

— FIFTY-THIRD —
ANNIE
A W A R D S



Saturday, February 21, 2026



BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN
"The Rewrite"

BEST VOICE ACTING - TV/MEDIA
Alkaio Thiele - *"The Amadain"*



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR ANNIE AWARD NOMINEES!



BATFAM

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Benjamin Tong - *"A Knight at the Movies"*





Disney

Proudly Congratulates Our 53rd Annie Award Nominees

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Disney · PIXAR
WIN OR LOSE

BOB'S BURGERS

MARVEL ANIMATION
MARVEL ZOMBIES

STAR WARS
VISIONS

THE WONDERFULLY WEIRD
WORLD OF
GUMBALL

MARVEL STUDIOS
**CAPTAIN AMERICA
BRAVE NEW WORLD**

MARVEL ANIMATION
EYES OF WAKANDA

FORTNITE | **THE SIMPSONS**

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THE MUSICAL**

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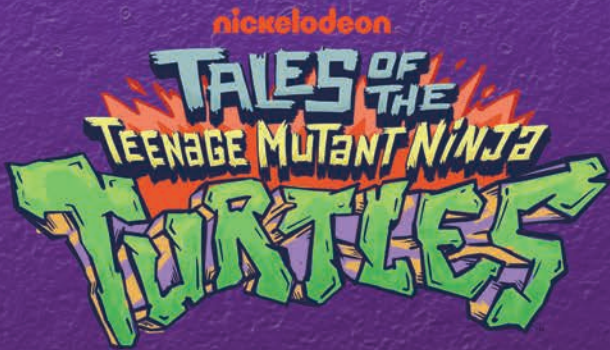
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CONGRATULATIONS

To all of the Annie Awards Nominees!



BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN

"Rise of the Night Ninja"

Nickelodeon Animation Studios
and Point Grey Pictures

BEST STORYBOARDING - TV/MEDIA

"Rise of the Night Ninja"

Nickelodeon Animation Studios
and Point Grey Pictures

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"Rise of the Night Ninja"

Nickelodeon Animation Studios
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BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN

"Sungandeul"

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*thanks ASIFA-Hollywood
and proudly congratulates our Annie Awards nominees*

Bat-Fam

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Benjamin Tong



#1 Happy Family USA

BEST WRITING - TV/MEDIA
Ramy Youssef • Pam Brady



Hazbin Hotel

BEST VOICE ACTING - TV/MEDIA
Erika Henningsen
(Character: Charlie Morningstar)



Il Baracchino

BEST TV/MEDIA - MATURE



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including

BEST FEATURE



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**ANNIE AWARD
NOMINATION**

**BEST CHARACTER
DESIGN - FEATURE**

N

FEBRUARY 21, 2026

UCLA ROYCE HALL - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



PROGRAM

Welcome to the 53rd 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

June Foray 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

Ub Iwerks 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



BEST STUDENT FILM



***A Sparrow's Song* - Tobias Eckerlin**

Inspired by a true story, a widowed air raid warden in the midst of World War II struggles to overcome grief and rediscover joy in her life—until she finds a dying sparrow she hopes to save.



***Acrobats* - Eloïse Alluyn, Hugo Danet, Anna Despinoy, Antonin Guerci, Alexandre Marzin, Shali Reddy**

A girl comes back home to an oppressive living room and throws up acrobats in front of her family.



***Jour de vent* - Martin Chailloux, Ai Kim Crespin, Elise Golfouse, Chloé Lab, Hugo Taillez, Camille Truding**

All six of us were students in the same class at ENSI. We wanted to tell a story that was both universal and personal: each member of the team was able to participate and contribute to the film with a little piece of their own story. We created a story that represents each and every one of us, but one that also touches as many people as possible, speaking of family, love, death, work and so on. To ensure that the film speaks to everyone, we created a multitude of characters, all different.



***The Undying Pain of Existence* - Oscar Jacobson, Franz Rügammer, Nadiia Yunatska**

A nude model is posing with statuesque stillness for an elite drawing class—until an unfortunate mosquito bite challenges his self-control. Driven to madness by the itch, he's caught between the ruthless demand for perfection and his most unhinged, animalistic impulses.



***TRASH* - Maxime Crançon, Alexis Le Ral, Robin Delaporte, Romain Fleischer, Mattéo Durand**

Trash is a six-minute animated short with a deconstructed visual style, following the frantic chase of a rat and a pigeon through the alleys and crumbling buildings of a decaying city. Created over a year and a half by eight students from ESMA Lyon, Trash is a modern fable about the excesses of humanity. The film questions human hubris while also leaving room for hope and beauty—even in the midst of chaos.

BEST ANIMATED SHORT SUBJECT



Cardboard - Locksmith Animation

To find the Trailblazer's whereabouts, Dan Heng, who had obtained the power of Permanence, began a journey across the mountains of Amphoreus in the memoria world. He met the beings of the earth during his travels and received their help. Yet he still could not find the Trailblazer after traversing the summits, until he etched the image of the Trailblazer in his memories, saving them from the depths of the space in the land surging with black tides.



Ovary-Acting - Klipp og Lim, Jante Films, Apparat Filmproduktion AB

Surrounded by babies at her sister's baby shower, Eva fends off endless questions about when she'll be starting a family of her own. Overwhelmed, Eva is struck by a searing stomach pain and rushes to the bathroom, where she unexpectedly gives birth to Ovy, her baby-loving reproductive organs. Mortified, Eva tries to run away, but Ovy chases her through town, determined to convince her they should have a baby. Eva pushes back, and gradually they wear each other down and begin to listen. As they finally see eye to eye, Eva finds the courage to speak her truth.



Pillowzzz - Animoshe

The film unfolds the story of Terry, a clumsy and violent troll, haunted by his past and looking for redemption for his soul. Soft and lovable dwarves, whom he treats rudely, require him to change his attitude, and they win a revolutionary but controversial rescue operation.



Snow Bear - The Art of Aaron Blaise

When a lonely polar bear can't find a friend... he makes one. Set in a rapidly changing world, Snow Bear tells the story of a polar bear in an unforgiving environment on his quest to find a friend. This independently produced 2D hand-drawn film was painstakingly created entirely by Aaron Blaise over three years. With Aaron's lifelong dedication to studying, drawing and animating animals, the adventure is infused with humor, relatability and emotional depth in the tradition of classic animated films. The film was animated and directed by Aaron Blaise. It was produced by Nicholas Burch.

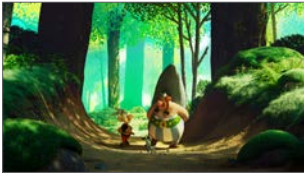


The Girl Who Cried Pearls - National Film Board of Canada

A haunting fable about a girl overwhelmed by sorrow, the boy who loves her, and how greed leads good hearts to wicked deeds.



PRODUCTION DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight, Episode II* - Netflix / Montmartre Films / TAT productions - Aurélien Prédal**

Aurélien Prédal is a French production designer, concept artist and character designer with nearly 20 years of international experience. Graduating from Gobelins in 2006 with the short *Burning Safari*, he designed key productions like *Mune: Guardian of the Moon* and *Ron's Gone Wrong*, earning an Annie Award nomination. He has collaborated with studios like Aardman, Pixar, Sony Pictures Animation, DreamWorks, Laika, Illumination and Locksmith Animation on projects including *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, *Inside Out 2*, *Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget* and *Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight*. Based in London, he is recognized as a world-class visual development artist.



***Forevergreen, Special Production* - Nathan Engelhardt and Jeremy Spears - Jeremy Spears, Gregory Culp**

Jeremy Spears is an Annie Award-winning story artist helping create beloved characters and stories for films such as *Zootopia 2*, *Encanto*, *Wreck-It Ralph* and *Frozen*. When not working, he loves adventuring with his family and designing and woodcarving in his Whittle Woodshop. Greg Culp graduated from the University of Waterloo in 2006 with a degree in Fine Arts. He now lives in Burbank, California with his wife Andrea and three daughters. Since 2012, Greg has worked at Disney Animation Studios in Cinematography Lighting. In his free time, Greg enjoys plein-air digital painting and sketching, photography, and taking the family to Disneyland or to Malibu for a beach day..



***Love, Death + Robots, Episode: How Zeke Got Religion* - Blur Studio for Netflix - Gigi Cavenago**

Gigi Cavenago is an Italian comic book artist, illustrator, concept artist and art director. After studying at the Scuola del Fumetto and Istituto Rizzoli, he made his publishing debut in 2005 and has since worked on various comic book anthologies and series, including *Dylan Dog*, *Tales of Tomorrow* and *The Magic Order*. He ventured into animation in 2023 as art director on *Love, Death + Robots* 'How Zeke Got Religion,' winning an Emmy in production design. He is currently working as a character designer on *Mister Miracle* and as a visual artist on *Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse* for Sony Animation.



***ParaNorman: The Thrifting, Special Production* - LAIKA - Thibault Leclercq, Santiago Montiel, Jung Woonyoung, Stephanie Bray-Lee**

ParaNorman: The Thrifting's production design artists, Thibault Leclercq, Stephanie Bray-Lee, Santiago Montiel and Jung Woonyoung, are part of Laika's core visual development team. They share a variety of animation experience including work on Laika's upcoming feature *Wildwood* and contribute on various projects in development. Their approach to design on *ParaNorman: The Thrifting* was rooted in a stylized combination of the original animated film *ParaNorman* mixed with various vintage horror film artwork to bring this new CG short film to life.



***Wednesdays with Gramps, Short Film* - DreamWorks Animation - Frederic Stewart**

Frederic Stewart is an illustrator, visual development artist, and art director currently working at DreamWorks Feature Animation. A graduate of San Jose State University, he is a fifteen-year veteran of the entertainment industry.

PRODUCTION DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Elio* - Pixar Animation Studios - Harley Jessup, Ernesto Nemesio, Maria Lee, Kristian Norelius, Kyle Jones**

Production designer Harley Jessup (*Monsters, Inc.*, *Ratatouille*, *Coco*) led a talented team of art directors—Maria Lee (shading design), Kristian Norelius (set design), Ernesto Nemesio (lighting design) and Kyle Jones (graphic design)—imagining the world of *Elio*. Employing new technology, there were few limits to the visual storytelling. In contrast to the earth-bound hard edges of the military base, the *Elio* design team created a dazzling version of outer space, vast in scale but actually inspired by natural microscopic structures. The project, spanning four years of development and production, opens our hearts to an inspiring vision of the universe.



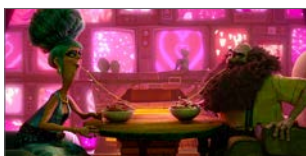
***KPop Demon Hunters* - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix - Helen Chen, Dave Bleich, Wendell Dalit, Scott Watanabe, Celine Kim**

Led by production designers Mingjue Helen Chen and Dave Bleich and art directors Celine DaHyeu Kim, Scott Watanabe and Wendell Dalit, the *KPop Demon Hunters* production design team built a visually arresting world grounded in Korean heritage and pop spectacle. Their work seamlessly integrates stylized character aesthetics, mythological symbolism and contemporary Seoul cityscapes—delivering a cohesive design language that bridges magical realism with genre-defying action. From concept to final frame, the team established a bold visual identity central to the film's storytelling.



***The Bad Guys 2* - DreamWorks Animation - Luc Desmarchelier, Floriane Marchix**

Production designer Luc Desmarchelier joined DreamWorks Animation to work on *The Prince of Egypt* and went on to work on *The Road to El Dorado* and *Shrek*. He won an Annie Award for his work on *Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron*. Previous credits of art director Floriane Marchix include *Penguins of Madagascar*, *How to Train Your Dragon: The Hidden World* and *Abominable*. *The Bad Guys 2* has also been recognized by the Art Directors Guild with a nomination for excellence in production design.



***The Twits* - Netflix Presents / The Roald Dahl Story Company - Estefania Pantoja, Alexandre Diboine, Clement Dartigues, Fernando Peque, Remi Salmon**

In look, tone and theme, *The Twits* is an unconventional animated film. The film's design language is that of a child: draw outside the lines, add scribbles as details and stop when you are bored. Hand-drawn, broken and perfect live together in *The Twits*. The team pushed themselves and the CG tools beyond the norm. The shapes may not be realistic but the realism comes from a feeling that this place is actually lived in. Coupled with natural lighting, the design team balances the visuals of warm and hopeful (the kids) and weird and kind of gross (the Twits).



***Zootopia 2* - Walt Disney Animation Studios - Cory Loftis, Limei Z. Hshieh**

Production designer Cory Loftis, art director of environments Limei Hshieh and the *Zootopia 2* visual development department expanded the animal metropolis to include new environments for reptiles and pinnipeds—imagining new parts of Zootopia that were not seen in the first film, like Marsh Market. A neighborhood of semiaquatic mammals was a fun and exciting design challenge—a bustling, living habitat where creatures like sea lions are able to move about easily with lots of slides, ramps and tubes.



BEST SPECIAL PRODUCTION



***A Loud House Christmas Movie: Naughty or Nice* – Nickelodeon Animation Studio & Jam Filled Entertainment**

In *A Loud House Christmas Movie: Naughty or Nice*, Lincoln discovers that he is on Santa's Naughty List. Convinced it's a mistake, he hacks into the North Pole's computer but accidentally switches the entire Naughty and Nice list, which ends up turning Santa evil! With his family's help, Lincoln must venture to the North Pole to save Christmas. Along the way, he learns something about the kind of kid he truly is.



***Adult Swim's The Elephant* – Titmouse and Williams Street**

Adult Swim's *The Elephant* is a rare creative experiment in which each of the three acts is made in isolation. With Sugar and Jones-Quartey working as a duo and McHale and Ward overseeing their own separate parts, the special is guided by "game masters" and *Adventure Time* alums Jack Pendarvis and Kent Osborne for a storytelling experiment that unfolds as a collaborative surprise, ultimately merging into a single, unexpected narrative.



***Not Just a Goof* – Venturia Animation Studios® for CNEK Films LLC**

Not Just a Goof features hand-drawn sequences that capture the spirit behind the making of the 1995 cult classic *A Goofy Movie*, a film now widely embraced by a generation of millennials. The documentary reflects on its long-term cultural impact through archival material and original animation created by Venturia Animation Studios®, bringing to life the challenges, creativity and legacy of a Disney classic. The animated reenactments place the real-life crew inside the "Goofyverse," portraying them with iconic dog-like noses and embracing a rough blue-pencil aesthetic that honors the craft of 1990s traditional animation.



***Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical* – WildBrain Studios in association with Apple TV**

Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical is a musical special about the joy and magic of summer camp and the importance of preserving what you love. Charlie Brown loves camp and is determined to make his final year special, but Sally, a first-time camper, is nervous and skeptical of the new and unfamiliar place. While everyone settles into camp, Snoopy and Woodstock discover a treasure map that takes them on a wild adventure nearby.



***The Night Before Christmas in Wonderland* – Lupus Films, Universal Pictures Content Group**

St. Nick receives a delayed letter on Christmas Eve from the Princess of Hearts. He and his dedicated team of reindeer set off to Wonderland where they're greeted by the mean and miserable Queen of Hearts who hates all things Christmas... especially presents! Can St. Nick, aided by Alice, the Mad Hatter and March Hare, show the Queen the true meaning of Christmas and save the day before it's too late?

