Netflix Presents An Aardman Production, Aardman Production – Charles Copping, Jon Biggins, Jim Lewis, Rich Spence, Martin Lipmann



Elemental – Pixar Animation Studios, Pixar Animation Studios – Chris Chapman, Tim Speltz, Krzysztof Rost, Amit Baadkar, Ravindra Dwivedi



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse – Sony Pictures Animation, Sony Pictures Imageworks – Pav Grochola, Filippo Maccari, Naaki Kato, Nicola Finizio, Edmond Boulet-Gilly



Suzume – CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. / distributed by Crunchyroll, Sony Pictures and TOHO – CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. – Yoshitaka Takeuchi, Hiroyuki Seshita, Ryosuke Tsuda

Born in 1985 in Nagano Prefecture, 3DCG Chief Yoshitaka Takeuchi has been a part of every Makoto Shinkai directed film since *5 Centimeters Per Second*. Beyond his role in Shinkai's films, Takeuchi has directed and supervised several projects. In 2018, he made his directorial debut with the original work *Small Fashion Show*, part of the Japan-China collaborative animation *Shikioriori*.

Born in 1967, Hiroyuki Seshita has been involved in the CG and VFX production since the 1980s, as well as game movie productions (like the *Final Fantasy* series). Some of Seshita's directing credits include: *Knights of Sidonia*, *Ajin*, *BLAME!*, the *GODZILLA* trilogy, *Lupin III vs. Cat's Eye*, *GAMERA –Rebirth–*, and *KamiErabi God.app*. In Makoto Shinaki's *Suzume*, Seshita was in charge of CG character direction for the film.

Born in 1981 in Saitama Prefecture, Ryosuke Tsuda—*Suzume's* Director of Photography—launched his career as a compositor at Anime International Company after graduating from Tokyo Zokei University in 2004. Tsuda first collaborated with director Makoto Shinkai on *Your Name.*, then followed by *Weathering with You*. Joining the recently established TROYCA Inc. in 2013, Tsuda focused on compositional and VFX work.



The Peasants – Breakthru Films – Breakthru Productions – Lukasz Mackiewicz, Kamil Polak

Arts and design professional Lukasz Mackiewicz is an experienced Visual Effects Supervisor with skills that lie across both compositing and animation. He holds a Master's Degree focused in Intermedia Faculty from the animation department of the Jan Matejko Academy of Fine Arts.

Kamil Polak attended the Academy of Fine Arts (in the faculty of Painting) in Warsaw, as well as the famous Polish National Film School in Lodz. As a Director and Animator Artist, Kamil creates projects combining live-action and animation techniques. In 2006 he was leading a team of computer animators on the British-Polish stop motion animation *Peter and the Wolf*, which won an Oscar® in 2008 for Best Animated Short.



EDITORIAL IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Blue Eye Samurai, Episode 105: The Tale of the Ronin and the Bride* – A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions – Yuka Shirasuna**

Yuka Shirasuna is a film and television editor whose credits include *Interview With the Vampire*, *Blue Eye Samurai* and *House of Cards*. Originally from Chiba, Japan, she's a graduate of the USC School of Cinema and lives in Los Angeles.



***Hilda, Episode: Chapter 6: The Forgotten Lake* – Hilda Productions Limited, a Silvergate Media Company, Netflix Inc. and Mercury Filmworks – John McKinnon, Mike Stefanelli**

John McKinnon, over his 19-year career as an Editor, has edited hundreds of episodes for various genres, ranging from pre-school and action-adventure to prime-time comedy. John played a pivotal role in helping Mercury Filmworks develop their Pre-Production to Post-Production pipeline. In his current role as Supervising Editor at Mercury, John continues to help the company expand their storytelling footprint by training and establishing a new generation of Editors.

Lead Editor Michael Stefanelli works alongside the team at Mercury Filmworks in Ottawa, Canada. With 16 years of experience in the animation industry, we rely on Mike for both his attention to detail and his creative vision to help craft captivating stories. A musician at heart, Mike strives to take people on a journey through his work: whether that be transporting the audience through music and sound or capturing their attention with the endless possibilities in the world of animation.



***I Am Groot, Episode: Groot's Snow Day* – Marvel Studios – Dan Urrutia**

Dan Urrutia, the editor behind the Emmy Award-winning short film series, *I Am Groot*, has also made his mark on other Marvel Cinematic Universe projects (like *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *Spider-Man: Far From Home* and *Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness*). A seasoned professional, Dan seamlessly transitions between animation, live-action spectacles, and suspenseful thrillers. His artistic prowess, VFX background and commitment to storytelling have not only earned critical acclaim but also enhanced the cinematic experience for global audiences. Through creative collaboration, Dan Urrutia continues to shape narratives that resonate, establishing himself as a notable figure in the ever-evolving landscape of the film industry.



***Star Wars: Visions, Episode: Screecher's Reach* – Lucasfilm Ltd. – Richie Cody, ACE, BFE**

Richie has been working in Animation for almost 15 years. He started out as a Renderer on *Skunk Fu!*, then worked his way through most of the jobs Cartoon Saloon had to offer. He arrived in Editorial on *The Breadwinner* as Assistant Editor, making the leap to Editor on *Wolfwalkers*, and is currently editing on *My Father's Dragon*. When he's not working, you'll find Richie exploring the countryside: either on a motorbike or walking through it with his girlfriend and their new puppy, Twig.



***The Legend of Vox Machina, Episode: The Sunken Tomb* – Amazon MGM Studios, Critical Role Productions, Titmouse – Todd Raleigh, Joelle Kristy**

Todd Raleigh is the Head of Post Production at Titmouse and is known for his work on *Away* (2011), *Pig Goat Banana Cricket* (2015) and *The Rocketeer* (2019). Joelle Kristy, a proud Local 700 MPEG member, is for *Away* (2011), *Pig Goat Banana Cricket* (2015) and *The Rocketeer* (2019).

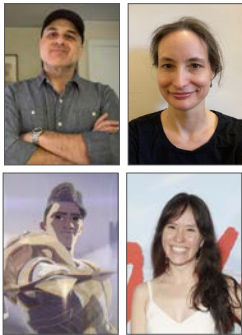
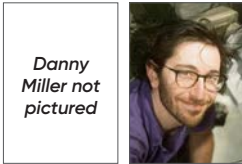
EDITORIAL IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Elemental - Pixar Animation Studios - Stephen Schaffer, Amera Rizk, Gregory Snyder, Jen Jew, Kevin Rose-Williams



Leo - Happy Madison for Netflix - Patrick Voetberg, Joseph Titone, Darrian M. James, Danny Miller, Brian Robinson



Nimona - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Randy Trager, Erin Crackel, Stephen Schwartz, Ashley Calle



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse - Sony Pictures Animation -
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse Editorial Team



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem - Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies - Greg Levitan, Illya Quinteros, David Croomes, Myra Owyang



WINSOR McCAY AWARD

Recognition for career contributions to the art of animation

The Winsor McCay Award, named for the most influential of character animation pioneers, was the first Annie Award established by Asifa-Hollywood and is awarded to a maximum of three individuals annually in recognition of lifetime or career contributions in direction, animation, design, writing, voice acting, sound and sound effects, technical expertise, music, education, or for other endeavours which exhibit an outstanding devotion to and promotion of excellence in the art of animation.