BEST ANIMATED SPONSORED PRODUCTION



Animated Short: "Trek" | Honkai: Star Rail - FLiiiP Design

To find the Trailblazer's whereabouts, Dan Heng, who had obtained the power of Permanence, began a journey across the mountains of Amphoreus in the memoria world. He met the beings of the earth during his travels and received their help. Yet he still could not find the Trailblazer after traversing the summits, until he etched the image of the Trailblazer in his memories, saving them from the depths of the space in the land surging with black tides.



Fortnite x The Simpsons: Apocalypse D'Oh! - A Gracie Films Production in Association with 20th Television Animation

Kang and Kodos interrupt a climactic battle in Fortnite and accidentally take Hope, Jonesy and the Zero Point Shard with them to a new "Springfield Island." The shard finds its way to Homer, who sets off to turn Springfield into a Homer-tastic paradise.



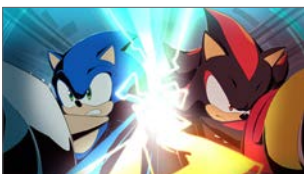
LouiMax Dreams of Being An Adult - Imagine Create Media Inc. in conjunction with Maileg APS

LouiMax Dreams of Being An Adult is a stop-motion animated short film produced by Maileg (Denmark) and Imagine Create Media (Canada). The film was written by Maileg's founder, Dorthe Mailil, and is voiced by Andy Serkis. The film follows LouiMax, a curious little mouse who can't wait to grow up. He imagines that being an adult means flying airplanes, staying up late and doing whatever he wants, whenever he wants. But when LouiMax magically wakes up all grown-up, he discovers that childhood has its own magic.



Olipop Yeti - Screen Novelties & Passion Pictures

A pair of yetis wants to bring holiday cheer to a local village, but they inadvertently scare everyone away. A clever little girl recognizes their true intentions and gathers her people to toast their new furry friends.



Sonic Racing: CrossWorlds - SEGA of America in association with GXS Productions

Buckle up! Shadow the Hedgehog has entered the competition, and the race is on! Starting dead last, Shadow is up against fierce racers on the track with Sonic the Hedgehog at the top spot. Can Shadow outmaneuver Sonic's friends, rivals and foes as they race across dimensions and different terrain to defeat Sonic for the No. 1 spot? Find out in *Sonic Racing: CrossWorlds - The Animation*.

GKIDS CONGRATULATES

Little Amélie

or the Character of Rain

— NOMINEE —

BEST FEATURE

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION – FEATURE

BEST DIRECTION – FEATURE

BEST MUSIC – FEATURE

BEST STORYBOARDING – FEATURE

BEST WRITING – FEATURE

BEST EDITORIAL – FEATURE



GKIDS



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD

This past year has been a challenging one for our community. Amid sweeping changes across the industry, we have heard from many artists experiencing displacement and uncertainty about what the future may hold. These moments can feel isolating—but they also remind us how vital our collective strength truly is.

It's important to remember that behind every technological advancement lies the need for artists to guide the way. Our community leads with vision. We are trained to think beyond boundaries, to imagine what doesn't yet exist, and to use creativity as a compass. That has always been—and will always be—our greatest power as we navigate what comes next.

ASIFA-Hollywood is here for you. We see ourselves as a conduit: a place to help empower artists, elevate concerns, and work together toward meaningful solutions. As a nonprofit organization, our role is to provide assistance where it's needed most and to create opportunities for connection, growth, and collaboration.

While ASIFA-Hollywood is widely recognized for the Annie Awards, our work extends far beyond a single annual celebration. Especially in times like these, when community matters more than ever, we support artists, studios, educators, and students through a broad range of year-round programs.

In 2025, this community showed what it means to stand together. When more than 90 animation artists lost their homes in the California wildfires, we listened—and we acted. Through AnimAID, and with the generosity of this community, nearly \$700,000 was raised to help our colleagues begin rebuilding their lives. This is who we are: a community that shows up for one another. ASIFA-Hollywood is proud to help create the structure that makes that possible.

Our mission for 2026 is to elevate animation as both an art form and a profession, strengthening the community that sustains it. Animation is one of the most influential and enduring creative mediums in the world, yet it is still too often undervalued and misunderstood within the entertainment industry. With your support, we can help change that.

By investing in ASIFA-Hollywood, you help ensure that animation is seen, heard, and valued; that its creators are recognized and supported; and that our community remains connected, resilient, and strong for generations to come.

Thank you for being here.

Warm regards,



Sue Shakespeare

Sue Shakespeare
President, ASIFA-Hollywood



Aubry Mintz

Aubry Mintz
Executive Director, ASIFA-Hollywood



JUNE FORAY AWARD

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



SANDRA RABINS

Sandy Rabins helped build the animation division of DreamWorks Studios from the ground up and was instrumental in the acquisition of Pacific Data Images (PDI), helping grow it into a theatrical digital-effects powerhouse. She produced DreamWorks' first traditionally animated feature, *The Prince of Egypt*, and the computer-animated *Antz*, the first feature from PDI/DreamWorks.

In 2001, Rabins served as an executive producer on the blockbuster comedy *Shrek*, which won the People's Choice Award for Best Comedy Feature and the first Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

Rabins then moved to Sony Pictures Animation, serving as Senior Executive Vice President from 2002 to 2009. There, she worked on the hit comedy *Open Season*, the critically acclaimed *Surf's Up*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, and *Hotel Transylvania*.

Rabins and her producing partner, Penney Finkelman Cox, co-own the independent live-action production company Patchwork Productions, which executive-produced the 2007 feature film *Snakes on a Plane*.

In 2010, at DreamWorks Animation Television, she served as a senior executive producer overseeing *Dragons: Riders of Berk*, a series based on the worldwide hit film *How to Train Your Dragon*. The series won four Annie Awards, including Best Animated TV Production for Children in 2013.

With Kathryn Bigelow, she produced the 2016 award-winning short *Last Days of Ivory*. In 2015, she built Original Force's animation division, producing the company's first animated film, *Duck, Duck, Goose*.

More recently, she produced Paramount Pictures' 2024 film *The Tiger's Apprentice* and has taught at USC, BYU, NYU, and Escena, a school of animation located in Mexico City.

Rabins is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as well as the Producers Guild of America (PGA) and ASIFA-Hollywood.

For many years, Sandy Rabins has been a profound force in the animation industry. Then, during the 2025 Eaton and Palisades Fires, she used her vast experience to quickly rally ASIFA-Hollywood and created AnimAID to assist and support colleagues affected by the fires. For this monumental effort, she is receiving the 53rd Annies June Foray Award.

- SUPPORT FIRE VICTIMS -



DESIGNER QUILT AUCTION

Master quilters donated their fabric, thread, use of their sewing machines, and above all, their creativity and time to make these comforting quilts. These quilts were designed, sewn, tied, quilted, collected, sorted, transported and distributed by caring hands.

“For those who were impacted by these fires, you are our brothers and sisters. We want you to know that people genuinely care.”

-- PAZ AMOUR QUILTERS – 2025



AnimAID is a fundraising campaign in support of our colleagues in the animation industry who have lost so much in the recent Southern California fires. Formed in collaboration with ASIFA-Hollywood, a 501c3 public charity along with industry co-workers and animation studios around the world. We stand with our fellow animation family members with empathy, support and action.



WILL RYAN EXCELLENCE IN HUMOR AWARD

The Will Ryan Excellence in Humor Award is an animation industry award that encourages and recognizes emerging, talented individuals for their contributions to further the innovative future of animation with an emphasis on humor. New talent is not based upon the age or experience of the recipient, but rather new or innovative contributions to the animation industry as a whole. This includes all genres and approaches in the vast realm that might fall within the area of animation.

ABOUT WILL RYAN

Always recognizable by his signature cowboy hat, Will Ryan was a humorist, author, creator, animator, scriptwriter, producer, actor, voice actor, singer, composer, musician, and past president of ASIFA-Hollywood, with more than 50 film and television credits to his name. His talents and contributions far exceeded his too-short lifetime, and he remains a well-known and deeply respected member of the animation community.



As a voice actor, Will brought to life beloved characters including Rabbit and Tigger, Goofy and Donald Duck, Willie the Giant and Pete in Mickey's Christmas Carol, among countless others for Disney, Warner Bros, Amblin, Sullivan Bluth, Harper & Row and more. He also wrote and recorded numerous songs for Disney films and television projects. In 1997, Will received a prestigious Annie Award nomination for Best Song in an Animated Production: Elmo Aardvark, Outer Space Detective! The Elmo Aardvark Song.

A committed artist and generous philanthropist, Will believed strongly in "paying it forward." Together with his wife, Nancy, he established the Will Ryan Trust. Working in partnership with ASIFA-Hollywood, Nancy continues to honor Will's legacy by supporting his vision of an annual award recognizing innovation and excellence in humorous animation.

Will Ryan Excellence in Humor Award updates here:



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



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



LightBox Expo is an event that brings together thousands of artists in animation, gaming, live-action films, and illustration. The event aims to ignite artistic passion, fuel imaginations and propel artists of all kinds to new artistic heights.



In the words of Maggie Kang, co-director and creator of *KPop Demon Hunters*, "LightBox Expo is a time to celebrate the creators, visionaries, and storytellers who ensure that dreams and magic exist in the world. It is a reminder that we are a community brought together by our shared passion to create, to ignite joy, to bring hope, and today we are needed more than ever."



We hope you join us for our annual celebration of animation artists
OCTOBER 23-25, 2026

LightBoxExpo.com



MUSIC IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Common Side Effects, Episode: Lakeshore Limited* – Green Street Pictures, Bandera Entertainment, and Williams Street Productions – Nicolas Snyder**

Nicolas Snyder is a composer and sound artist based in Los Angeles. He artfully arranges currents of organic texture, field recordings, digital manipulations and found sound that converges into something simultaneously primitive and elegant. Snyder's compositions are intricate studies that swirl with unpredictability and timbral invention. His work in film and TV includes HBO Max's critically acclaimed animated series *Common Side Effects* and *Scavengers Reign*, the Oscar-nominated short film *Beautiful Men*, Netflix's globe-trotting food series *Ugly Delicious*, several Vimeo Staff Picks, as well as many commercials such as FedEx's *Dreams* directed by Michel Gondry.



***Devil May Cry, Episode: The First Circle* – A Netflix Series / Studio Mir / Adi Shankar Animation / Capcom – Power Glove, Alex Seaver, Tyler Demorest**

Developed under creator/executive producer Adi Shankar's creative direction, *Devil May Cry's* music team blends cinematic world-building with unforgettable sound. At the musical forefront is Mako (Alexander Seaver), an American composer/producer and DJ whose credits include genre-spanning work from EDM hits to Emmy-nominated scores for *Arcane*. Tyler Demorest is a Los Angeles-based songwriter and producer who contributed dynamic scoring across *Devil May Cry*. Joining them are series composers Power Glove (Jarome and Joel Harmsworth), the Australian synthwave duo known for their critically acclaimed work on Ubisoft's *Far Cry 3: Blood Dragon*.



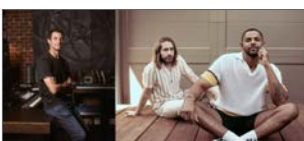
***Éiru, Short Film* – Cartoon Saloon – Leo Pearson, Ceara Conway**

When the water disappears from the well in a warrior clan's village, an intrepid child descends into the belly of the earth to retrieve it. *Éiru* was produced by Cartoon Saloon, directed by Giovanna Ferrari, in association with Herstory, Screen Ireland and BCP. Leo Pearson is a composer and music producer. He has worked with U2, Disney+ and recently composed the score for *Star Wars: Visions* volume 2 short 'Screecher's Reach.' Leo composed the score of *Éiru* and co-composed the song 'Amhrán Éiru' with Ceara Conway. Ceara Conway is an artist who works across music, song, texts and visual art.



***Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical, Special Production* – WildBrain Studios in association with Apple TV – Ben Folds, Jeff Morrow, Alan Zachary, Michael Weiner**

Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical is a musical special about the joy and magic of summer camp and the importance of preserving what you love. Charlie Brown loves camp and is determined to make his final year special, but Sally, a first-time camper, is nervous and skeptical of the new and unfamiliar place. While everyone settles into camp, Snoopy and Woodstock discover a treasure map that takes them on a wild adventure nearby.



***Win Or Lose, Episodes: Episode 6, Mixed Signals* – Pixar Animation Studios – Ramin Djawadi, Shane Eli, Jonny Pakfar**

Ramin Djawadi has created some of the most memorable themes in media such as scores for *Game of Thrones*, *Westworld*, *3 Body Problem*, *Eternals*, *Iron Man*, *Jack Ryan* and *A Wrinkle in Time*. Versatility has defined Djawadi's career. Shane Eli and Jonny Pakfar, known professionally as Campfire, are multi-platinum, award-winning composers, writers and producers. Renowned for their innovative approach to blending traditional film scoring with modern production techniques, they have emerged as sought-after creators in the entertainment industry. Most recently, the duo collaborated with composer Ramin Djawadi on Pixar's first original animated series, *Win or Lose*.

MUSIC IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



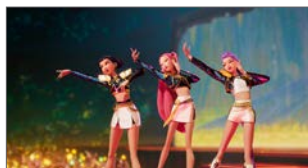
Arco – Remembers, MountainA France, France 3 Cinéma – Arnaud Toulon

Arnaud Toulon is a Paris-based composer specializing in music for picture. His work ranges from fiction films and TV series to documentaries, contemporary dance and arrangements for other artists. Across these projects, he develops a musical style that blends classical influences, electronic textures and sonic experimentation, shaped by his experience in sound design for cinema. Closely connected to the world of animation, he has collaborated with the Paris-based studio Remembers since its founding—an artistic partnership that led to his first feature film, *Arco*, directed by Ugo Bienvenu and presented this year at the Cannes and Annecy festivals.



Elio – Pixar Animation Studios – Rob Simonsen

Rob Simonsen is a composer and solo artist, known for blending analog synthesis and processed textures with orchestral color and poignant melodies, crafting scores that feel both intimate and expansive. His recent work also includes Darren Aronofsky's Oscar-nominated *The Whale*—recognized by the Hollywood Music in Media Awards, the Society of Composers & Lyricists and the Indiana Film Journalists Association—and Marvel Studios' *Deadpool & Wolverine*, an HMMA sci-fi/fantasy nominee. Earlier, Simonsen's twin coming-of-age scores for *The Spectacular Now* and *The Way Way Back* earned a World Soundtrack Award "Discovery of the Year" nomination.



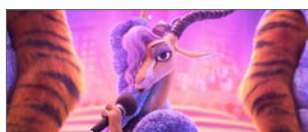
KPop Demon Hunters – Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix – KPop Demon Hunters Music Team

Music is in the DNA of *KPop Demon Hunters*. The team behind the music, including executive music producer Ian Eisendrath and composer Marcelo Zarvos, shaped the film's dynamic sonic identity by merging K-pop sensibilities with cinematic scoring. In collaboration with powerhouse producers TheBlackLabel and vocalists EJAE, Rei Ami and Audrey Nuna—the powerhouse voices behind the fictional girl group HUNTR/X—the team crafted original songs and arrangements that propel character arcs, elevate choreography and deepen emotional resonance. The result is a cohesive, genre-blending score that grounds the narrative and amplifies its global pop appeal.



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain – Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS – Mari Fukuhara

Mari Fukuhara creates romantic music as if she were painting a landscape. Her piano touch and string arrangements reflect her background in classical music. Mari also works with synthesizers, samplers and other electronic instruments. Based in Tokyo, she graduated from the Toho Gakuen School of Music. She began her career as a member of the bands Shi-Shonen and Real Fish, Ten, Fishermen Tit Tot. As a solo artist, she performs, produces songs, supports live shows and composes music for numerous films and videos. After composing the music for *Little Amélie's* pilot in 2021, she returned to score the full-length feature.



Zootopia 2 – Walt Disney Animation Studios – Shakira, Ed Sheeran, Blake Slatkin, Michael Giacchino

The *Zootopia 2* score is composed by Academy Award winner Michael Giacchino, and the all-new original song, "Zoo," was written by Ed Sheeran, Blake Slatkin and Shakira. The song is produced by Blake Slatkin, Alex (A.C.) Castillo, Shakira and Ed Sheeran. A celebration of *Zootopia* itself, and what the animal metropolis stands for, the song also has Judy and Nick's relationship at its core. The film's score is a blend of genres and styles, growing bigger with a greater musical variety for this expansion of the *Zootopia* story.



CHARACTER DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



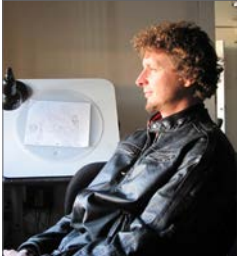
***Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight, Episode IV* - Netflix / Montmartre Films / TAT Productions - Borja Montoro**

Borja Montoro, Madrid-born animator/character designer, boasts 35-plus years in animation. After studying law but pursuing art, he started in 1988 as a 2D animator in Madrid, then spent seven years (1995-2002) at Disney France on *Hercules*, *Tarzan* (with Glen Keane), *The Emperor's New Groove* and others. Back in Madrid since 2003, he's mainly worked as a character designer on shows like Netflix's *Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight*, Disney's *Zootopia*, *Moana*, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, DreamWorks' *The Boss Baby* and *Wild Robot*, Illumination's *Despicable Me 3* and Angel Studio's *David*. He now directs at U-TAD and leads masterclasses worldwide.



***Bat-Fam, Episode: A Knight at the Movies* - Amazon MGM Studios, Warner Bros. Animation, DC Entertainment - Benjamin Tong**

Benjamin Tong began in November 2017 as a character designer on *Where's Waldo?* and *Archibald's Next Big Thing* at DreamWorks TV. Later on he continued doing development work at Disney TVA before getting on *Merry Little Batman* and then afterward on *Bat-Fam* at Warner Brothers Animation. As character design lead, Ben specializes in collaborating with the show's directors and guiding other character designers in designing some of the characters from the ground up, special poses, expressions and turns. Benjamin grew up in San Gabriel, California, before attending Savannah College of Art and Design. He currently resides in San Gabriel, California.



***Love, Death + Robots, Episode: 400 Boys* - Blur Studio for Netflix - Robert Valley**

Robert Valley is a Canadian animator and director celebrated for his "hyper-graphic" visual style, characterized by sharp angles, deep shadows and exaggerated perspectives. Born in Vancouver and trained at Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Valley's early career included work on *Æon Flux*. He gained international acclaim for designing and directing Gorillaz music videos and lead character designs for Disney's *Tron: Uprising*. His independent short film, *Pear Cider and Cigarettes*, earned a 2017 Academy Award nomination. Most recently, he directed acclaimed episodes for Netflix's *Love, Death & Robots*, including 'Zima Blue,' 'Ice' and '400 Boys.'



***Wednesdays with Gramps, Short Film* - DreamWorks Animation - Seth St. Pierre**

London-based American artist Seth St. Pierre started his career in graphic design while exhibiting his personal work at galleries in Detroit, Los Angeles and Tokyo. After many years, he returned to his first love—animation! In addition to storyboarding for animation studios, he has carved out a reputation as a versatile and original character designer. Seth is a cultural nomad drawn to diverse art styles, languages, techniques and stories. When he's not creating, Seth spends his time searching for the perfect espresso.



***Win Or Lose, Episodes: 8, Home* - Pixar Animation Studios - Lou Hamou-Lhadj**

Lou Hamou-Lhadj joined Pixar in 2007 as a character artist on *WALL-E*. Since then he has worked as a character artist and lead on a number of Pixar films including *Toy Story 3*, *Brave*, *The Good Dinosaur*, *Incredibles 2*, *Onward* and *Turning Red*. More recently, Lou directed the finale episode of Pixar's first-ever original series, *Win or Lose*, where he also served as the character designer across all episodes. Lou grew up in Turnersville, New Jersey, and attended New York University. Lou is currently in development directing an unannounced Pixar project.

CHARACTER DESIGN IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Elio – Pixar Animation Studios – Matt Nolte, Yingzong Xin, James Woods, Kaleb Rice, Bob Pauley

Elio's visual development team, led by Bob Pauley, brought to life a rich and imaginative cast of characters that inhabit the film's expansive universe. The team included Matt Nolte, Yingzong Xin, James Woods and Kaleb Rice, whose collective work shaped the visual identity, personality and emotional appeal of the film's characters. Blending artistry with innovation, the character design team explored a wide range of forms, textures and silhouettes to support the story's themes of connection, wonder and belonging. From grounded human designs to inventive extraterrestrial characters, the designs balance clarity of performance with visual invention.



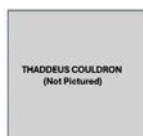
Fixed – Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix – Craig Kellman

Craig Kellman is an acclaimed character designer and production designer known for his bold, stylized work across animation and feature film. As production designer on *Fixed*, Kellman brought his signature flair for expressive design and heightened visual comedy to the film. A veteran of the industry, his credits include character design for *Madagascar*, *Hotel Transylvania*, *The Powerpuff Girls*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2* and *Trolls*. With a distinctive aesthetic that pushes form and exaggeration, Kellman is celebrated for creating instantly iconic characters that resonate across genres and audiences.



KPop Demon Hunters – Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix – Scott Watanabe, Ami Thompson

Character designer Ami Thompson and character art director Scott Watanabe played a pivotal role in defining the stylized, emotionally expressive look of *KPop Demon Hunters*. Drawing from anime, manhwa and K-pop aesthetics, their collaborative work shaped the film's bold silhouettes, iconic costumes and dynamic facial design. Watanabe led the development of distinct visual languages for each character, while Thompson infused them with personality-driven detail—from weapon etchings to chibi-inspired exaggeration. Together, they balanced fashion-forward appeal with narrative clarity, creating characters that are as visually memorable as they are emotionally resonant.



The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants – Paramount Animation / Nickelodeon Movies – Adam Paloian, Thaddeus Couldron, Alvi Ramirez

The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants is a swashbuckling seafaring comedy-adventure that takes us to the deepest depths of the deep sea where no sponge has gone before—an all-new spooky, surreal world filled with new characters and surprises. Adam Paloian (lead character designer) is an Emmy Award-winning director best known for his work on *SpongeBob SquarePants* and *The Cuphead Show!* Alvi Ramirez (visual development) has worked on both series and films, including *Robot Dreams* and *My Little Pony: A New Generation*. Thaddeus Couldron (visual development) credits include *SpongeBob SquarePants*, *Uncle Grandpa* and *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*.



The Twits – Netflix Presents / The Roald Dahl Story Company – Kei Acedera, Tristan Poulain, Jules Rigolle, Fernando Peque, Remi Salmon

The Twits' character design team created organic, unconstrained and imperfect characters. Gobelins graduate Remi Salmon began his production design path on the indie film *Mune: Guardian of the Moon*. Kei Acedera, Emmy-winning creator, has worked with directors such as Tim Burton, Jon Chu, Brenda Chapman, Issa Lopez and Peter Ramsey. Brazilian designer Fernando Peque's work ranges from commercials to features, including *Ron's Gone Wrong*. Tristan Poulain has worked with many feature studios, including Laika, Paramount and Warner Bros. Jules Rigolle has been working as a character designer since graduating from Gobelins, winning an Annie Award for his work on *Trollhunters*.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NOMINEES

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - LIVE ACTION



A **MINECRAFT**

MOVIE

KEVIN ESTEY
ANTHONY MCINDOE
JADE LORIER
CAROLINE TING
LUISMA LAVIN PEREDO

© 2025 Warner Bros. Pictures © 2025 Legendary Pictures



MARVEL STUDIOS
CAPTAIN AMERICA
BRAVE NEW WORLD

SIDNEY KOMBO-KINTOMBO
ANDREW WILLIAM PARK
MARCO RÖTH
PAUL SEYB
THIEN LY

© 2025 Marvel

wētāFX

THANK YOU TO ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD
FOR RECOGNISING OUR WORK



UB IWERKS AWARD



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

WACOM

For more than 40 years, production environments around the world have adopted and trusted Wacom's digital pen-and-ink technologies and creative tools. From early concept development and storyboarding to animation and compositing, these tools have helped artists bring hand-drawn expression into digital workflows, bridging traditional techniques with evolving production methods.

Wacom also embraces the concept of "Lifelong Ink," which aims to create instruments and technologies that help users shape their inner thoughts and ideas with precision, accuracy, and care throughout their lives. Lifelong Ink is a commitment Wacom makes to its creative community and beyond.



Because this technology has been an intimate part of artists' lives for so many years, Wacom celebrates those artists through its mission. Simply put, Lifelong Ink originates in the heart of the artist and flows outward through acts of writing and drawing. By observing the results, we can come to understand them more deeply.

Wacom strives to offer technology that enables artists to capture the many shades of people's lives, from joy to sadness, as they grow from children into adults. With the power of this ink in hand, the spark within them will never fade.



SPECIAL OFFER:

Scan the QR and use promo code
ASIFAHOLLYWOOD at checkout to
waive the casting fee.



BACKSTAGE

Supporting the talent, crew, and industry professionals who turn creative aspirations into cinematic spectacles.

As a trusted name in casting since 1960, we're proud to be an Industry Sponsor of the Annie Awards and to support the incredible people behind the animation industry.

Trusted by





CHARACTER ANIMATION IN A VIDEO GAME



***Bye Sweet Carole* - Little Sewing Machine - Chris Darril**

Chris Darril is an Italian artist, director and screenwriter. Creator of *Bye Sweet Carole* and the *Remothered* series, he's independent by choice, working across films and video games, pioneering transmedia art. Praised by industry luminaries such as Keiichiro Toyama (*Silent Hill*), Jean Luc-Cano (*Life Is Strange*) and Conrad Roset (*Gris*), he has set historic records for his country. Condemning AI, Chris champions traditional craftsmanship, personally handling character design, environment art and more, strongly believing that art is the key to human freedom and the most powerful vehicle of hope and change for a society still plagued by hatred and inequality.



***Death Stranding 2: On the Beach* - Kojima Productions - Hideo Kojima, Masaaki Kawata, Kojima Productions, PlayStation Studios XDEV**

Kojima Productions is a creative studio led by game creator Hideo Kojima. Established under the banner of "From Sapiens to Ludens" in December 2015, our mission is to bring joy and surprise to our audience with AAA experiences that are innovative, unique and of the highest quality. We are a studio that strives for world-class quality in an open and global environment with cutting-edge technology. Since its release in 2019, the studio's first title, *Death Stranding*, has continued to be widely acclaimed worldwide. The sequel, *Death Stranding 2: On the Beach*, is now available on PlayStation 5.



***Ghost of Yōtei* - Sucker Punch Productions - Sucker Punch Productions Animation Team**

Sucker Punch Productions is a Seattle-based team of developers that have been part of PlayStation Studios since 2011. As well as creating *Ghost of Yōtei* and *Ghost of Tsushima* and its Iki Island expansion, they also made the *Sly Cooper* and *Infamous* series and have been developing incredible games since 1997.



***Keeper* - Double Fine Productions - Zach Baharov, Alex Turner, Jerry Matsko, Anne-Sophie Savard, Geneviève Desbiens**

Keeper's world is a mix of strange and familiar, inhabited by creatures that can at times seem alien due to their impossible blend of inanimate objects and organic matter. The world and characters convey the story without words, using only motion, gesture and dreamlike visions to draw its players in. Animation allows unorthodox creatures to come to life and engage the player character and its companions, making the world feel rich and vibrant.



***South of Midnight* - Compulsion Games - Mike Jungbluth, Sebastien Dussault, Vincent Schneider, Remi Edmond**

From the creators of *Contrast* and *We Happy Few*, *South of Midnight* is a spellbinding third-person action-adventure game set in the American Deep South. As Hazel, you will explore the mythos and encounter creatures of Southern folklore in a macabre and fantastical world. When disaster strikes her hometown, Hazel is called to become a Weaver: a magical mender of broken bonds and spirits. Imbued with these new abilities, Hazel will confront and subdue dangerous creatures, untangle the webs of her own family's shared past and find her way to a place that feels like home.

CHARACTER ANIMATION IN A LIVE ACTION PRODUCTION



***A Minecraft Movie* - Warner Bros. Pictures / Legendary Pictures / Mojang Studios / Vertigo Entertainment / On the Roam, Weta FX - Kevin Estey, Anthony McIndoe, Jade Lorier, Caroline Ting, Luisma Lavin Peredo**

The Wētā FX team honored the iconic block aesthetic from this popular game franchise, adapting it to blend with the live-action performers. Everything from clouds and mountain ranges to creatures, fire, lava and embers followed not only the cube shapes, but also the inherent behaviors from the familiar *Minecraft* world.



***Captain America: Brave New World* - Marvel Studios / Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, Weta FX - Sidney Kombo-Kintombo, Andrew William Park, Marco Röth, Paul Seyb, Thien Ly**

Wētā FX turned Harrison Ford into Red Hulk using cutting-edge skin deformation techniques and simulated muscle firing while still allowing artists full control. Physically plausible down to the last pore and sweat drop, the unmistakable presence of Ford was evident in every expression and grimace, even through the blown-out proportions of a red-hot Hulk.



***How To Train Your Dragon* - DreamWorks Animation, Framestore - Kayn Garcia, Jean-Denis Haas, Meena Ibrahim, Nathan McConnel, Nick Tripodi**

Building the dragons of Berk was a huge undertaking. Creating believable connections between performer and dragon relied on puppeteers who gave the cast scene partners, as well as gimbals built by SFX and programmed by Framestore's animation teams to give each dragon flight characteristics that reflected their anatomical design. The Red Death was something else entirely. Due to its enormous size, the film's dragon antagonist was portrayed through individual sets for its mouth and another for its eye, as well as a digital asset.



***Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age* - BBC Studios Natural History Unit in association with Apple TV, Framestore - Adrien Annesley, Alvise Avati, Riyad Chalakkara, Daniel Mizuguchi, Liam Russell**

For *Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age*, Framestore's animation team brought mammalian megafauna to life with the grounded realism of a nature documentary. Eschewing "hero angles" for a restrained, observational style, we utilized handcrafted keyframe animation to capture the biomechanical weight of creatures like the woolly mammoth. Framestore's proprietary FAT (Framestore Anatomy Tool) system simulated complex muscle dynamics, while the true illusion of life lay in the eyes. By focusing on micro-movements and subtle nuances, we imbued creatures like the solitary Gigantopithecus with genuine thought and emotion, ensuring they felt not just scientifically accurate, but truly alive.