CHARLOTTE 'LOTTE' REINIGER

Charlotte "Lotte" Reiniger (1899-1981) created over sixty animated films during her career, animating her first film in 1919 and her last in 1980.

Reiniger's renown owes greatly to her innovative use of silhouette. Her work is marked by use of meticulous, intricate figures, hand-cut from paper and cardboard and animated using stop-motion. These figures, hinged at joints, were back lit against elaborate backgrounds that she crafted from translucent paper and acetates and filmed with a many leveled photographic rig, a precursor to the multiplane camera. Reiniger's most widely known work, *The Adventures of Prince Achmed* (1923-1926), is today considered the oldest surviving animated feature film, premiering more than ten years before Disney's *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*.



Reiniger also created the screenplays and storyboards for her films, as well as contributing to live-action productions, such as *Tosca* (1940-1941) and *La Signora dell'Ovest* (1941-1942), directed by her husband Carl Koch.

Before leaving Nazi Germany in 1935, Reiniger was deeply involved in Berlin's avant-garde scene. There she collaborated with artists like directors Walther Ruttmann and Fritz Lang, playwright Bertolt Brecht and fellow animator Oskar Fischinger. She also produced several films for the Institut für Kulturforschung as well as advertising films. The war drove Reiniger and Koch to England, then Italy and then, finally, in 1949 back to England, where Lotte would continue to make animated films for the next thirty years.

Besides her stop-motion work, Reiniger designed costumes, staged puppet shows and illustrated books, making notable contributions to the theater, opera and experimental cinema. Despite an uphill battle to find an audience, Reiniger continued throughout her eclectic and prolific career to produce beautifully animated films marked by a delightfully unique blend of satire, sensuality and contradiction.

Overlooked no more, we hope that this Winsor McCay award will, in some small way, draw more attention and interest to the life, work and genius of Lotte Reiniger..

WINSOR McCAY AWARD



Recognition for career contributions to the art of animation



MARCY PAGE

Born and raised in California, Marcy Page has worked in animation for over 40 years. She freelanced in animation with over a dozen companies and taught animation courses at San Francisco State and California College of Arts & Crafts, in addition to pursuing her independent animation craft. Her personal film, *Paradisica* (1987), garnered awards at over a dozen international festivals.

Page immigrated to Canada in 1990. There, she joined the National Film Board of Canada, first as a Director and Associate Producer, and then as a producer. As a producer in the NFB's English studio, she sought out eclectic and unusual works that pushed the boundaries of the medium. Six of these earned nominations in Short Animation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, with two going on to win coveted Oscars®.

Over the course of her NFB career, Page has helped shape dozens of acclaimed films—both narrative and non-narrative—from both emerging and seasoned directors. Collectively, these have garnered over 300 international awards and honors for the program.

Marcy retired with plans to pursue her first love: directing and animating personal work.



JOE HISAISHI

Joe Hisaishi was born in Nagano, Japan.

Hisaishi's interest in minimal music began while he was a student at the Kunitachi College of Music. Since his debut album—*Information*, in 1982—Hisaishi has released nearly 40 solo albums.

Hisaishi quickly made a name for himself as a film music composer working closely with Hayao Miyazaki, for whom he composed 11 scores, including *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *The Wind Rises* and *The Boy and the Heron*. He also composed notable scores for Takeshi Kitano (such as *Kids Return* and *HANA-BI*). Overall, Hisaishi has been involved in the music for 80+ films, many of which have received awards, and received the Japanese Academy Award for Best Music seven times and the 2009 Medal of Honor with the Purple Ribbon (an award of merit from the Japanese government).

Joe Hisaishi is also in demand as a pianist, composer and orchestra conductor, both of classical music and contemporary works, and Principal Music Director of the New Japan Philharmonic World Dream Orchestra. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Kunitachi College of Music, Composer in Residence with the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and Principal Guest Conductor with the Japan Century Orchestra.



VOICE ACTING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Archer, Episode: Keys Open Doors* - FX Productions - Aisha Tyler (Character: Lana Kane)**

Aisha Tyler is an award-winning director, actor, comedian, New York Times bestselling author, podcaster and activist. She is an Emmy-winning television host and multiple award-winning voice actor for *Archer*. A San Francisco native, Ms. Tyler graduated from Dartmouth College with a degree in Government and Environmental Policy. An avid gamer and passionate advocate of inclusion in the gaming community, Aisha's voice can be heard in the video games *Halo:Reach*, *Gears of War 3* and *Watch Dogs*. Aisha is a whiskey lover, a hard rock fan, a snowboarder and sci-fi obsessive, and confounding to all who know her.



***Craig Before The Creek, Episode: Craig Before The Creek* - Cartoon Network Studios Vico Ortiz (Character: Serena)**

Vico Ortiz is a proud Latine actor/activist, born and raised in Puerto Rico. Their first breakthrough role was in the hit Amazon series *Transparent*, which opened their career to the LGBTQ+ entertainment community and paved the way to more recognized TV appearances. Most recently, you've seen them in Max's original series *Sex Lives of College Girls* as Tova and *Our Flag Means Death* as Jim Jimenez. You've also heard their voice in hit shows like *Harley Quinn* (as Tefe Holland), *Fionna and Cake* (as Hunter) and Cartoon Network's original movie *Craig Before the Creek* (as Captain Serena).



***Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Episode: Moon Girl Landing* - Disney Television Animation / Cinema Gypsy Productions - Diamond White (Character: Lunella Lafayette / Moon Girl)**

Diamond White voices super-genius Lunella Lafayette (aka Moon Girl) in Disney Branded Television's Emmy® Award-winning Marvel's *Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*. White began singing and acting at age eight, winning roles in the national touring musical of Oprah Winfrey's *The Color Purple*, as well as *The Lion King* in Las Vegas. She also placed in the top five on *The X Factor* in 2012. Her voice work credits include *Phineas and Ferb*, *Sofia the First*, *Transformers: Rescue Bots*, *The Lion Guard*, *American Dad!*, *Pinky Malinky* and *Curious George*. White's feature credits include roles on Tyler Perry's *Boo! A Madea Halloween* and the sequel *Boo 2! A Madea Halloween*. Her television credits include *Dear White People*, *Code Black*, *Fresh Off the Boat*, *American Koko*, *Sing It!*, *Girl Meets World*, *Black-ish* and *Empire*.



***Solar Opposites, Episode: The Re-Visibility Bouillabaisse* - 20th Television Animation - Dan Stevens (Character: Korvo)**

Dan Stevens is an English actor regarded for his work across film, television, and stage. Most recently, Stevens lent his voice as one of the parakeets in the star-studded English dub of Hayao Miyazaki's Golden Globe award-winning and Academy Award-nominated animated film, "The Boy and the Heron." Stevens also has a voice role in Hulu animated series "Solar Opposites," for which he received a 2024 Annie Award nomination on behalf of his work as "Korvo."