***Superman* - DC Studios, Framestore - Loic Mireault, Michael Elder, Philipp Winterstein, Victor Dinis, Diego De Paula Pereira Batista**

For *Superman*, Framestore's animation team faced a unique challenge: turning James Gunn's real-life rescue dog, Ozu, into the Man of Steel's alien companion, Krypto. Utilizing expert keyframe animation, the team translated Ozu's chaotic energy into a grounded, living character. From a 4-million-strand groom battling Antarctic winds to a cape simulated for comic-book perfection, the team balanced high-end physics with genuine heart. It's a performance that sees Krypto steal the show, capturing the chaotic charm of a dog who isn't always a "good boy."



CHARACTER ANIMATION IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight, Episode III* - Netflix / Montmartre Films / TAT productions - Floriane Caseiro**

Floriane Caseiro is a character animator who began her career on the TV series *The Jungle Bunch*. She later transitioned to feature animation, contributing to films including *The Jungle Bunch 1 & 2*, *Terra Willy, Pil's Adventures* and *Epic Tails*. She served as character lead and lead animator on *Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight*, for which she is an Annie Award nominee for character animation—TV/media.



***Forevergreen, Special Production* - Nathan Engelhardt and Jeremy Spears - Brendan Gottlieb**

Brendan Gottlieb grew up in Virginia and discovered his passion for storytelling through animation at an early age. He developed his craft through a bachelor's in film studies at George Mason University and a character animation program at Animation Mentor. He moved to Los Angeles to work at Walt Disney Animation Studios as an animator in 2015, where he worked on award-winning films such as *Moana*, *Encanto*, *Ralph Breaks the Internet*, *Frozen 2* and *Zootopia 2*. Most recently, he was a lead animator for the VES-nominated short *Better Zoogether* and the award-winning animated short film *Forevergreen*.



***Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical, Special Production* - WildBrain Studios in association with Apple TV, Chris Derochie**

Chris Derochie is a veteran animation director and supervisor with over four decades of experience across hand-drawn animation, digital production and high-end visual effects. Most recently, he served as animation director on *Snoopy Presents: A Summer Musical*, continuing his longstanding contribution to the Peanuts franchise. Chris has directed both entertainment and culturally focused projects, including Indigenous storytelling initiatives such as *Tales of the First People: Spirit Tales*. His filmography includes *A Goofy Movie*, *District 9*, *The Thing*, *Horizon: Zero Dawn* and the *Stargate* franchise. He is also an educator, mentor and accomplished voice actor.



***The Simpsons, Various Episodes* - A Gracie Films Production in Association with 20th Television Animation - Nik Ranieri**

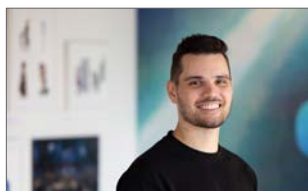
Nik Ranieri was born on Aug. 23, 1961, in Toronto, Canada. At age 9, he discovered his love for drawing cartoons. In his late teens, he enrolled in the animation program at Sheridan College in Oakville, Canada. After graduating in 1984, he began a lengthy career in the animation industry including a 25-year position as a supervising animator at Walt Disney Feature Animation. As of 2017, he has been working on the long-running animated TV series *The Simpsons*. Nik and Jenifer, his wife of 30-plus years, have five children and reside in Orlando, Florida.



***Win Or Lose, Various Episodes* - Pixar Animation Studios - Alli Sadegiani**

Alli Sadegiani is an award-winning Iranian-born Swedish director, animator and animation supervisor. He joined Pixar in 2013 as a character animator after working at Walt Disney Animation and DreamWorks. His credits include *Win or Lose*, *Inside Out*, *Piper*, *Incredibles 2*, *Toy Story 4*, *Soul*, *Luca* and *Tangled*. Alongside his studio work, he makes independent films—his latest award-winning short, *The View*, is a poetic exploration of the human condition, seen through the lens of growing up in 1980s Sweden as the child of immigrant parents.

CHARACTER ANIMATION IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



***Elio* - Pixar Animation Studios - Jonah Sidhom**

Jonah Sidhom joined Pixar Animation Studios in 2022 as an animator. He served as an animator on Disney and Pixar's *Elemental*, *Inside Out 2*, *Elio* and the upcoming feature *Toy Story 5*. As an animator, Sidhom is responsible for crafting the acting and movement of characters, bringing emotional clarity and performance to each scene he works on. Prior to joining Pixar, Sidhom spent six years at Blue Sky Studios from 2015 to 2021, contributing his animation talents to multiple productions. He then joined Walt Disney Animation Studios, where he worked for one year as an animator before moving to Pixar.



***KPop Demon Hunters* - Sony Pictures Animation, Netflix - Ryusuke Furuyai**

Ryusuke Furuya is a character animator at Sony Pictures Imageworks, most recently completing work on the global phenomenon *KPop Demon Hunters*. His work in the film can be seen in some of the iconic fight sequences including the opening airplane fight sequence and bathhouse fight sequence. Ryusuke's Imageworks credits also include the Academy Award-nominated *The Sea Beast*, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, *In Your Dreams* and the upcoming *GOAT*. Prior to Imageworks, Ryusuke worked at a games development company on *Pokémon Shield*, *Pokémon Sword* and *Asura's Wrath*.



***Little Amélie or the Character of Rain* - Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS - Juliette Laurent**

Born to a film editor father, Juliette quickly developed a passion for cinema. Co-directing her graduation film *In Between* at Gobelins confirmed her interest in character development and story-driven projects. Juliette has worked on several feature films such as *Little Vampire*, *Calamity* and *Little Nicholas*. Before joining the production of *Little Amélie* as lead animator, she worked as a storyboard artist on the upcoming feature film *Asterix: The Kingdom of Nubia* and went on to be an animator and posing supervisor on *Lucy Lost*. Since 2015, she has also been developing webcomic projects by night.



***The Bad Guys 2* - DreamWorks Animation - Ludovic Bouancheau**

Animation supervisor Ludovic Bouancheau has worked on some of the most iconic characters in the DreamWorks Animation library. He received an Annie Award nomination for work on *Kung Fu Panda 3* and a VES Award nomination in 2012 for his character animation work on the titular character of *Puss in Boots*. Additional credits include *The Boss Baby*, *Abominable*, *Trolls World Tour* and *Megamind*.



***Zootopia 2* - Walt Disney Animation Studios - Tony Smeed**

Animator Tony Smeed joined Disney Animation in 1996. His first film with the studio was *Dinosaur*. He went on to supervise the character Abby Mallard on the film *Chicken Little* and was an animator on *Meet the Robinsons*, *Bolt* and *Tangled*. He then returned to a supervising role on the character Vanellope for *Wreck-It Ralph*, Kristoff for *Frozen* and Nick Wilde for the original *Zootopia*—on which he was also co-head of animation. From there, he was head of animation on *Frozen 2* and animation supervisor on *Wish*, in addition to animating on *Encanto*, *Strange World* and *Zootopia 2*.



BEST ANIMATED EFFECTS IN A TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Marvel Zombies, Episode 4* – Marvel Animation, Stellar Creative Lab, Inc. – Emma Badia, Tristan Fairclough, Jimmy Dumont, Sheng Hung, Arth Vasavada**

Stellar Creative Lab is an animation studio specializing in high-impact visuals and bold, cinematic storytelling. As the studio behind the animation work on *Marvel Zombies*, the FX nominees Emma Badia, Tristan Fairclough, Jimmy Dumont, Sheng Hung and Arth Vasavada blended handcrafted 2D FX animation with the precision of CG FX simulations to push the boundaries of animated action and horror. This Annie Award nomination for Best FX recognizes a collaborative group of 2D and 3D FX artists driven by craft, innovation and a passion for elevating every frame.



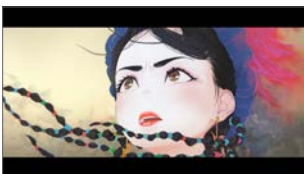
***Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age, Episode: The Big Freeze* – BBC Studios Natural History Unit in association with Apple TV, Framestore – Edward Ferrysienanda, Kevin Christensen, Guy Schuleman, Benedikt Roettger, Kevin Tarpinian**

For *Prehistoric Planet: Ice Age*, Framestore's FX team engineered snow as an active, granular force. Opening with a fully CG mammoth herd, we developed bi-directional simulations where snow accumulation physically weighed down and restricted fur movement. Custom "wind shadowing" logic allowed the herd to authentically shield one another from the blizzard. Proprietary up-res tools injected microscopic detail into drifts and fracturing ice, optimizing simulations to the camera frustum for maximum fidelity. Hexagonal crystal instancing provided the final photoreal glint, ensuring this prehistoric winter felt as biting and tangible as the creatures surviving it.



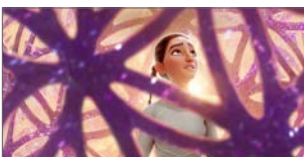
***Spice Frontier, Episode: Escape From Veltegar* – Steamroller Animation, Steamroller Animation – Ben Rische, Tobias Anker, Van Tismo, Thibault Francois, Yung Jie Huang**

Steamroller Animation is an independent, artist-owned studio built on the belief that great animation comes from taking risks. For *Spice Frontier: Escape From Veltegar*, the FX team pushed that philosophy to its limits, designing effects that weren't just visually impressive but creatively executed. Using Unreal Engine as part of our pipeline, we achieved a stylized 2D look through hand-animated multiplane backgrounds, creating depth via layered motion. Characters were designed without traditional lighting or shadows, instead using a custom offset rim-light tool to define silhouettes and separate forms while preserving a flat, graphic aesthetic.



***Star Wars: Visions - Volume 3, Episode: The Bird of Paradise* – Polygon Pictures, Polygon Pictures – Takashi Okamoto, Kohei Yamamoto, Genyo Sasaki, Chizuru Nakamura, Erika Matsui**

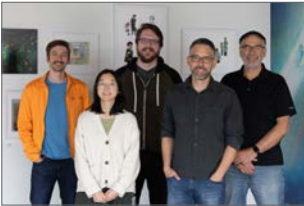
Takashi Okamoto, Kohei Yamamoto, Genyo Sasaki, Chizuru Nakamura and Erika Matsui work at Polygon Pictures as effects artists. With a combined 17 years at Polygon Pictures, together as a team they contributed their significant talents on projects such as *Stillwater*, *Pacific Rim: The Black*, *Mech Cadets*, *Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man* and many more.



***WONDLA, Episode: Lost* – Skydance Animation in Association with Apple TV, ICON Creative Studio – EP 209 ICON Creative Studio FX Team**

ICON Creative Studio powered the visual effects for *WONDLA*, elevating the series with dynamic, immersive visuals. The Effects team crafted pulse-pounding sequences filled with lasers, destruction, and jaw-dropping explosions—making the finale episode positively *explode* with intensity.

BEST ANIMATED EFFECTS IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



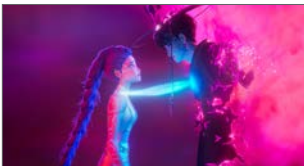
***Elio* - Pixar Animation Studios, Pixar Animation Studios - Ferdi Scheepers, Shaun Galinak, Alyssa Lee, Nate Skeen, Gary Bruins**

The visual wonder of *Elio* is a testament to world-building through technical artistry, exemplified by the volatile lava pits of Grigon's ship and the intricate holograms of the Communiverse. Ferdi Scheepers, Gary Bruins, Nate Skeen, Shaun Galinak and Alyssa Lee represent a collaborative crew of 27 effects artists that brought this imaginative universe to life over years of development. Their collective work engineered everything from natural fire, water and sand to specialized alien phenomena like Glorp, "clone clay," diplo ship thrusters and bioluminescent drool.



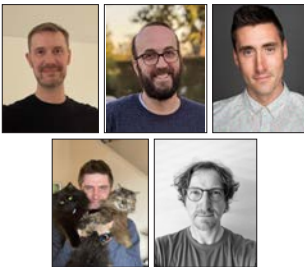
***In Your Dreams* - Netflix, Kuku Studios, Sony Pictures Imageworks - Dmitriy Kolesnik, Stephen Paschke, David Sellares, Stephanie McNair**

The diverse and intricate effects in *In Your Dreams* posed a major artistic and technical challenge for the FX team at Sony Pictures Imageworks. To realize complex simulations—including sand, ocean environments, large-scale destruction and Nightmara's character-driven volumetric effects—the team invested extensive development time exploring a wide range of techniques. Artists collaborated on complex shots, layering dozens of primary and secondary simulations to preserve scale and impact. A unified, nonlinear pipeline across layout, animation, FX, lighting and comp was essential, particularly in balancing Nightmara's movement with her fluid/volumetric form, enabling seamless cross-departmental collaboration to bring these dreams and nightmares to life.



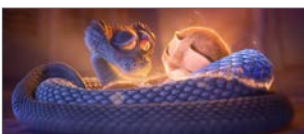
***KPop Demon Hunters* - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix, Sony Pictures Imageworks - Filippo Maccari, Nicola Finizio, Simon Corboux, Naoki Kato, Daniel La Chapelle**

To achieve the anime-inspired stylized look of *KPop Demon Hunters*, the FX team used a hybrid 2D+3D approach for a lot of the FX simulations. 2D hand-drawn FX allowed us to create art-directed, very specific stylized shapes and movement. Based on that, 3D FX are simulated and carefully integrated with the 2D elements. The scope and complexity of FX in *KPop Demon Hunters* was massive, but with innovation, artistry and hard work, our FX team created stunning visuals that supported the story.



***The Bad Guys 2* - DreamWorks Animation - Landon Gray, Michael Losure, Zachary Glynn, Chris Wombold, Olivier Malric**

The effects animation nominees of *The Bad Guys 2*—Landon Gray, Michael Losure, Zachary Glynn, Chris Wombold and Olivier Malric—represent a team of artists that created the unique Bad Guys 2.5D effects for the film. Several of these nominees are also recognized with nominations from the Visual Effects Society.



***Zootopia 2* - Walt Disney Animation Studios - Le Joyce Tong, Shamintha Kalamba Arachchi, Dimitre Berberov, Chris Carignan, Cristiana Covone**

Effects supervisor Le Joyce Tong, effects leads Shamintha Kalamba Arachchi, Dimitre Berberov and Chris Carignan, effects animator Cristiana Covone and the *Zootopia 2* effects department created character-driven effects that brought new worlds, species and visions to life. Creating the vision of a heat-sensing viper was essential for revealing the story's central mystery, while action scenes in snow and water required visual complexity, with layers of snowflakes embedded deeply into the characters' fur and a new toolset created to achieve believable fur-water interaction.



CONGRATULATES ITS 2026 ANNIE AWARDS NOMINEES



BEST FEATURE

BEST FX FEATURE

LONDON GRAY, MICHAEL LOSURE, ZACHARY GLYNN
CHRIS WOMBOLD, OLIVIER MALRIC

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN FEATURE

LUC DESMARCHELIER, FLORIANE MARCHIX

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION FEATURE

LUDOVIC BOUANCHEAU

BEST STORYBOARDING FEATURE

ANTHONY HOLDEN, YOUNG KI YOON



BEST VOICE ACTING
FEATURE

LIL REL HOWERY



BEST CHARACTER DESIGN
TV/MEDIA

SETH ST. PIERRE

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN
TV/MEDIA

FREDERIC STEWART



EDITORIAL IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight, Episode III* - Netflix / Montmartre Films / TAT productions - David Boyadjian**

David Boyadjian is a professional film editor based in France with over 10 years of experience. His work spans scripted fiction, television and film trailers. He has collaborated on a wide range of television and film projects, including long-term creative relationships across formats. He is an Annie Award nominee for editing the animated series *Astérix & Obélix: The Big Fight*, following several years of collaboration with writer/director Alain Chabat and his teams.



***Common Side Effects, Episode: Raid* - Green Street Pictures, Bandera Entertainment, and Williams Street Productions - Tony Christopherson, Joie Lim**

Tony Christopherson is an editor and artist living in Los Angeles. He studied animation and filmmaking at the Minneapolis College of Art & Design. Throughout his career as an editor and animation compositor, he has worked on projects including *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, *Atlanta*, ESPN's *30 for 30* and the critically acclaimed *Common Side Effects*. Joie Lim is an assistant editor based in Los Angeles. Originally from Seattle, Joie studied animation at the School of Visual Arts. Her most notable credits include the Emmy-nominated series *Scavengers Reign* and *Common Side Effects* as assistant editor.



***Haunted Hotel, Episode: The Acolytes of Abaddon* - Titmouse for Netflix - Benjamin Morse, Benjamin Martian, Marshall Wetta**

Benjamin Morse is an Emmy and Peabody Award-winning animation editor whose credits include *Rick and Morty* and *The Simpsons*. He also restores and operates vintage analog photobooths with his wife. Marshall Wetta is an animation editor who has worked for DreamWorks TV, Nickelodeon, Splash, Netflix, ShadowMachine, Titmouse and Skydance. His main influences are his wonderful wife and their two boys. Benjamin Martian is a director, writer and editor, and the co-creator of Adult Swim's *Tigtone*. His editing credits include Adult Swim's *Royal Crackers*, Netflix's *Love, Death + Robots* along with *Haunted Hotel*.



***Invincible S3, Episode: I Thought You'd Never Shut Up* -Amazon MGM Studios, Skybound Animation - Luke Asa Guidici, Matt Michael, Lea Carosella, Liam Johnson, Samantha Schnauder**

Based on the award-winning comic book series by Robert Kirkman, co-creator Cory Walker and contributing creator Ryan Ottley, *Invincible* follows 17-year-old Mark Grayson, as he inherits his father's superpowers and sets out to become Earth's greatest defender, only to discover the job is more challenging than he could have ever imagined. Everything changes as Mark is forced to face his past, and his future, while discovering how much further he'll need to go to protect the people he loves.



***Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell: Deathwatch, Episode: Up From the Grave* - Ubisoft Film & Television - Thomas Belair, Nicolas Bourgeois, Julien Perez**

In this first-ever adaptation of the acclaimed stealth video game franchise *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell*, legendary agent Sam Fisher is drawn back into the field when a wounded young operative seeks out his help. Produced by Ubisoft, in partnership with Derek Kolstad (*John Wick*), Sun Creature and Fost.

EDITORIAL IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Arco - Remembers, MountainA France, France 3 Cinéma - Nathan Jacquard, Ugo Bienvenu

A magical and beautifully animated journey through time, *Arco* is a dazzling adventure about a 10-year-old boy from a peaceful, distant future who accidentally travels back to the year 2075 and discovers a world in peril. As Arco develops a charming and touching friendship with a young girl named Iris, they band together and along with her trusted robot caretaker Mikki, set out on a quest to get Arco home, while the two children may also be the only ones who can save our planet.



Elio - Pixar Animation Studios - Anna Wolitzky, Steve Bloom, Noah Newman, Greg Snyder, Ben Morris

As editors, we found no trouble in relating to a character who is isolated, lonely and desperate to escape his circumstances. But with the help of our stellar team of assistants and production staff, we were able to complete our mission. *Elio* represents the contributions of hundreds of talented artists, and it was our honor to craft a film that speaks to the power of finding your family, wherever they may be in the universe. OK. Bye. We love you.



KPop Demon Hunters - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix - KPop Demon Hunters Editorial Team

The *KPop Demon Hunters* editorial team includes editor Nathan Schauf; associate editors Margaret Lily Andres, Gabriel Thorburn and Jeff Newman; first assistant editor Kira Tamagawa; assistant editors Charlene Ramos and Emma DuPell; and music editor Oren Yaacoby. Together, this team worked in close collaboration with the filmmakers and music teams to assemble a film that became a cultural phenomenon around the world.



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain - Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS - Ludovic Versace

Born in the suburbs of Lyon, Ludovic first practiced sports and martial arts before turning to animation. His graduation film *Golden Boy* marked the start of his career. Since then, he divides his time between animation work and community involvement. Passionate about the political power of cinematic imagery, he uses animation primarily as tools to address social and political realities. For *Little Amélie*, he collaborated closely with the co-directors and composer Mari Fukuhara to create a rhythm and emotion that seeks to best reflect the sensations of young Amélie as a child.



Olivia & las Nubes - Cine Chani, Historias de Bibi & Guasábara Cine - Tomás Pichardo Espaillat

Tomás Pichardo Espaillat (b. 1987) is a storyteller from the Dominican Republic, working primarily on animation, film and illustration. He was granted a full-year scholarship at Fabrice Benetton's Design Research Center, in Treviso, Italy, in 2013, where he worked on film and video. Tomás received his BFA in animation at Parsons, The New School of Design, in 2010, and his AA degree in fine arts at Altos de Chavón in 2008.



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.



PHIL LORD AND CHRIS MILLER

Phil Lord and Chris Miller are the Academy Award-winning duo behind some of today's most successful and inventive films and series, including the *Spider-Verse* and *Lego Movie* franchises, *The Mitchells vs. The Machines*, *21 & 22 Jump Street*, *Cocaine Bear*, *Strays*, *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, *The Afterparty*, and *Clone High*.

Their next project is *Project Hail Mary*, the feature adaptation of Andy Weir's novel starring Ryan Gosling for MGM. Lord and Miller are directing and producing alongside Aditya Sood, Amy Pascal, Gosling, and Rachel O'Connor. The film opens March 20, 2026.

On the features side, the duo wrote and produced all three films of the *Spider-Verse* franchise: *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* (2018), which won the Academy Award, Golden Globe, and BAFTA for Best Animated Feature and over 20 critics' prizes; *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023), which earned Academy Award, BAFTA, and Golden Globe nominations, seven Annie Awards, and a Critics Choice Award for Best Animated Feature, grossing over \$690 million worldwide; and the third film of the franchise, *Spider-Man: Beyond the Spider-Verse*, will be released in theaters on June 18, 2027.

Other films produced by Lord Miller include *Los Frikis* (Miami Film Festival 2024), *Cocaine Bear*, *Strays* (both 2023), and *The Mitchells vs. The Machines* (Netflix, 2021), which became the streamer's biggest animated film that year and earned an Academy Award nomination for Best Animated Feature.

The pair launched *The Lego Movie* franchise with their 2014 hit, which debuted at #1 and remained on top of the box office for four straight weeks as the year's fifth highest-grossing domestic release. They also directed *21 and 22 Jump Street* and wrote and directed *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*.

In television, Lord and Miller were behind Apple TV+'s *The Afterparty* (2022-23), created, written, and directed by Miller, with Lord executive producing. They also produced the Max revival of their acclaimed animated series *Clone High*, which premiered its third season in February 2024. Lord Miller also produced the upcoming 2026 MGM+ and Prime Video series *Spider-Noir* starring Nicholas Cage.

The duo has multiple projects in development, including a Universal Pictures film inspired by the *Archie* comics, and multiple live-action and animated shows based on Sony's Marvel Characters.

WINSOR MCCAY AWARD



RECOGNITION FOR CAREER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ART OF ANIMATION



MICHAEL DUDOK DE WIT

Michael Dudok de Wit was born in 1953, and after his education in the Netherlands, he studied etching in Geneva and animation at Farnham, England, where he made his first film, *The Interview*. After animating for a year in Barcelona, he settled in London in 1980. As a freelancer, he directed and animated many award-winning commercials for television and cinema, particularly for Richard Purdum Productions.

In 1992, he created his short *Tom Sweep* followed by *The Monk and the Fish*, which was created at the French studio Folimage. This film was nominated for an Oscar. His best-known short film, *Father and Daughter*, won the Grand Prix in Annecy and an Oscar. In 2004, he completed his short film *The Aroma of Tea*, and more recently, he wrote and directed the feature film *The Red Turtle* in France with Prima Linea Productions. *The Red Turtle* was a Wild Bunch - Studio Ghibli co-production. Michael is particularly grateful for the many inspiring conversations with Isao Takahata during the story development phase. *The Red Turtle* was nominated for an Oscar in 2017 and won the Special Prize at Un Certain Regard at the Cannes Film Festival 2016, as well as numerous other international awards.

Michael also illustrates books and gives masterclasses on animation, creativity and related subjects at art colleges and universities in the UK and abroad.



CHRIS SANDERS

Chris Sanders, the middle of three children from an artistic family, grew up drawing and writing short stories. "Art was the dominant thing in our house," he remembers. "On Friday nights, we all sat at the dining room table and painted as a family." Chris sketched throughout school and was the cartoonist for his high school newspaper, but he hadn't considered art as something he could do for a living. Then his grandmother read an article in the *Denver Post* about the California Institute of the Arts, and everything changed. After CalArts, Chris went to work for Marvel and then Disney, where he was a story artist on *Rescuers Down Under* and received writer/story and screenplay credits on *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *The Lion King* and *Mulan*. He would go on to write, storyboard and, with Dean DeBlois, co-direct, *Lilo & Stitch*, which earned Chris his first Oscar® nomination. (He also voiced and continues to voice Stitch.)

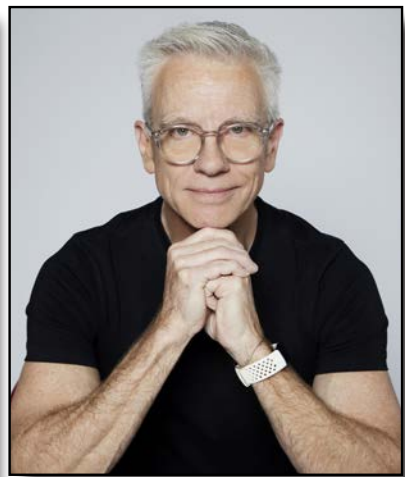
In 2006, Chris left Disney Studios to join the team at DreamWorks Animation, first as a character designer on the *Shrek* and *Madagascar* franchises, then on *Kung Fu Panda*, eventually jumping at the chance to direct *How to Train Your Dragon* with his *Lilo & Stitch* partner Dean DeBlois. Following the success of *How to Train Your Dragon* (Oscar®, BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations, Annie and Visual Effects Society Awards, etc.), Chris and Kirk DeMicco wrote and directed *The Croods* (yet more awards) establishing, along with *How to Train Your Dragon*, two hugely successful and enduring DreamWorks franchises.

Prior to writing and directing his most recent feature, *The Wild Robot*, Chris directed *The Call of the Wild* for 20th Century Studios, a live-action version of the classic Jack London novel, starring Harrison Ford. *The Wild Robot*'s powerful story about kindness and perseverance has earned even more recognition, including multiples of the awards Chris had already won and additional worldwide honors too numerous to mention. He has writing credits on the live-action remake of *Lilo and Stitch* and is currently developing *The Wild Robot* sequel.

Chris Sanders is a member of the Academy Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, ASIFA-Hollywood, and the Visual Effects Society. In addition to his four Academy Award® nominations, he has been recognized by ASIFA-Hollywood throughout his career, nominated for ten Annies and winning five...um...make that six, including this year's Winsor McCay Award!

Congratulations

AWN Joins ASIFA-Hollywood in Honoring
Four Legendary Artists
With the Winsor McCay Award for Career Achievement



Michaël Dudok de Wit, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, and Chris Sanders

Congratulations as well to all the nominees and award winners
at the 53rd Annual Annie Awards!

Half a century - plus 3 years - of celebrating artistic excellence
in an increasingly animated world!



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50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2026

POSTER BY SETH



VOICE ACTING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Bob's Burgers, Episode: Don't Worry Be Hoopy* – 20th Television Animation – Dan Mintz (Character: Tina Belcher)**

Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, Dan Mintz started his career doing standup in Boston, going on to write for shows such as *Nathan for You* and *Veep*. He is best known as the voice of Tina Belcher on *Bob's Burgers*, as well as T.V. on *Adventure Time* and has appeared on *Silicon Valley*, *The Goldbergs* and *Speechless*.



***Hazbin Hotel, Episode: Behind Closed Doors* – Amazon MGM Studios, A24, Bento Box Entertainment – Erika Henningsen (Character: Charlie Morningstar)**

Erika Henningsen Broadway: *Just in Time* (Sandra Dee, original Broadway cast), *Mean Girls* (Cady Heron, original Broadway cast, Outer Critics' Circle nomination), *Les Misérables* (Fantine). TV: *The Four Seasons* (Netflix), *Girls5eva* (Peacock/Netflix), *Harlem* (Amazon), *FBI: International* and *Blue Bloods* (CBS), *Live From Lincoln Center: Show Boat* (PBS). Charlie Morningstar in Amazon/A24's animated musical comedy *Hazbin Hotel*. Film: *Loser* (upcoming). UMich grad.



***Long Story Short, Episode: Shira Can't Cook* – Tornante Television and ShadowMachine for Netflix – Abbi Jacobson (Character: Shira Schwooper)**

Abbi Jacobson is a writer, director, producer and actor. She served as the co-creator and co-star of the hit television series *Broad City* on Comedy Central, as well as the critically acclaimed Amazon series *A League of Their Own*. She is a New York Times bestselling author of the collection of personal essays *I Might Regret This*, as well as her illustrated book *Carry This Book*. Abbi can be heard voicing Bean in Netflix's animated series *Disenchantment*, Katie Mitchell in the Oscar-nominated Netflix animated film *The Mitchells vs. the Machines* and Shira Swooper in Netflix's *Long Story Short*.



***Smiling Friends, Episode: Shmaloogles* – Williams Street – Zach Hadel (Character: Evil Wizard)**

Animator, voice actor, writer and director Zach Hadel rose to prominence as *psychicpebbles* on YouTube with insanely popular animated videos like *Get Out of My Car* and the *Hellbenders* series. Hadel has also previously collaborated with Michael Cusack on their joint-effort livestream, *The Very Positive Stream*.



***The Wonderfully Weird World of Gumball, Episode: The Amadain* – Hanna-Barbera Studios Europe – Alkaio Thiele (Character: Gumball Watterson)**

Alkaio Thiele is best known for his role as Roman Russo on Disney's *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* on Disney+. Alkaio is an accomplished voice actor, receiving a best voice acting Annie nomination for his work as Gumball Watterson in Cartoon Network/Hulu's *The Wonderfully Weird World of Gumball*. He has also earned a Children's & Family Emmy nomination for outstanding younger voice performer for his role as Spidey/Peter Parker in Disney's *Spidey and His Amazing Friends*. He is currently recording his fourth season as the voice of Janner Igby in Angel Studios' *The Wingfeather Saga*.