***The Velveteen Rabbit, Episode: The Velveteen Rabbit* - Magic Light Pictures in association with Apple - Alex Lawther (Character: Velveteen Rabbit)**

Alex Lawther can currently be seen in the Disney+ series *Andor*. He is perhaps best known for his starring role in the Channel 4/Netflix dark comedy series *The End of the F**king World*, a cult hit. Alex also recently appeared in Wes Anderson's *The French Dispatch* alongside Timothee Chalamet, Bill Murray and Tilda Swinton and in Ridley Scott's *The Last Duel* opposite Jodie Comer, Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. Further credits include *Goodbye Christopher Robin* (for Simon Curtis) as well as Kenneth Lonergan's BBC/Starz adaptation of E.M. Forster's *Howard's End*. Alex won the 2014 London Critic's Circle Award for Young British Performer of the Year for his portrayal of young Alan Turing in the Academy Award-winning feature *The Imitation Game*. He can also be seen in a leading guest star role in the third season of the critically-acclaimed Netflix anthology series, *Black Mirror*.

VOICE ACTING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Merry Little Batman* - Amazon MGM Studios, Warner Bros. Animation, DC Entertainment David Hornsby (Character: Joker)**

David Hornsby was born in 1975 in Newport News, Virginia, USA. He is an actor and producer, known for *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* (2005), *Mythic Quest* (2020) and *Good Girls* (2018). He has been married to Emily Deschanel since 25 September 2010. They have two children.



***Migration* - Illumination - Tresí Gazal (Character: Gwen)**

Originally from Los Angeles, Tresí Gazal made her acting debut as the voice of Gwen in Illumination's 2023 animated feature film *Migration*. She will next be seen in the role of Hardpaws in the upcoming feature film *Billy Knight*, which co-stars Al Pacino and Patrick Schwarzenegger.



***Nimona* - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Chloë Grace Moretz (Character: Nimona)**

Chloë Grace Moretz most recently starred in Amazon's sci-fi thriller series *The Peripheral*, created by Scott B. Smith. She also recently starred in the sci-fi thriller *Mother/Android*, directed by Mattson Tomlin. Moretz previously starred in *Shadow in the Cloud* (which premiered at the 2020 Toronto International Film Festival and won the Midnight Madness Award there). In addition, she starred in *Greta*, opposite Isabelle Huppert and directed by Neil Jordan. Prior to that, Moretz starred in *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, which won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2018 Sundance Film Festival. Later that year, she starred in Luca Guadagnino's *Suspiria*, which premiered at the 2018 Venice Film Festival and went on to win the Robert Altman Award at the Film Independent Spirit Awards.



***Suzume* - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. - Hokuto Matsumura (Character: Souta Munakata)**

Born June 18, 1995 in Japan's Shizuoka Prefecture, Hokuto Matsumura made his CD debut as a member of SixTONES in January 2020. Achieving success in both acting and music, he portrayed Kijima Minoru in the NHK TV series *Kamakura Dono no 13 nin* (2021-2022). Matsumura ventured into voice acting for the first time with Makoto Shinkai's *Suzume*. Other notable appearances include *xxxHOLiC* (2022) and *Kyrie No Uta* (2023). His involvement in noteworthy projects continues with the film *Everything at Dawn*, which has been officially selected for the 74th Berlin International Film Festival and is scheduled for release this month.



***The Super Mario Bros. Movie* - Illumination - Jack Black (Character: Bowser)**

Jack Black has cemented himself as one of the most versatile and sought-after talents in entertainment with an illustrious career that includes projects in film, television, music and more. He will next be heard reprising his role of Po in DreamWorks Animation's smash franchise *Kung Fu Panda 4*. Black has also voiced Po for the Netflix series *Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight*. His storied film career has included *School of Rock*, *Tropic Thunder*, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* and its sequel *Jumanji: The Next Level*, *Goosebumps*, *Bernie*, *King Kong*, *High Fidelity*, *Shallow Hal*, *Nacho Libre* and *The Holiday*, among many others. Black is also the lead singer of the rock-folk comedy group Tenacious D, which he created with longtime friend and collaborator Kyle Gass.



WRITING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Blue Eye Samurai, Episode: Episode 105: The Tale of the Ronin and the Bride* - A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions - Amber Noizumi**

Amber Noizumi is the co-creator, co-writer and co-showrunner of Netflix's *Blue Eye Samurai*. She began her writing career in journalism at Newsday and the Los Angeles Times. *Blue Eye Samurai* is Noizumi's introduction to the entertainment industry.



***Only You: An Animated Shorts Collection, Episode: Yellowbird* - An Afterman production in association with Max/Warner Bros. Discovery - Tsvetelina Zdraveva, Jerred North**

Born and raised in Bulgaria, Tsvet came to Houston to study architecture at Rice University. After a few years working in the field, she transitioned into animation and has since worked with clients such as NASA, National Geographic, Lego, Sony, Apple, and Showtime.

Jerred North grew up in Southern Oregon and studied Creative Writing in college. A title sequence he created in his spare time was accepted at SXSW and opened the door to a freelance career for studios such as Hornet, The Third Floor, Marvel, Zealot, and Showtime.



***Rock, Paper, Scissors, Episode: Birthday Police* - Nickelodeon Animation Studios - Josh Lehrman, Kyle Stegina, Aram Spencer Porter, Julia Prescott, Mike Trapp**



***Rosie's Rules, Episode: Time Trouble* - 9 Story Media Group, Brown Bag Films - Leyani Diaz, Maria Escobedo, Jennifer Hamburg**

Cuban-born Leyani Diaz left Cuba with her family during the infamous Mariel Boat Lift of the 1980s and grew up in Key West. She attended film school at the University of Miami. Her first job was at a live, late-night Hispanic television show, where she became Head Writer. She moved to California to participate in the CBS Writers Program, then wrote for the WB, Nickelodeon and PBS before going on to graduate from the ABC/DISNEY Writers Fellowship. As Story Editor on NBC's *The Event*, she took an NAACP Image Awards nod for Outstanding Writing in a Dramatic Series.

Maria Escobedo is a first-generation Cuban-American, raised in NYC's Washington Heights, and now lives in Los Angeles. She is currently writing on the soon-to-be-released *Ariel*. Maria's work on *Nina's World* (for Universal Kids) earned her a Humanitas Award nomination. In addition to many other credits, she also wrote and developed Season 1 and 2 of *Lola Chick*, an Audible Podcast for Highlights Magazine.

Jennifer Hamburg is a two-time Emmy award-winner who has written for dozens of preschool shows over her twenty-year career. She is the author of three picture books, as well as the middle-grade book series *Hazy Bloom and the Tomorrow Power*. Jennifer holds a Master's Degree in Educational Psychology from Columbia University's Teachers College, where she studied children's creative and cognitive development.



***Scavengers Reign, Episode: The Reunion* - Max in association with Titmouse Animation and Green Street - Sean Buckelew**

Sean Buckelew is an animator, writer and director based in Los Angeles, California, and a founding partner of Green Street Pictures. He recently completed production as a writer and co-executive producer on *Scavengers Reign for Max*, and is currently an episodic director on the upcoming series *Common Side Effects*. Buckelew received his MFA in Experimental Animation from the California Institute of the Arts and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 2019, he received a Guggenheim Fellowship for his animated short film *Drone*, which premiered at the Anney International Animation Festival. He is also President of the Board of Directors and Head Programmer at the GLAS Animation Festival.