VOICE ACTING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Dog Man - DreamWorks Animation - Lil Rel Howery (Character: Chief)

Chicago native Lil Rel Howery is a multi-talented comedian and actor celebrated for his breakout role as TSA agent Rod Williams in the Oscar-winning film *Get Out* for director Jordan Peele. Known for his personal storytelling, he starred in *The Carmichael Show* and his own sitcom, *Rel*. Additional credits include the critically acclaimed film *Judas and the Black Messiah*, as well as *Free Guy*, *Good Boys*, *Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie*, *The Angry Birds Movie 2* and *Fatherhood*. He made his television debut in 2007 on the reality television competition program *Last Comic Standing*.



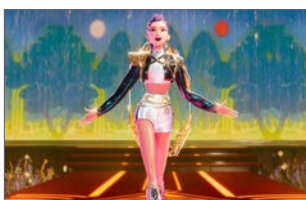
Elio - Pixar Animation Studios - Remy Edgerly (Character: Glordon)

Remy Edgerly (voice of Glordon in Disney and Pixar's *Elio*) was born and raised in Los Angeles. He has been a working actor since the age of 6, starting with commercials and quickly moving into the world of voice acting, voicing characters in animated shows like Disney Jr.'s *T.O.T.S.*, Apple TV+'s *Pretzel and the Puppies*, *Helluva Boss*, Cartoon Network's *Summer Camp Island* and *Craig of the Creek* and many more. He has also lent his voice to video games like *Kingdom Hearts III* and *Wattam* and animated features such as *Sing 2* and *Seal Team*.



In Your Dreams - Netflix Presents a Kuku Studios Production / Sony Pictures Imageworks - Craig Robinson (Character: Baloney Tony)

Craig Robinson is an acclaimed actor, comedian and musician known for his scene-stealing performances across film, television and stage. He brought immense warmth and comic precision to Baloney Tony in *In Your Dreams*. Robinson is widely celebrated for his work in *The Office*, *Hot Tub Time Machine*, *Killing It* and *This Is the End*, as well as his stand-up and musical comedy.



KPop Demon Hunters - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix - Arden Cho (Character: Rumi)

Arden Cho is a multi-talented actress, singer, model and entrepreneur who continues to break barriers in Hollywood. Best known for her standout roles as the speaking voice of Rumi in *KPop Demon Hunters*, Kira Yukimura in *Teen Wolf* and Ingrid Yun in Netflix's *Partner Track*, she has built a career defined by versatility, passion and purpose. Born in Amarillo, Texas, Arden fell in love with the arts at an early age. While studying psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she discovered her true calling in acting, ultimately making the leap to Los Angeles.



The Twits - Netflix Presents / The Roald Dahl Story Company - Maitreyi Ramakrishnan (Character: Beesha)

Maitreyi Ramakrishnan first captured the attention of international audiences as the charmingly relatable Devi Vishwakumar in Netflix's hit series *Never Have I Ever* and has shifted into high gear ever since. She earned a spot on the 2024 Forbes 30 Under 30 list and is the face of Fable & Mane's 2026 global campaign. Other recent projects include voicing Priya in Pixar's *Turning Red*, Beesha in Netflix's *The Twits* and scene-stealing as Ella in Disney's *Freakier Friday*. Up next, she stars in Amy Wang's horror-comedy *Slanted*, releasing in March, and Netflix's upcoming comedy dance film *Best of the Best*.



WRITING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



#1 Happy Family USA, Episode 101: NINE TEN - Amazon MGM Studios, A24, Cairo Cowboy - Ramy Youssef, Pam Brady

From creator Ramy Youssef comes *#1 Happy Family USA*, an adult-animated series following the maniacally upbeat Husseins—the most patriotic, most peaceful and most definitely-not-suspicious Muslim family in post-9/11 “Amreeka.” With satire and absurdity, it redefines finding humor in hardship as they navigate the early 2000s under the watchful eyes of their terrified neighbors.



Adult Swim's *The Elephant*, Special Production - Titmouse and Williams Street - Pendleton Ward, Ian Jones-Quartey, Rebecca Sugar, Patrick McHale

Adult Swim's *The Elephant* is a rare creative experiment in which each of the three acts are made in isolation. With Sugar and Jones-Quartey working as a duo and McHale and Ward overseeing their own separate parts, the special is guided by “game masters” and *Adventure Time* alums Jack Pendarvis and Kent Osborne for a storytelling experiment that unfolds as a collaborative surprise, ultimately merging into a single, unexpected narrative.



***Common Side Effects*, Episode: Pilot - Green Street Pictures, Bandera Entertainment, and Williams Street Productions - Joe Bennett, Steve Hely**

Joe Bennett is the co-creator of *Common Side Effects* and 2024 Emmy-winning *Scavengers Reign*. He is a founding partner of animation studio Green Street Pictures. Steve Hely is the co-creator of *Common Side Effects*. He wrote for television shows including *Late Show with David Letterman*, *Veep*, *American Dad!*, *30 Rock* and *The Office*. He wrote three books, including *How I Became a Famous Novelist*, winner of the 2010 Thurber Prize for Humor.



***Lulu is a Rhinoceros*, Special Production - Bento Box and Propagate in association with Apple - Allison Flom**

Allison Flom is a storyteller and advocate from NYC. She's now adapting her award-winning podcast *Erased* for TV with Allison Williams and Propagate, writing *Fighting Time*, a series based on the bestselling book, and workshopping her new play. Allison leads weekly art groups in several women's prisons. She serves on the boards of Just Detention International and The Sunny Center, both supporting survivors of incarceration. Allison also co-chairs the Action Board at Getting Out Staying Out. Honored and astounded by this nomination, she is grateful beyond words for her dad, Jason Flom, whose inspiration, advocacy and relentlessness made this possible.



***Win or Lose*, Episodes: 4, *Pickle* - Pixar Animation Studios - Carrie Hobson, Michael Yates**

Carrie Hobson and Michael Yates are the directors, writers and executive producers of *Win or Lose*. Hobson started as an intern at Pixar in 2012 and was hired full time in 2016 as a story artist—working on *Toy Story 4* and associate executive producing *Luca*. Yates joined Pixar in 2015 as a story artist and worked on *Soul*. Inspired by their individual paths and perspectives in life, the pair conceived of the overall concept for the multi-protagonist *Win or Lose*, taking Pixar in a fresh direction with its unique structure and characters.

WRITING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Elio - Pixar Animation Studios - Julia Cho, Mark Hammer, Mike Jones

Elio writers Julia Cho, Mark Hammer and Mike Jones tapped into Pixar's deeply collaborative process to build the story side-by-side with the studio's artists throughout production. The writers remained involved at nearly every stage as keepers of the film's story and character arcs. Maintaining a close partnership with the directors was crucial following *Elio*'s brain trust screening, requiring the writers to continually rethink and rewrite. Mark Hammer's (*Shotgun Wedding*) early script work provided a crucial foundation for Julia Cho (*Turning Red*) and Mike Jones (*Soul*, *Dream Productions*) to team up for the film's completion.



KPop Demon Hunters - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix - Danya Jimenez, Hannah McMechan, Maggie Kang, Chris Appelhans

Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, Dan Mintz started his career doing standup in Boston, going on to write for shows such as *Nathan for You* and *Veep*. He is best known as the voice of Tina Belcher on *Bob's Burgers*, as well as T.V. on *Adventure Time* and has appeared on *Silicon Valley*, *The Goldbergs* and *Speechless*.



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain - Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS - Liane-Cho Han, Aude Py, Maïlys Vallade, Eddine Noël

Little Amélie is a collaboration between talented French artists and screenwriters with over 20 years of experience in the industry. Maïlys, director, story artist, animator and visual developer on many rewarded independent animated features; Liane-Cho Han, director and story artist on many animated features and renowned advertisements; Aude Py, Paris-based screenwriter and head of the writing department at La Fémis; Eddine, the talented production designer who worked on animated features like *The Little Prince* and *The Summit of the Gods*. Maïlys, Liane-Cho and Eddine have previously worked together on *Long Way North* and *Calamity Jane*.



Scarlet - Studio CHIZU - Mamoru Hosoda

Mamoru Hosoda began his career in animation in 1991 when he joined Toei Doga, now known as Toei Animation. Afterward, he transitioned to freelance work and directed the feature animations *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time* (2006) and *Summer Wars* (2009). In 2011, Hosoda co-founded Studio Chizu with producer Yuichiro Saito. He thereafter directed and wrote the screenplay for *Wolf Children* (2012) and *The Boy and the Beast* (2015). His work on *Mirai* (2018) garnered a nomination for the 91st Academy Award for best animated feature film. His film *Belle* (2021) was selected for the Cannes Premiere section at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.



Zootopia 2 - Walt Disney Animation Studios - Jared Bush

Zootopia 2 writer and director Jared Bush is also chief creative officer of Disney Animation and also co-director and co-writer of the original Academy Award-winning *Zootopia*. He was also executive producer and co-writer of the record-breaking hit *Moana 2*, as well as the screenwriter of the first *Moana*. He received an Oscar, Golden Globe and BAFTA award for *Encanto*, on which he was director (with Byron Howard) and co-writer (with Charise Castro Smith).

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering those lost in 2025...

1. **Mary Adams** - cel painter, checker
2. **Babatunde Akinloye** - production supervisor
3. **Loni Anderson** - voice actor
4. **Victor Atkinson** - studio owner
5. **Tony Benedict** - writer producer
6. **Russell Blandino** - ink & paint
7. **Jevon Bue** - background designer
8. **Ruth Buzzi** - voice actor
9. **Shirley Calstrom** - cel services
10. **Loren Carpenter** - CG research and development
11. **James Cathcart** - voice actor
12. **Alf Clausen** - composer
13. **Kyle Clark** - director, author
14. **David Steven Cohen** - writer, composer
15. **Lorraine Couzzi** - cel painter, checker
16. **Audrey "Pat" Covello** - ink & paint
17. **Skip Craig** - track reader, editor
18. **Sybil Cuzzort** - ink & paint
19. **Ray DaSilva** - animator, story artist
20. **Barry Dempsey** - technical director
21. **Norman Drew** - animation supervisor
22. **Jerry Eisenberg** - character designer
23. **Mariano "Mar" Elepano** - animator, educator
24. **Jules Feiffer** - writer, cartoonist
25. **George "Bingo" Ferguson** - scene planner
26. **Paul Ferlinger** - director
27. **Russell Fields** - ink & paint
28. **Gail Frank** - animator
29. **Jim Franzen** - character designer, educator
30. **Colin Fox** - voice actor
31. **Ron Friedman** - writer, producer
32. **Jeff Garcia** - voice actor
33. **Joseph Gilland** - effects animator, author
34. **Kimberly Gregory** - voice actor
35. **Marsha Griffin** - writer, producer, story editor
36. **Carol Grosvenor** - production designer
37. **Joe Hale** - animator, producer
38. **Takaya Hashi** - voice actor
39. **Karen Hathaway** - editor
40. **Co Hoedeman** - stop motion animator
41. **Rick Hoppe** - animator, educator
42. **Todd Jacobsen** - animator, story artist
43. **Ian Jenkins** - technical director
44. **David Johansen** - musician, voice actor
45. **Jonathan Joss** - voice actor
46. **Karina Kaminski** - layout artist, associate producer
47. **Steve Kasper** - producer, writer
48. **Diane Keaton** - voice actor
49. **Tom Keagan** - animator
50. **Udo Kier** - voice actor
51. **Val Kilmer** - voice actor
52. **Christine Kingsland** - ink & paint
53. **Fumi Kitahara-Otto** - public relations, studio campaigns
54. **Richard Laslo** - ink & paint
55. **Romeo Lopez** - layout, story artist
56. **George Lowe** - voice actor
57. **Dave Mallow** - voice actor
58. **Dan McGrath** - writer
59. **Alex Morano** - technical director
60. **Rick Morrison** - producer, animation director, studio executive
61. **Phil Mulloy** - animator, live action filmmaker
62. **Tatsuo Nakadai** - voice actor
63. **Jay North** - voice actor
64. **Lionel Orozco** - stop motion animator
65. **Steve Pepoon** - writer
66. **Rob Reiner** - voice actor
67. **Clive Revill** - voice actor
68. **Tristan Rogers** - voice actor
69. **James Russell** - compositor, supervisor
70. **Ed Seeman** - animator
71. **Jim Smith** - animator, story artist, writer, musician
72. **Christine Smith-Ishimine** - timing director
73. **Alissa Solomon** - assistant animator
74. **Michelle Spitz** - writer
75. **Lynne-Marie Stewart** - voice actor
76. **Charles Strauss** - composer
77. **Drew Struzan** - poster artist
78. **Joe Suggs** - writer
79. **Mark Thornton** - director, story artist, designer
80. **Robert Verrall** - animator
81. **Rene Victor** - voice actor
82. **Philippe Vidal-Dumas** - animator, director
83. **Dirk Von Besser** - ink & paint
84. **Jim Ward** - voice actor
85. **Malcolm-Jamal Warner** - voice actor
86. **George Wendt** - voice actor

ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD MERIT AWARDS



The ASIFA-Hollywood Merit Award is given by the Board of Directors to individuals for current and on-going service to the organization and the animation industry. This year's awards are presented to Haley Mirren Douthit and Jeffrey New.



HALEY MIRREN DOUTHIT

Haley Mirren Douthit is an active member that has served as a reliable volunteer for ASIFA-Hollywood and has dedicated her time to helping run the booth at several conventions and events for several years.



JEFFREY NEW

Jeffrey New is a longtime ASIFA-Hollywood member and in this last year has dedicated countless hours to AnimAID keeping us organized to best serve those in our community that lost everything on the California Wildfires.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE NOMINEES

FOR THE 53RD ANNUAL ANIMATED FILM SOCIETY
ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD ANNIE AWARDS

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CONGRATULATES

ALL THE OUTSTANDING ANNIE AWARD NOMINEES!

BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN



***Eva The Owlet, Episode: Welcome to Treetopington* – Brown Bag Films / Scholastic Entertainment in association with Apple TV**

Eva The Owlet stars Eva, a creative, cheeky owlet who lives next door to her best friend Lucy in the woodland world of Treetopington. With big ideas and an even bigger personality, Eva goes on high-flying adventures, expressing herself in her diary along the way!



***Kindergarten: The Musical!, Episode: Gotta Go!* – OddBot, Disney Branded Television**

Created for preschoolers and their families, *Kindergarten: The Musical* is an animated musical series about navigating all of the exciting and emotional experiences that come with starting school for the very first time. The series, via Broadway-style song and dance numbers, follows 5-year-old Berti, her teacher Ms. Moreno, and new friends at Porter Elementary as the kids express their big feelings and their incredible imaginations.



***Wow Lisa, Episode: Rainy Day* – Punkrobot**

Lisa is a very curious six-year-old mouse who loves to collect all sorts of things, finding treasures everywhere she looks. In each episode, Lisa and her friends turn everyday activities into extraordinary adventures that highlight the wonders of the world around them. *Wow Lisa* fosters the natural curiosity and creativity in children, inviting them to observe and discover their surroundings. The show promotes an eco-friendly lifestyle, showing habits like upcycling, composting, wearing secondhand clothes, etc.



***Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum, Episode: I am Jackie Robinson* – 9 Story Media Group, Brown Bag Films**

Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum is an animated adventure-comedy for kids 4-7 inspired by Brad Meltzer and Chris Eliopoulos' best-selling kids book series, *Ordinary People Change the World*. It follows the adventures of Xavier, Yadina and Brad as they tackle everyday problems by doing something extraordinary. Every adventure will help young viewers make the connection between the character traits that made a historical figure a hero and those same qualities within themselves, helping them become their own heroes of the present.



BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR CHILDREN



***My Melody & Kuromi, Episode: All For Our Best Friend* – Sanrio Company for Netflix**

My Melody opens a cake shop in Mariland. After encountering a heart in the forest, strange things start happening. Meanwhile, Kuromi's sweets shop across the street is always empty. Kuromi searches for the secret to My Melody's cakes. My Melody and Kuromi work to prepare for a sweets-making contest judged by the pastry chef Pistachio. No one knows that this will lead to an incident that threatens the fate of Mariland



***Spice Frontier, Episode: Escape From Veltegar* – Steamroller Animation**

Spice Frontier: Escape From Veltegar is the story of a human chef embarking on a culinary-driven adventure across the galaxy. As he navigates unfamiliar worlds and cultures, food becomes a bridge for connection, survival and discovery. Created by the artist-owned team at Steamroller Animation, the pilot reflects years of collaboration and creative risk-taking—blending bold world-building, stylized visuals and heartfelt storytelling to explore what it means to find your family in the most unexpected places.



***Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Episode: Rise of the Night Ninja* – Nickelodeon Animation Studios and Point Grey Pictures**

Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles introduces a new generation to the heroes in a half-shell, putting the emphasis on “teenage” and bringing audiences a vision of TMNT that more closely reflects the modern world we live in. Coming off the success of the feature film *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem*, the series follows the Turtles as they try to integrate into human society and go to school like regular kids. The Turtles have to figure out who they are without their brothers to survive!



***The Wonderfully Weird World of Gumball, Episode: The Rewrite* – Hanna-Barbera Studios Europe**

Welcome back to Elmore, where the laws of reality are a joke and family life is anything but ordinary. Whether he's battling an evil fast-food empire, facing off against a sentient AI in love with his mom, or trying to stop Banana Joe from wearing pants—Gumball Watterson drags his brother Darwin, sister Anais and the rest of the town of Elmore along for the ride. With even wilder stories, bigger twists and surreal humor, the show is so amazing that they had to rename it!.



***Wylde Pak, Episode: Sungandeul* – Nickelodeon Animation Studios / Jam Filled Entertainment**

Wylde Pak is a multigenerational, blended Korean American family sitcom about two half-siblings, Lily and Jack, learning to live together for the first time. Inspired by the real-life experiences of co-creators Paul Watling and Kyle Marshall, the show follows the kids as they navigate the rollercoaster of modern family dynamics and embrace the messiness of life. This episode presents a series of vignettes that capture the endearing, infuriating and hilarious moments that define this special family.

BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION FOR MATURE AUDIENCES



Bob's Burgers, Episode: Grand Pre-Pre-Pre Opening - 20th Television Animation

The series follows Bob (H. Jon Benjamin), who runs Bob's Burgers with the help of his wife and their three kids. Bob has big ideas about burgers, but the rest of the clan falls short on service. Despite the greasy counters and lousy location, the Belchers are determined to make every "Grand Re-Re-Re-Opening" a success. In addition to Bob, the increasingly popular Belcher family includes his charming and musical wife Linda (John Roberts); their eldest and slightly awkward daughter Tina (Dan Mintz); goofy and whimsical middle child Gene (Eugene Mirman); and cunning and clever youngest daughter Louise (Kristen Schaal).



Common Side Effects, Episode: Pilot - Green Street Pictures, Bandera Entertainment and Williams Street Productions

Common Side Effects (Adult Swim/HBO Max) tells the story of Marshall, an amateur scientist who's discovered a mushroom that can cure almost anything. When he shares his secret with his old high school lab partner Frances, they're pulled into a conspiracy involving the DEA, big pharma and rogue mycologists in a propulsive comic thriller. From Green Street Pictures and Bandera Entertainment. Created by Joe Bennett (*Scavengers Reign*) and Steve Hely (*Veep*, *The Office*). Executive producers include Mike Judge, Greg Daniels, Dustin Davis, Dave King, Suzanna Makkos, James Merrill, Sean Buckelew, Benjy Brooke and Kelly Crews.



Haha, You Clowns, Episode: 107 - Duncan Holds a Baby - Williams Street

Haha, You Clowns is an unexpected new series from Adult Swim that celebrates wholesome family programming. Join the Campbell boys, three doting teenagers, and their tenderhearted dad as they live, laugh and love their way into your living rooms. Their bond with each other is fiercely loyal. They're big dudes with big feelings who are learning to navigate life in the wake of their mother's death, sensing her presence in everyday adventures. Think of it as a family sitcom that keeps tripping over itself to pull at your heartstrings.



Il Baracchino, Episode: Claudia entra in un caffè - Luckyred, Megadrigo, Prime Video

Produced by Lucky Red, Megadrigo and Prime Video, the Amazon Original *Il Baracchino* is the directorial debut of Nicolò Cucci and Salvo Di Paola. The series follows Claudia, an idealistic aspiring art director, as she attempts to save a crumbling, legendary stand-up comedy club. To revive the venue, she recruits an unlikely ensemble of tragicomic comedians, including a caustic, chain-smoking pigeon, a "boomer" reincarnation of Leonardo da Vinci, and the Grim Reaper. Featuring a cast of major Italian stand-up comedians, the production uniquely blends 3D, stop-motion and 2D animation to create a surreal and distinctive black-and-white visual language.



South Park, Episode: Sermon on the 'Mount - Comedy Central LLC

Season 27 follows the residents of South Park as a series of political standoffs, cultural disputes and tech-driven schemes cause escalating turmoil throughout the town. When the adults lose their grip on reality, the boys confront a version of their community that becomes harder to understand.

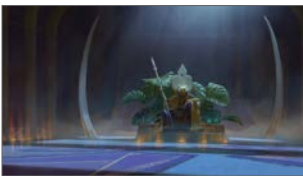


BEST ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION, LIMITED SERIES



***Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight, Episode III* - Netflix / Montmartre Films / TAT productions**

Alain Chabat is a French actor, screenwriter, director, producer and TV host. He rose to fame with comedy troupe Les Nuls on Canal+ before winning a César Award for best first film with *Didier*. He later directed the cult blockbuster *Asterix & Obelix: Mission Cleopatra*. In 2025, he earned the César Award for best supporting actor in Gilles Lellouche's *Beating Hearts (L'Amour ouf)*. Chabat recently created and directed Netflix's animated series *Asterix & Obelix: The Big Fight*, where he also voices Asterix. On TV, he is the creator and host of the hit shows *Burger Quiz* and *Le Late*.



***Eyes of Wakanda, Episode: Into The Lion's Den* - Marvel Studios**

Marvel Animation's *Eyes of Wakanda* follows the adventures of brave Wakandan warriors throughout history. In this globe-trotting adventure, the heroes must carry out dangerous missions to retrieve vibranium artifacts from the enemies of Wakanda. They are the Hatut Zeraze, and this is their story.



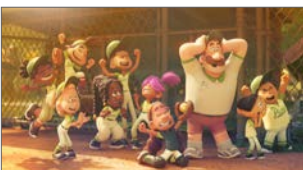
***Marvel Zombies, Episode: 2* - Marvel Studios**

After the Avengers are overtaken by a zombie plague, a desperate group of survivors discovers the key to bringing an end to the super-powered undead, racing across a dystopian landscape and risking life and limb to save their world.



***Star Wars: Visions - Volume 3, Episode: BLACK* - david production**

'BLACK,' part of the third installment of *Star Wars: Visions*, was written and directed by Shinya Ohira, who also served as character designer, animation director and key animator. Shinya Ohira is a Japanese animator, director and character designer who has worked in the anime industry for over 40 years. Known for his unique animation style, Ohira is recognized for his work on *Akira*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *Spirited Away* and *Kill Bill: Vol. 1*. Recent projects include *One Piece*, *The Boy and the Heron* and *Batman Ninja*.



***Win Or Lose, Episode 8: Home* - Pixar Animation Studios**

Pixar's *Win or Lose* is an achievement that pushes the studio's narrative and artistic boundaries, visualizing the unique points of view of eight different characters across its layered and interwoven story. The series employs a sophisticated multi-perspective structure in which the medium of television allowed the studio to explore character themes and reversals in ways not possible in film. With its multi-protagonist story and the series' many animation styles, *Win or Lose* transforms what could have been a simple children's sports story into a hilarious and vulnerable examination of human nature, family dynamics and the hidden struggles that define our daily lives.



Disney · PIXAR

Elio



Disney · PIXAR

WIN OR LOSE

A huge and heartfelt congratulations to our nominees
and crew members from Elio and Win or Lose.

Ok, bye, love you! And go Pickles!

PIXAR



STORYBOARDING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Love, Death + Robots, Episode: How Zeke Got Religion* - Blur Studio for Netflix - Edgar Martins**

Edgar Martins is a Portuguese, Emmy-winning storyboard artist and director with over two decades of experience in animation and visual storytelling. His credits include *Love, Death & Robots*, where he worked as a storyboard artist and story consultant, *Klaus* as head of story, and Guillermo del Toro's *Pinocchio* as a storyboard artist. He also directed the short *Poet Anderson: The Dreamwalker* with his twin brother Sergio Martins and continues developing original projects across animation and film.



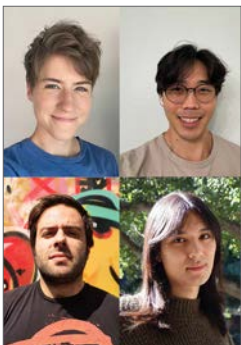
***ParaNorman: The Thrifting, Special Production* - LAIKA - Coleton Palmer, Katherine Jay Myong, Heewon Jeong**

ParaNorman: The Thrifting's story artists, Coleton Palmer, Katherine Jay Myong and Heewon Jeong, are part of Laika's core story development team. They contribute to the brainstorming and early development story work on various projects at the studio and were part of the first brainstorming team to help shape what *ParaNorman: The Thrifting* would become. Blending cinematic horror with the comedy and heart that defined the original *ParaNorman* film, the story team brought their fresh take to Laika's universally loved property.



***Snow Bear, Short Film* - The Art of Aaron Blaise, LLC - Aaron Blaise**

Aaron Blaise is a Winsor McCay Award winner. He spent 21 years with Walt Disney Feature Animation and worked as a supervising animator, character designer and director. In 2003 he was Academy Award-nominated for *Brother Bear*. He left Disney in 2010 to pursue other projects and recently completed his award-winning short film *Snow Bear*. The project took him three years to complete. He boarded and animated the entire project. In the end it was over 11,000 drawings. Aaron is also founder of CreatureArtTeacher.com, one of the world's leading online art education platforms.



***Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Episode: Rise of the Night Ninja* - Nickelodeon Animation Studios and Point Grey Pictures - Richard Chi, Matthew Kim, Sheldon Vella, Lyndsay Simpson**

Sheldon Vella is a 15-year storyboard artist, director and all-around animation try-hard. In debt to those who honor him with the title of "peer." Richard Chi: Although action/drama are his bread and butter, he prides himself on being able to make any sequence stand out with his meticulous storyboards. Lyndsay Simpson boarded a variety of genres in TV animation, and finds most of her creative joy in crafting authentic character moments, particularly for comedy/drama. Matthew Kim: From civil engineering to storyboarding, their work remains eclectic and inspired. Can work in a multitude of styles, their boards run the range of action/comedy/drama.



***Win Or Lose, Episodes: 8, Home* - Pixar Animation Studios - Esteban Bravo**

Esteban Bravo joined Pixar Animation Studios in 2021 as a story artist on *Win or Lose*. Following his time on the show, Bravo worked as a story artist on Pixar's latest original feature film *Elio*. As a story artist, Bravo visualizes and translates a series or film's script into hand-drawn storyboards. He works closely with the director and head of story to conceptualize story ideas, map out how a scene will be shot and define character performances. Prior to Pixar, Bravo worked as a story artist at Blue Sky Studios from 2017 until its closure in 2021.

STORYBOARDING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



Arco - Remembers, MountainA France, France 3 Cinéma - Ugo Bienvenu

Ugo Bienvenu is a Paris-based illustrator, director, screenwriter, comic book author, producer, publisher and entrepreneur. Raised in Guatemala, Chad and Mexico, he studied at École Estienne, Gobelins, CalArts, Les Arts Décoratifs de Paris and Animation Sans Frontières. He has illustrated for major press, musicians and luxury brands, notably collaborating with Hermès since 2019. His comic book *Préférence Système* won the Angoulême Critics' Prize in 2019. Through his company Remembers, co-founded with Felix de Givry, he has produced films, music videos, series and campaigns for major brands. His debut feature *Arco* premiered at Cannes 2025, winning multiple awards.



Elio - Pixar Animation Studios - Tony Rosenast

Tony Rosenast is a story artist at Pixar Animation Studios, where he has contributed to a wide range of feature films and shorts including Disney and Pixar's *Up*, *Cars 2*, *Cars 3*, *Inside Out*, *Sanjay's Super Team*, *The Good Dinosaur*, *Piper*, *Soul*, *Turning Red*, *Lightyear*, *Elio* and the 'Puppies' episode from the Disney+ series *Dug Days*. Additionally, Rosenast's story work includes uncredited contributions to *Coco*, *Onward*, *Luca* and *Elemental*. Rosenast joined Pixar in 2005, playing a key role in shaping story, character and emotional clarity across projects, collaborating closely with directors, writers and fellow artists throughout development and production.



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain - Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS - Nicolas Pawlowski

Nicolas Pawlowski is a French animation director and storyboard artist. He co-directed the short films *Fêlures* (2008) with Alexis Ducord and *Smart Monkey* (2014) with Vincent Paronnaud, both produced by Je Suis Bien Content. In 2017, he worked as a storyboard artist on *Zombillénium*, directed by Arthur de Pins and Alexis Ducord. He also contributed to *Les Hirondelles de Kaboul* (2018) as storyboarder and worked as head of the storyboard department for season 2 of the animated series *LastMan*. From 2022 to 2023, he worked on *Angelo dans la forêt mystérieuse* as storyboard artist and 2D character designer.



The Bad Guys 2 - DreamWorks Animation - Anthony Holden, Young Ki Yoon

Prior to his work on *The Bad Guys 2*, previous credits of Anthony Holden include *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*, *Ruby Gillman: Teenage Kraken* and *Mr Peabody & Sherman*. Additional credits include *Ultraman Rising*, *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* and *The Mitchells vs. the Machines*. Young Ki Yoon's previous credits include *Kung Fu Panda 4*, *Orion and the Dark* and *Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts*.