WRITING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Nimona* - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Robert L. Baird, Lloyd Taylor**

Robert Baird is a Screenwriter/studio-executive hybrid whose writing credits include *Monsters Inc.*, *Monsters University*, *Big Hero 6*, *Ferdinand* and *Nimona*. He is the Co-head of Annapurna Animation, a proud member of the Blue Sky refugees, and a big fan of screenwriter Lloyd Taylor.

Lloyd Taylor is a screenwriter whose credits include *Spies in Disguise* and *Nimona*. He most recently worked on *Trolls Band Together* and *Orion and The Dark*. He is an even bigger fan of Robert L. Baird.



***Robot Dreams* - Arcadia Motion Pictures - Pablo Berger**

Director/Writer Pablo Berger's debut feature film, *Torremolinos 73* (2003), won Best Film at the Malaga Film Festival and four Goya Award nominations. *Blancanieves* (2012) won ten Goya Awards (including Best Film) and represented Spain for the Oscars®. *Abracadabra* (2017) received eight Goya Award nominations and was a finalist to represent Spain at the Oscars®. Pablo's latest film, *Robot Dreams* (2023), represents his leap into animation. It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, received the Contrechamp Grand Prix Prize at the Annecy Film Festival and the EFA Award for Best Animated Film, and now boasts five Annie Awards nominations.



***Suzume* - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. - Makoto Shinkai**

Born in Nagano Prefecture, Japan in 1973, Makoto Shinkai made his commercial debut with short film he produced independently: *Voices of a Distant Star*. Since then, every project he as directed has been very well-received, including the 2004 *The Place Promised in Our Early Days*; the 2007 *5 Centimeters Per Second*; the 2011 *Children Who Chase Lost Voices* and the 2013 *The Garden of Words*. His 2016 film, *Your Name.*, smashed Japanese box office records and won several awards at the 40th Japan Academy Film Prize, including Excellent Prize for Animation Film, Excellent Prize for Director, Excellent Prize for Screenplay and Excellent Prize for Music, and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Animated Feature. Makoto followed up with *Weathering With You* (2019), which represented Japan for the Best International Feature Film in the 92nd Academy Awards®.



***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* - Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies - Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Jeff Rowe, Dan Hernandez, Benji Samit**



***The Boy and the Heron* - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS - Hayao Miyazaki**

Born in 1941 in Tokyo, Japan. Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985 with Isao Takahata. Among his eleven animated features, *Spirited Away* (2001) broke every box office record in Japan and won the Golden Bear at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival and the 2002 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature Film. *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004) received the Osella Award at the 2004 Venice International Film Festival. Miyazaki was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 2005 Venice International Film Festival. *The Wind Rises* (2013) was nominated for the 2013 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature. In 2014, the Board of Governors for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented Miyazaki with an Honorary Oscar® for Lifetime Achievement.

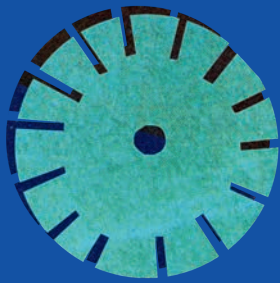
IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those lost in 2023...

1. **Frank Agrama**, writer producer
2. **Per Alin**, director
3. **Alan Arkin**, voice actor
4. **Craig Armstrong**, layout artist, animation timer
5. **Ted Bastian**, director
6. **Diana Beaumont**, producer
7. **Dan Bessie**, writer
8. **Sue Bielenberg**, director
9. **Ed Bleier**, production executive
10. **Earl Boen**, voice actor
11. **Mark Boyer**, director
12. **David Braden**, Xerox operator
13. **Ernesto Brieno**, animator
14. **Susan Burke**, painter, animation checker
15. **Paul Bush**, experimental filmmaker
16. **John Bush**, producer
17. **Rich Chidlaw**, storyboard artist
18. **Roger Chouinard**, animator, studio executive
19. **Roland, "Rolly" Crump**, animator, designer
20. **Bill Dennis**, producer
21. **Alan Dewhurst**, producer
22. **Sukhdev Dail**, animation timer
23. **Ian Eames**, animator
24. **Don Ernst**, editor, producer
25. **Ian Falconer**, illustrator
26. **James Flynn**, producer
27. **Cam Ford**, animator
28. **Gerald Fournier**, storyboard artist
29. **Randy Fullmer**, effects artist, producer
30. **Michael Gambon**, voice actor
31. **Keith Giffen**, storyboard artist, writer
32. **Marcin Gizycki**, festival director
33. **Daniel Goldberg**, producer screenwriter
34. **Johnny Hardwick**, actor, producer
35. **Steve Harwell**, singer, actor
36. **Vahae Haytaian**, technical director
37. **Garret Ho**, storyboard artist
38. **Barry Humphries**, voice actor
39. **Greg Joackim**, writer
40. **Coslough Johnson**, writer
41. **Don Kennedy**, voice actor
42. **Charles Kimbrough**, voice actor
43. **Takahiro Kimura**, animator
44. **William "Bike" Kinzle**, designer
45. **Tony Kluck**, director, animator
46. **Jim Korkis**, animation historian
47. **Pete Kozachik**, cinematographer
48. **Katherina Kuch**, writer
49. **Ippei Kuri**, producer
50. **Daniel Langlois**, CGI pioneer
51. **Lin Larsen**, storyboard and layout artist
52. **Nicholas Levenduski**, animator
53. **Jerry Loveland**, visual development artist
54. **Viv Ludlow**, assistant animator
55. **Ann Luiting**, production manager
56. **Ric Machin**, director
57. **Istvan Majoros**, layout artist
58. **Walter Martishius**, designer, background artist, art director
59. **Leiji Matsumoto**, animator
60. **Burnett "Burny" Mattinson**, storyboard artist, director
61. **David McCallum**, voice actor
62. **Ian McGinty**, animation artist, writer
63. **Michael McGrath**, voice actor
64. **Russell Merritt**, film historian
65. **Richard Moll**, voice actor
66. **Ken Mundie**, animator, designer
67. **William Orcutt**, production manager
68. **Jansen Panettiere**, voice actor
69. **Bruce Petty**, animator, cartoonist
70. **Gordon Pinsent**, voice actor
71. **Duane Poole**, writer
72. **Dick Rauh**, art director
73. **Lance Reddick**, voice actor
74. **Michael Reaves**, writer
75. **Paul Rubens (aka: PeeWee Herman)** writer, actor
76. **Jeff Riche**, background artist
77. **Nellie Rodriguez**, ink & paint
78. **Jessie Romero**, storyboard artist
79. **Joy Rosen**, producer
80. **William Ruzicka**, storyboard artist
81. **Lucinda "Cindy" Sanderson**, animator
82. **Raoul Servais**, filmmaker
83. **Sergei Seryogin**, director writer
84. **Jeff Scott Smith**, storyboard artist
85. **Arleen Sorkin**, actor, writer, voice actor
86. **Alan Stovall**, effects animator
87. **Leo Sullivan**, animator, producer
88. **Helene Tanguy**, producer
89. **Osamu Tezuka**, producer
90. **Mark Thomas**, music composer
91. **Cilia van Dijk**, producer
92. **John Warnock**, Adobe founder
93. **Samantha Weinstein**, voice actor
94. **Jimmy Weldon**, voice actor
95. **Nizo Yamamoko**, art director, background artist

Ottawa International Animation Festival

September 25-29, 2024



Accepting entries from March 1 to May 31, 2024

Poster design by Lei Lei

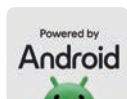
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BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION PRODUCTION FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN



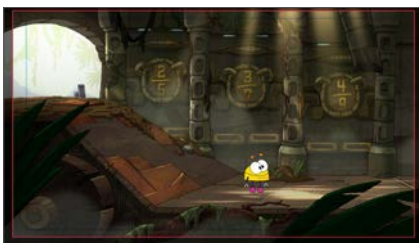
Batwheels, Episode: To the Batmobile! - Warner Bros. Animation



Ghee Happy, Episode: Navagraha - Ghee Happy Studio



Playdate with Winnie the Pooh, Episode: Piglet, Tigger and the Cardboard Box - Oddbot Inc.



StoryBots: Answer Time, Episode: Fractions - JibJab Bros. Studios for Netflix



The Creature Cases, Episode: The Forest Food Bandit - Silvergate Media / TeamTO / Netflix

BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN



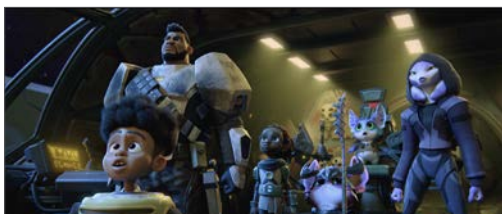
CURSES!, Episode: The Baboon Temple - DreamWorks Animation in association with Apple



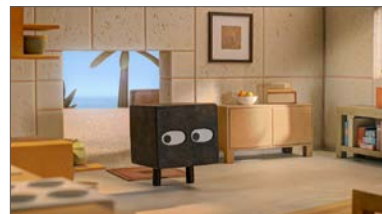
Hilda, Episode: Chapter 8: The Fairy Isle - Hilda Productions Limited, a Silvergate Media Company, Netflix Inc. and Mercury Filmworks



Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Episode: The Beyonder - Disney Television Animation / Cinema Gypsy Productions



My Dad the Bounty Hunter, Episode: Bizarre Ride - A Netflix Series



Shape Island, Episode: 105B Square's Special Place - Pixar Entertainment in association with Apple

BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR MATURE AUDIENCES



Big Mouth, Episode: The International Show - Netflix



Blue Eye Samurai, Episode: Pilot: Hammerscale - A Netflix Series / 3 Arts Entertainment and Blue Spirit Productions



Bob's Burgers, Episode: Amelia - 20th Television Animation



Capsules, Episode: Tomato Kitchen - Bilibili / Studio Reflection



Scavengers Reign, Episode: The Signal - Max in association with Titmouse Animation and Green Street

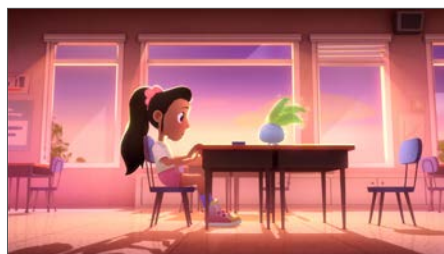
BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION, LIMITED SERIES



Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, Episode: Enkai - Triggerfish Animation Studio & Blinkink



Only You: An Animated Shorts Collection, Episode: Yellowbird - An Afterman production in association with Max/Warner Bros. Discovery



Pokémon: Path to the Peak, Episode: 1 - The Pokémon Company International

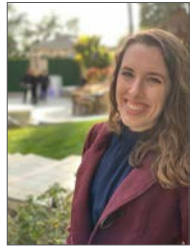


STORYBOARDING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Craig Before The Creek, Episode: Craig Before The Creek* - Cartoon Network Studios - Erik Fountain**

Erik Fountain is an American Producer and Animator. From Storyboard Artist to Executive Producer, Erik has worked in many areas of the animation pipeline. His early experience was at Walt Disney Feature animation as a rough inbetweener and assistant animator; since then, he has worked in series animation at Disney Television Animation, Netflix and Cartoon Network Studios. His first love is hand-drawn animation, and he enjoys infusing those principles into his storyboards.



***Fright Krewe, Episode: The Blood Awakening, Part 1* - DreamWorks Animation - Leah Artwick**

Leah Artwick is a director and story artist on DreamWorks Animation's *Fright Krewe*. She loves to create meaningful and engaging stories that empower and challenge younger audiences. Her absolute favorite story moments to work on are character-centric—especially if there's something to make the audience tear up! She is currently a Supervising Director at Disney TV on *Zombies: The Reanimated Series*, and has done additional directing and storyboard work for DreamWorks series and streaming films, including *Orion and the Dark*, *Jurassic World: Camp Cretaceous* and the *Tales of Arcadia* trilogy.



***Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai, Episode: Never Give Up* - Warner Bros. Animation and Amblin Television - Kristine Lee**

Kristine Lee is a Korean-American artist who is just happy to be here! Growing up, she was only ever sure of two things: One, Luigi is the better brother. Two, she was going to make art for a living one day. After taking a slight detour in college with a degree in electrical engineering, Kristine moved to California to pursue her dream, taking as many art classes as she could, and drawing cube after cube until perspective made sense. She got her first job as a revisionist at Dreamworks Animation and has since worked as a storyboard artist on several notable projects, including *Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai*, without which credit you would not be reading this. She loves her job very much and hopes she can keep doing it for a long, long time.



***Kung Fu Panda: The Dragon Knight, Episode: Apok-ta-pokalypse Now, Part II* - DreamWorks Animation - Grace Liu**

Grace Liu is a professional storyboard artist who has worked in animation since 2015. Grace has had a strong interest in drawing for action adventure shows for as long as she can remember and runs on the power of God and anime (but mostly anime). When she's not busy drawing, Grace has a passion for petting rabbits, repeatedly flinging herself at LA traffic on a motorcycle, and putting together furniture from IKEA. This is her second Annie Award nomination.



***Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur, Episode: Goodnight Moon Girl "Run the Rink"* - Disney Television Animation / Cinema Gypsy Productions - Ben Juwono**

Ben Juwono is co-producer and supervising director of Disney Branded Television's Emmy® Award-winning *Marvel's Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur*, based on Marvel's hit comic books. An accomplished director and storyboard artist, Juwono recently won an Emmy® Award for Outstanding Main Title and garnered three past Annie Award nominations, who earned a master's degree in physics from the University of California, Irvine, and a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of California, San Diego. Juwono was born and raised in Jakarta, Indonesia and currently resides in Los Angeles with his wife, Jessie, and dog, Legslie. He currently serves on the board of directors for Reel Start, a non-profit organization that aims to help educate, inspire and empower aspiring filmmakers to tell their stories through film and animation.

STORYBOARDING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget - Netflix Presents An Aardman Production - Richard Phelan

Richard Phelan is an Academy Award®- and BAFTA-nominated Director and Story Artist. He graduated from the National Film and Television School in the UK in 2011 whereupon he moved to London, working as a storyboard artist on commercials at Nexus studios and Framestore. He then moved to Bristol to work at Aardman Animations on the award-winning series *Shaun the Sheep* as Story Artist and Writer. Since then, Richard worked on several Aardman features before directing *Shaun the Sheep: Farmageddon*, for which he received Academy Award® and BAFTA nominations. Most recently he was Head of Story on the BAFTA-nominated *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget* and has just finished work on the upcoming *Wallace & Gromit* feature with Nick Park.



Nimona - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Esteban Bravo

Esteban Bravo Palafox, born and raised in Mexico City, began his journey in animation when he moved to the US to study at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida. After graduating in 2017, he joined the Story Department at Blue Sky Studios to work on films such as *Spies in Disguise* and *Nimona* until the studio's closure in 2021. His co-directed animated short film *In a Heartbeat* gained widespread acclaim in 2017, winning a Gold Student Academy Award. Bravo also co-directed an animated music video for Freddie Mercury's *Love Me Like There's No Tomorrow* in 2019. Currently, Esteban is working at Pixar as a Story Artist on *Win or Lose*, and their upcoming theatrical release *Elio*.



Robot Dreams - Arcadia Motion Pictures - Maca Gil

Maca Gil is a Storyboard and Comic Artist with seven years of experience working for animated feature films, TV shows and graphic novels. Most recently she worked for five-time Academy Award-nominated studio Cartoon Saloon in *My Father's Dragon*, *the One-of-a-Kind Marcie* Peanuts special for Apple TV and *Robot Dreams* (as the sole Storyboard Artist for the film). Author of DC comics' *Anti/Hero*, she's currently working on a graphic novel for Marvel, and teaching storyboard and gesture drawing in Spain.



Suzume - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc. - Makoto Shinkai

Born in Nagano Prefecture, Japan in 1973, Makoto Shinkai made his commercial debut with short film he produced independently: *Voices of a Distant Star*. Since then, every project he has directed has been very well-received, including the 2004 *The Place Promised in Our Early Days*; the 2007 *5 Centimeters Per Second*; the 2011 *Children Who Chase Lost Voices* and the 2013 *The Garden of Words*. His 2016 film, *Your Name.*, smashed Japanese box office records and won several awards at the 40th Japan Academy Film Prize, including Excellent Prize for Animation Film, Excellent Prize for Director, Excellent Prize for Screenplay and Excellent Prize for Music, and the Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Animated Feature. Makoto followed up with *Weathering With You* (2019), which represented Japan for the Best International Feature Film in the 92nd Academy Awards®.



The Boy and the Heron - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS - Hayao Miyazaki

Born in 1941 in Tokyo, Japan. Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985 with Isao Takahata. Among his eleven animated features, *Spirited Away* (2001) broke every box office record in Japan and won the Golden Bear at the 2002 Berlin International Film Festival and the 2002 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature Film. *Howl's Moving Castle* (2004) received the Osella Award at the 2004 Venice International Film Festival. Miyazaki was awarded the Golden Lion for Lifetime Achievement at the 2005 Venice International Film Festival. *The Wind Rises* (2013) was nominated for the 2013 Academy Award® for Best Animated Feature. In 2014, the Board of Governors for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences presented Miyazaki with an Honorary Oscar® for Lifetime Achievement.



DIRECTING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire, Episode: Moremi* – Triggerfish Animation Studio & Lucan Studio – Shofela Coker, Andrew McNally**

Nigerian illustrator and director Shofela “Shof” Coker has taken the role of Art Director and Character Designer for several studios. He co-created and illustrated *New Masters*, an Africanfuturist graphic novel, in 2022. His animated works include such projects as the animated documentary *Liyana* and the Disney+ short film *Moremi*. Shof’s primary influence comes from a love of Yoruba mythology, sculpture, and the printmaking craft of Southwestern Nigeria.

Andrew McNally is an Annie-nominated director hailing from Cape Town, South Africa. He started his career in live action, helming commercials and campaigns for the likes of Ten Cent and Virgin Active. Having studied animation, Andrew took what he learnt about film production and transitioned to directing animated projects, characteristically bringing the DNA of lenses and staging into his animation work. He has since worked with Disney+ and Triggerfish, producing the three-time Annie-nominated short *Moremi* for *Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire*. Andrew loves developing African stories alongside African creators.



***My Dad the Bounty Hunter, Episode: Bizarre Ride* – A Netflix Series – Kenji Ono, Kai Akira, Patrick Harpin**

Growing up in Tokyo, Rio de Janeiro and Jakarta, Kenji absorbed diverse cultures that would later influence his storytelling. Across a career of more than two decades, Kenji has storyboarded and directed on a wide variety of popular shows. Beyond animated series, his impactful contributions as a Story Artist extend to animated feature films at Dreamworks and Warner Animation Group



Kai Akira is an animation professional who has worked in both series and feature for the last decade. Kai has storyboard—and, occasionally, character designed—for several animated series and features across multiple studios. Kai is currently working as a Head of Story on an animated feature at Warner Bros.

Growing up in rural Maine, Patrick developed an early obsession with drawing and storytelling. Patrick’s love for Writing, Acting, and Cinematography eventually led him to the work of Story Artist, in which role he has teamed up with directors such as Wes Anderson, Genndy Tartakovsky and Mike Judge.



***Pokémon Concierge, Episode: #2 What’s on Your Mind, Psyduck?* – dwarf studios for Netflix – Iku Ogawa**

Born in Tokyo in 1988, Iku Ogawa graduated from the Animation Master’s course at the Graduate School of Film and New Media at the Tokyo University of the Arts. He started creating stop-motion animation while attending and joined the Dwarf studio in 2016. His main works are Netflix series *Pokémon Concierge* (for which he is nominated tonight), the Netflix series *Rilakkuma’s Theme Park Adventure*, NHK’s petit petit anime *Tuna in an Empty Can*, *HIDARI* (as Co-Director), and more.



***Scavengers Reign, Episode: The Fall* – Max in association with Titmouse Animation and Green Street – Diego Porral**

Diego Porral is a Spanish animator and director who graduated from Gobelins L’ École de L’Image in Paris. Since then, he has been lucky enough to be part of some of the most interesting projects in the industry: such as *Love, Death & Robots*; *Kill Team Kill*, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* and, most recently, on *Scavengers Reign* as Episodic Director. In his personal time, Diego has directed several short films, such as *Blind Eye* and *Leopoldo el del Bar*, which was longlisted for the Academy Awards®. He is also an incredible flamenco dancer.



***Star Wars: Visions, Episode: Screecher’s Reach* – Lucasfilm Ltd. – Paul Young**

Paul is a co-founder of Cartoon Saloon, an IFTA winner and Oscar®, Emmy and Bafta nominee. He produced the animated features *My Father’s Dragon*, *WolfWalkers*, *The Secret of Kells*, *Song of the Sea* and *The Breadwinner*, as well as a number of award-winning TV series (including *Puffin Rock*, *Dorg Van Dango* and *Viking Skool*). *Screecher’s Reach* is a *Star Wars Visions* short released on Disney+, directed at Cartoon Saloon by Paul. He is also an Award-winning cartoonist and illustrator.

DIRECTING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Nimona* - Annapurna Animation for Netflix - Nick Bruno, Troy Quane**

Nick Bruno is an American film director and animator formerly with Blue Sky Studios. *Nimona* is his second film as Director. Bruno was born and raised in Mohegan Lake, NY. He studied illustration and the fine arts at UMass, Dartmouth and went on to receive his Masters at NYU studying computer animation and published his own graphic novel, *URBAN LEGENDZ*. Bruno resides in his hometown, with his wife Allison and their three children.

Troy Quane is a Canadian film director and 27-year veteran of the animation industry. In 1995, having studied Classical Animation at Sheridan College in Oakville ON, he began his career as a traditional animator for Walt Disney Animation Canada. Troy continued as a Senior Animator on various top end commercials and feature films until 2005, when he accepted the opportunity to work as Storyboard Supervisor on the critically acclaimed live-action Disney film *Enchanted*. Troy currently resides with his family in Ridgefield, CT.



***Robot Dreams* - Arcadia Motion Pictures - Pablo Berger, Benoît Feroumont**

Director/Writer Pablo Berger's debut feature film, *Torremolinos 73* (2003), won Best Film at the Malaga Film Festival and four Goya Award nominations. *BlancaNieves* (2012) won ten Goya Awards (including Best Film) and represented Spain for the Oscars®. *Abracadabra* (2017) received eight Goya Award nominations and was a finalist to represent Spain at the Oscars. Pablo's latest film, *Robot Dreams* (2023), represents his leap into animation. It premiered at the Cannes Film Festival, received the Contrechamp Grand Prix Prize at the Annecy Film Festival and the EFA Award for Best Animated Film, and now boasts five Annie Awards nominations.

Benoît Feroumont, born in 1969, studied art and comics at Saint-Luc in Liège, then animation at La Cambre. With experience, he has become an established animator (*Bzzz*, *Les Triplettes de Belleville*, *Dji Vou Veu Volti*, *Brendan*, *Astérix et le Domaine des Dieux*, *Le Lion et Le Singe*, *Robot Dreams*) as well as an acclaimed comic book artist (*Wondertown*, *Le Royaume*, *Gisèle et Béatrice*, *Fantasio se Marie*). Pablo Berger's film *Robot Dreams* has just hit cinema screens. Volume 8 of his adult comic *Le Royaume and Mou*, published by Dupuis, will be out in 2024.



***Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* - Sony Pictures Animation - Joaquim Dos Santos, Kemp Powers, Justin K. Thompson**

Lisbon-born Joaquim Dos Santos has directed, produced, and storyboarded on a variety of animated television shows. Dos Santos began his career 20 years ago at Sony Pictures Television in their TV department. He currently resides in Woodland Hills with his wife and son.

Kemp Powers is a Golden Globe®-winning and Academy Award®-nominated screenwriter, playwright, producer and director who was named one of Variety's 2020 10 Screenwriters to Watch. He is currently working on two separate features for Netflix.

With over 20 years of experience in the animation industry, Justin K. Thompson previously received an Annie for Best Production Design in an Animated Feature, as well as a nomination from the Art Directors Guild for Excellence in Production Design for an Animated Film. Over the past ten years, he has transitioned to visual development and production design.



***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem* - Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies - Jeff Rowe, Kyler Spears**

Director Jeff Rowe and Co-director Kyler Spears joined forces previously on *The Mitchells vs the Machines*. With 40 years of history behind the iconic *Turtles* property, the two worked closely to keep the storyline on track while preserving the mystique for fans young and old—alongside a palpable sense of fun and authenticity.



***The Boy and the Heron* - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS - Hayao Miyazaki**

Born in 1941 in Tokyo, Japan. Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985 with Isao Takahata and has since been recognized with record-breaking box-office success, as well as two Academy Awards® for Best Animated Feature, the Berlin Film Festival's Film Golden Bear, the Venice International Film Festival's Osella Award (and Golden Lion Lifetime Achievement award) and an Honorary Oscar® for Lifetime Achievement.



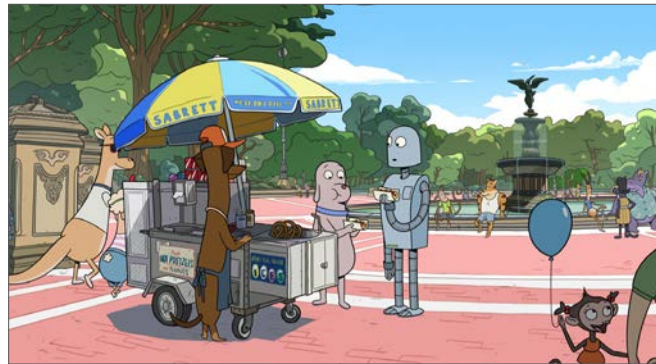
BEST ANIMATED INDEPENDENT FEATURE



Ernest & Celestine: A Trip to Gibberitia -
Folivari, Mélusine Productions, Studio Canal /
Distributed by GKIDS



Four Souls of Coyote - Cinemon Entertainment



Robot Dreams - Arcadia Motion Pictures



The Inventor - Curiosity Studios



White Plastic Sky - SALTO Films & Artichoke

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE



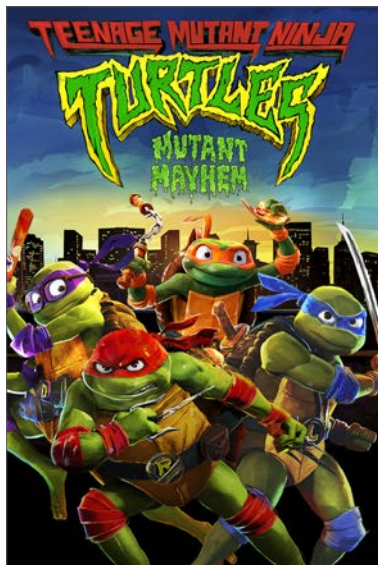
Nimona - Annapurna Animation for Netflix



Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse - Sony Pictures Animation



Suzume - CoMix Wave Films Inc. and STORY inc.



Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem - Paramount Pictures and Nickelodeon Movies



The Boy and the Heron - Studio Ghibli / Distributed by GKIDS

You're invited to join ASIFA-Hollywood!

Whether you're a professional in the industry, a student wanting to get into the business, or just someone who loves animation, an ASIFA membership is right for you!

ASIFA-Hollywood is a California 501(c)(3) non profit organization established more than fifty years ago to promote and encourage the art and craft of animation. To achieve this purpose, ASIFA-Hollywood is dedicated to striving for the following goals:

- Support and encourage animation education
- Support the preservation and critical evaluation of the animation industry
- Recognize achievement of excellence in the art and field of animation
- Increase the public awareness of animation
- Act as a liaison to encourage the free exchange of ideas within the animation community
- Encourage journalism documenting current trends and activities in animation
- Encourage the social interaction of professional and non-professional animation enthusiasts
- Encourage the development and expression of all forms of animation

In short, ASIFA-Hollywood is the world's first and foremost professional organization dedicated to promoting the Art of Animation and celebrating the people who create it.

To achieve these objectives, ASIFA-Hollywood sponsors the following programs and projects:

Annie Awards

Since 1972, ASIFA-Hollywood has hosted an annual awards ceremony to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the art of animation. Originally designed to honor the lifetime achievements of legendary veterans of the field, the Annie Awards now recognizes the year's best animated features, broadcast and media productions, commercials, short subjects and outstanding individual achievements in the field of animation. Qualified members participate in the nomination process and final voting. The Annie Awards are regarded as animation's highest honors, and the ceremony is ASIFA-Hollywood's most prestigious and elegant event.

ASIFA Film Preservation and Archives

Each year, ASIFA continues to restore and preserve animation films that would otherwise be lost, and also works diligently in conjunction with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences to professionally archive nearly forty years of collected feature animation artifacts, dating back to the earliest days of the art form.

We continue to search for a partner to help us assess and conserve the television assets and other broadcast materials we have collected and hope that we will also be able to revitalize our digital archive efforts for the worldwide use of artists, scholars and students.

Animation Educator's Forum

The Animation Educator's Forum is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of animation through education. Our members, with their diverse backgrounds in both the animation and educational fields, are focused on extending their knowledge and experience to others within the burgeoning worldwide animation community. The AEF is entering its ninth cycle of Student Scholarships and has just completed the sixth Faculty Grant Program as well.



Animation Aid Foundation and Community Allocation Programs

Each year, funds are set aside to help members of our animation community in need. Additionally, over the past several years, we have also established new funding to help pay for scholarships and grants via our Educators Forum, as well as funding for animation preservation, open source initiatives, financial support for ASIFA International and more subsidies for our own year-round events.

Members' Screenings and Events

Throughout the year, members are invited to special screenings of the latest animated features and broadcast series, often featuring an informative Q & A with the filmmakers. Some screenings showcase productions you cannot see anywhere else. Presentations include rare animated features, anime, tributes to individual animators, the best of Annecy, Zagreb, Ottawa, Kaboom and other international festivals. ASIFA-Hollywood also presents panel discussions celebrating past animation classics as well as educational symposiums aimed at both students and professionals.

Membership Categories

We invite you to join ASIFA-Hollywood, and participate in the various activities that we have to offer, whether attending an event or volunteering "behind the scenes." Membership is available in the following packages:

Professional Membership (\$175/year) professionally active in animation and associated industries

Associate Membership (\$75/year) enthusiasts and studio support

Student Membership (\$20/year) individuals currently enrolled as full time students

Patron Membership (\$225/year) professionals only

If you are working for one of our corporate member studios, check with your HR representative to see if you can be added to their member list. Or you may join on your own (subject to verification) on the enrollment form.

HOW TO JOIN

Register online at [ASIFA-Hollywood.org/membership](https://www.asifa-hollywood.org/membership)

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IT'S BEEN A SHELL OF A YEAR! CON-SPLAT-ULATIONS, NOMINEES!

BEST FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

BEST DIRECTION – FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Jeff Rowe, Kyler Spears

BEST MUSIC – FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Trent Reznor, Atticus Ross

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN – FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Yashar Kassai, Arthur Fong, Tiffany Lam

BEST WRITING – FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Seth Rogen, Evan Goldberg, Jeff Rowe,

Dan Hernandez, Benji Samit

BEST EDITORIAL – FEATURE

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem

Greg Levitan, Illya Quinteros,

David Croomes, Myra Owyang

BEST WRITING – TV/MEDIA

Rock Paper Scissors, "Birthday Police"

Josh Lehrman, Kyle Stegina, Aram Spencer Porter,

Julia Prescott, Mike Trapp



THE ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD ANIMATION EDUCATORS FORUM



ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of animation through education. Our growing international membership, with a diverse background in both the animation and educational fields, is focused on sharing its knowledge and experience throughout the animation education community. Thanks to the generous support of ASIFA-Hollywood, our volunteer organization can offer scholarship and grant opportunities, host discussions about current topics of interest at various conferences and events, and feature student work in the online Student Animation Showcase.



Our **Student Scholarship** program is designed to support students enrolled in accredited college animation programs around the world, enabling students to complete animation projects, purchase essential equipment, finalize/present theses, and conduct research in the field. Proposals are accepted from undergraduate students entering sophomore through senior years and from graduate students working toward the completion of a thesis or dissertation. In 2023, the Scholarship Committee awarded a total of \$44,000 to eight undergraduate and three graduate students from the United States, Canada, France, and Korea. The awards of \$4,000 supported a wide range of animation projects including film production, equipment, and tuition.

The AEF's **Faculty Grant** program is designed to provide support to individuals or groups in the academic setting for reasonable expenditures associated with research, scholarly activity, or creative projects in the field of animation. For 2023, the Faculty Grant Committee gave six awards totaling \$24,300. The selected proposals included support for the development of the animated short film *The Creation Poem Project*, the documentary film, *The Only Woman Animator: Bessie Mae Kelley & Women at the Dawn of Industry*, and for completion of the 2D, hand-drawn animated (*re*)Tired and 3D animated *Cunabula* short films.

The AEF also hosts **panel discussions** throughout the year. Coinciding with industry conferences, **Birds of a Feather** (BoF) events are professional roundtable conversations focused on prominent contemporary topics in animation education. This year, Steering Committee members moderated two panels of speakers from the academy and industry focused on AI in August and at CTN eXpo in November. Additionally, for the AEF's **General Membership Meeting** in April, our discussion on the topic of "Does Life Drawing Still Matter" featured Nicole Dial, Associate Manager, School Relations at Walt Disney Animation Studio. Initiated in 2023, the AEF's **Animation Salon** is a new series of informal Zoom lectures and discussions in which a scholar, practitioner, or educator shares current projects, research, and pedagogy. Speakers range from past AEF Faculty Grant recipients to educational and industry professionals who present topics spanning the rich and diverse field of practices and perspectives in animation. Salon topics included "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Animation Education" and "The Hanna-Barbera Legacy in Animation Education."

For the fourth year, the AEF and ASIFA-Hollywood presented the **Student Animation Showcase** celebrating the intense study and dedication to the craft exhibited by graduating students from college-level animation programs around the world. We are proud to continue to present this "first look" at the talent of these graduates as they begin a career in the animation industry.

For more information about the AEF, please visit our website: [animationeducatorsforum.org](https://www.animationeducatorsforum.org).

Congratulations

to ASIFA-Hollywood, all the nominees
and award winners
at the



half a century - plus 1 year - of celebrating artistic excellence
in an increasingly animated world!

ANNAPURNA ANIMATION WOULD LIKE TO
CONGRATULATE THE ENTIRE NIMONA TEAM ON
9 ANNIE AWARD NOMINATIONS

**BEST CHARACTER
ANIMATION**

TOBY SEALE

**BEST CHARACTER
DESIGN**

AIDAN SUGANO

**BEST
DIRECTION**

NICK BRUNO, TROY QUANE

**BEST PRODUCTION
DESIGN**

AIDAN SUGANO, JEFF TURLEY

NIMONA

**BEST
FEATURE**



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Lesego Vorster

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Episode: Run the Rink
Ben Juwono

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Marvel's Moon Girl and Devil Dinosaur
Episode: Moon Girl Landing
Diamond White (Character: Lunella Lafayette / Moon Girl)

MARVEL
**MOON
GIRL
AND
DEVIL DINOSAUR**



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