Zootopia 2 - Walt Disney Animation Studios - Hikari Toriumi

Story artist Hikari Toriumi boarded a pivotal *Zootopia 2* scene, exposing the cracks in Judy and Nick's partnership. She began her career as an animation intern at Pixar Animation Studios during the production of *Coco*. She then worked on several Glen Keane Productions titles and made her directorial debut on the Emmy-nominated series *Oni: Thunder God's Tale*. She is currently a story artist on Disney Animation's 2026 feature *Hexed*.



DIRECTING IN AN ANIMATED TELEVISION/MEDIA PRODUCTION



***Common Side Effects, Episode: Cliff's Edge* – Green Street Pictures, Bandera Entertainment and Williams Street Productions – Vincent Tsui**

Vincent Tsui is a French animation director. Over the past decade, he has collaborated with leading studios including Google, Buck and Oddfellows. Most notably, he was an episodic director on the Emmy-nominated series *Scavengers Reign* and *Common Side Effects*, produced by Green Street Pictures. Vincent is currently a supervising director on Green Street's new original show.



***DAN DA DAN, Episode: Clash! Space Kaiju vs. Giant Robot!* – Science SARU, Mainichi Broadcasting System, Distributed by GKIDS – Fuga Yamashiro, Abel Góngora**

Fuga Yamashiro joined Science Saru in 2016. He served as unit director on *Inu-Oh* and as an episode director on *The Heike Story*, as well as assistant director on *Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken!* and *The Tatami Time Machine Blues*. *Dan Da Dan* marks his directorial debut. Abel Góngora joined Science Saru and took part in many of director Masaaki Yuasa's projects. *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off* marked his first time directing a full series. Góngora storyboarded and directed the opening animation of *Dan Da Dan* and he serves as co-director on *Dan Da Dan: Season 2*.



***Not a Box, Episode: It's a Boat* – Silver Creek Falls Entertainment / Passion Pictures in association with Apple – Siri Melchior**

Siri Melchior is a designer, director, writer and illustrator with a focus on children's media. She has directed award-winning commercials, music videos, short films and TV series for kids, including the BAFTA-nominated *The Dog Who Was a Cat Inside* and two award-winning TV series based on her own illustrated books, *Rita and Crocodile* and *LILI*. She was part of founding two companies, Trunk Animation and Ladybird Films, but currently works as a director for Passion Pictures, London. Siri has also illustrated and written over 50 books in her native Denmark. *Not a Box* is Siri's first production with an American broadcaster..



***Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, Episode: Rise of the Night Ninja* – Nickelodeon Animation Studios and Point Grey Pictures – JJ Conway, Kevin Molina-Ortiz**

Kevin Molina-Ortiz is a celebrated storyboard artist whose dynamic visual storytelling and bold creative voice have brought life to a wide range of media. With a flair for action, comedy and emotionally driven narratives, Kevin has lent his talents to major IPs including *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Transformers* and *Sonic the Hedgehog*. JJ Conway has been living his dream of working in TV/film for the past 15 years. In that time he's served as a storyboard artist, director and head of story on some of the top franchises including *Sonic the Hedgehog*, Nickelodeon's *Avatar* and six different *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* projects.



***The Quinta's Ghost, Short Film* – Martirio Films & Illusorium films – James A. Castillo**

James A. Castillo is a Cuban/Spanish Emmy-winning director and designer. His work spans illustration, animation and virtual reality, driven by a passion for pushing creative and technical boundaries. During his decade-long career, he has worked with clients such as Sony Animation, Netflix, Paramount and DreamWorks, and his credits include *TMNT: Mutant Mayhem* (Paramount) and *The Mitchells vs. the Machines* (Sony) among others. Castillo's debut VR film, *Madrid Noir*, earned him both a Webby and an Emmy Award. In 2023 he founded Martirio Films, an animation production company aimed to challenge, provoke and entertain.

DIRECTING IN AN ANIMATED FEATURE PRODUCTION



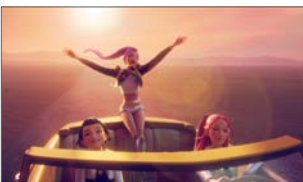
Arco - Remembers, MountainA France, France 3 Cinéma - Ugo Bienvenu

A magical and beautifully animated journey through time, *Arco* is a dazzling adventure about a 10-year-old boy from a peaceful, distant future who accidentally travels back to the year 2075 and discovers a world in peril. As Arco develops a charming and touching friendship with a young girl named Iris, they band together and along with her trusted robot caretaker Mikki, set out on a quest to get Arco home, while the two children may also be the only ones who can save our planet.



Chainsaw Man - The Movie: Reze Arc - MAPPA - Tatsuya Yoshihara

Born in 1988. Animation director, animator and episode director Tatsuya Yoshihara's notable directorial works include *Muromi-san*, *Black Clover* and *Wistoria: Wand and Sword*. On *Wistoria: Wand and Sword*, he not only served as director, but also took on the roles of series composer and scriptwriter, demonstrating his wide-ranging talents.



KPop Demon Hunters - Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix - Maggie Kang, Chris Appelhans

Maggie Kang and Chris Appelhans are the directors of the global hit *KPop Demon Hunters*, which began as an original idea from Kang and became fully realized through their partnership. Prior to joining Sony Animation, Seoul-born Kang contributed her talents as a story artist to projects from DreamWorks Animation, Illumination Entertainment and Warner Animation Group. Appelhans, an Idaho native, previously directed *Wish Dragon* at Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix, and has also been a part of several productions from Disney, Laika and Paramount.



Little Amélie or the Character of Rain - Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS - Maïlys Vallade, Liane-Cho Han

Maïlys Vallade and Liane-Cho Han, experienced animators with over 20 years in the industry, co-directed *Little Amélie*. Maïlys is a director, screenwriter, story artist, animator and visual developer for many highly awarded independent feature films such as *Ernest & Célestine* (Oscar-nominated) and *I Lost My Body* (Annie best animated feature). Liane-Cho Han is a French director, screenwriter, storyboarder and animation supervisor based in Denmark who has worked on high-end animated features like *The Illusionist* (Oscar-nominated). Together they collaborated on *The Little Prince* (César winner), *Long Way North* and *Calamity Jane* (both Annie-nominated films).



Scarlet - Studio CHIZU - Mamoru Hosoda

Mamoru Hosoda began his career in animation in 1991 when he joined Toei Doga, now known as Toei Animation. Afterward, he transitioned to freelance work and directed the feature animations *The Girl Who Leapt Through Time* (2006) and *Summer Wars* (2009). In 2011, Hosoda co-founded Studio Chizu with producer Yuichiro Saito. He thereafter directed and wrote the screenplay for *Wolf Children* (2012) and *The Boy and the Beast* (2015). His work on *Mirai* (2018) garnered a nomination for the 91st Academy Award for best animated feature film. His film *Belle* (2021) was selected for the Cannes Premiere section at the 74th Cannes Film Festival.

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BEST ANIMATED INDEPENDENT FEATURE



***A Magnificent Life* - Mediawan, What the Prod and Bidibul productions**

At the height of his fame, Marcel Pagnol receives a commission from the editor-in-chief of a major women's magazine to write a literary serial in which he can recount his childhood, his Provence, his first loves... As he begins writing the first pages, the child he once was—little Marcel—suddenly appears to him. Thus, his memories resurface as the words flow: the arrival of talkies, the first major film studio, his attachment to actors, the experience of writing. The greatest storyteller of all time becomes the hero of his own story.



***Arco - Remembers*, MountainA France, France 3 Cinéma**

A magical and beautifully animated journey through time, *Arco* is a dazzling adventure about a 10-year-old boy from a peaceful, distant future who accidentally travels back to the year 2075 and discovers a world in peril. As Arco develops a charming and touching friendship with a young girl named Iris, they band together and along with her trusted robot caretaker Mikki, set out on a quest to get Arco home, while the two children may also be the only ones who can save our planet.



***I am Frankelda* - Cinema Fantasma, Warner Bros. Discovery, Woo Films, Cine Vendaval**

I am Frankelda is our homage to the art of storytelling. As siblings, we've been captivated by fiction since childhood, starting with drawings and games and evolving into literature, theater, cinema and animation. Our passion for creating worlds led us to conceive Francisca Imelda, or Frankelda, a fictional Mexican horror writer from the 19th century. Like her, we have faced frustration from rejection, yet we remain determined to pursue our ambition for creative expression.



***Lost In Starlight* - Netflix / Climax Studios**

Lost In Starlight, set in 2050 Seoul, follows Nan-young, an astronaut dreaming of Mars, and Jay, a musician with a broken dream. They find each other among the stars, guided by their hopes and love for one another.



***Scarlet* - Studio CHIZU**

From visionary Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Mamoru Hosoda (*Mirai*) comes a powerful, time-bending animated adventure inspired by Hamlet, Shakespeare's classic tale of revenge and mortality. Scarlet, a sword-wielding princess from a war-torn medieval kingdom, sets out to avenge her father's death—but fails, awakening in a mysterious afterlife. There, she meets an idealistic young man from our present day whose compassion challenges her thirst for vengeance. When Scarlet is confronted once more by her father's killer, she must decide: cling to hatred, or discover a life beyond revenge.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR ANNIE AWARD NOMINEES



Best Feature
ZOOTOPIA 2

Best FX – Feature
**Le Joyce Tong, Shamintha Kalamba Arachchi, Dimitre Berberov,
Chris Carignan, Cristiana Covone**

Best Character Animation – Feature
Tony Smeed

Best Music – Feature
Shakira, Ed Sheeran, Blake Slatkin, Michael Giacchino

Best Production Design – Feature
Cory Loftis, Limei Z. Hsieh

Best Storyboarding – Feature
Hikari Toriumi

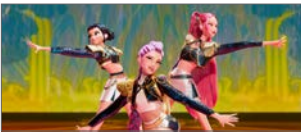
Best Writing – Feature
Jared Bush

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE



***Elio* – Pixar Animation Studios**

For centuries, people have called out to the universe looking for answers...in Disney and Pixar's original feature film *Elio*, the universe calls back! The cosmic misadventure introduces Elio, a space fanatic with an active imagination and a huge alien obsession. "He's an unusual kid who's obsessed with getting abducted by aliens," says director Domee Shi. Elio feels like there's nothing for him on Earth—he dreams of going to another world where he's accepted for who he is.



***KPop Demon Hunters* – Sony Pictures Animation for Netflix**

KPop Demon Hunters, a Netflix film from Sony Pictures Animation, follows K-pop superstars Rumi, Mira and Zoey—when they aren't selling out stadiums, they use their secret identities as badass demon hunters to protect their fans from an ever-present supernatural threat. Together, they must face their biggest enemy yet—an irresistible rival boy band of demons in disguise. Since its release, *KPop Demon Hunters* has become the most popular release of all time globally on Netflix, racking up over 541 million hours viewed in its first 91 days of release.



***Little Amélie or the Character of Rain* – Maybe Movies, Ikki Films, Distributed by GKIDS**

The world is a perplexing, peaceful mystery to Amélie until a miraculous encounter with chocolate ignites her wild sense of curiosity. As she develops a deep attachment to her family's housekeeper, Nishio-san, Amélie discovers the wonders of nature as well as the emotional truths hidden beneath the surface of her family's idyllic life as foreigners in post-war Japan. Brought to life in the completely original animated style of directors Maïlys Vallade and Liane-Cho Han, *Little Amélie or the Character of Rain* tells a tender, poignant and visually stunning story about the healing power of human connection.



***The Bad Guys 2* – DreamWorks Animation**

The Bad Guys 2 was directed by Pierre Perifel, produced by Damon Ross and co-directed by JP Sans.



***Zootopia 2* – Walt Disney Animation Studios**

In *Zootopia 2*, rookie cops Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde's partnership is tested after they become fugitives from the law while chasing a mysterious pit viper who arrives in town to uncover buried secrets as old as the city of Zootopia itself.

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 animation industry
- Recognize achievement of excellence in the art and field of animation
- Increase the public awareness of 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 will 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 our 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.

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, 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. 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 (\$200/year) professionally active in animation and associated industries

Associate Membership (\$100/year) enthusiasts and studio support

Student Membership (\$25/year) individuals currently enrolled as full-time students

Patron Membership (\$250/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.

HOW TO JOIN

Register online at **ASIFA-Hollywood.org/membership**

WE'RE ONLINE

You can find ASIFA-Hollywood and the Annie Awards on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

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THE ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD ANIMATION EDUCATORS FORUM

ASIFA-Hollywood's Animation Educators Forum is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of animation through education. Our international membership 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, and feature student work in the online Student Animation Showcase.



Our Student Scholarship program supports students enrolled in accredited college animation programs around the world, enabling them to complete animation projects, purchase equipment, conduct research, and complete thesis projects. In 2025, the Scholarship Committee awarded a total of \$26,800 to six students from the United States, Canada, and Spain.

The AEF's Faculty Grant program provides financial support to individuals or groups in academic settings with research, scholarly, or creative animation projects. For 2025, the Faculty Grant Committee awarded ten grants totaling \$30,000. The selected proposals included:

- Production support for two animated shorts
- A study of experimental techniques, including real-time animation, artificial intelligence, interactive and 3D animation for big dome projection
- Support for a community college animation festival
- Assistance in the production of documentaries
- Funding for a podcast exploring how animation artists stay creatively motivated in their work and life

The AEF hosts panel discussions throughout the year. Last year's topics included "A Legacy of Learning: 40 Years with Tom Sito" at CTN eXpo, and "BFA?, MFA?, PhD?, WTF?" at the AEF's annual General Membership Meeting.

The AEF's Animation Salon is an ongoing series of informal Zoom presentations and discussions. Speakers range from past AEF Faculty Grant recipients to educational and industry professionals. In 2025 we held three Salons including a film screening, book launch and a talk about animation design.

The AEF and ASIFA-Hollywood presented the sixth **Student Animation Showcase**, celebrating the study and craft of animation by students from college-level animation programs worldwide. We are proud to continue to present this "first look" at the talent of these graduates as they begin their careers in the animation industry.

For more information about the AEF and its programs, please visit our website:
www.animationeducatorsforum.org.





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SKYDANCE
ANIMATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THIS YEAR'S
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— INCLUDING —



WONDRA

**BEST FX
TV/MEDIA**

EPISODE: LOST
ICON CREATIVE STUDIO

REMEMBERING TOM WOODWARD



Tom Woodward – 1.25.1932–1.25.2025 (Passed away on his 93rd birthday)
Designer of the Annie Award and first ASIFA-Hollywood logo.

"June Foray and my father were very good friends. When June decided to start ASIFA-Hollywood, she turned to my father to design the logos to represent the group and to design the Annie Award, which is still used today."

– Scott Woodward



BRAVO

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2026

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NETFLIX THANKS

ASIFA-HOLLYWOOD

AND PROUDLY CONGRATULATES OUR ANNIE AWARDS® NOMINEES

FILM

KPOP DEMON HUNTERS

BEST FEATURE

BEST DIRECTION - FEATURE
Maggie Kang, Chris Appelhans

BEST WRITING - FEATURE
Danya Jimenez, Hannah McMechan,
Maggie Kang, Chris Appelhans

BEST VOICE ACTING - FEATURE
Arden Cho

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - FEATURE
Ryusuke Furuya

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - FEATURE
Scott Watanabe, Ami Thompson

BEST EDITORIAL - FEATURE

BEST FX - FEATURE
Filippo Maccari, Nicola Finizio, Simon Corbaux,
Naoki Kato, Daniel La Chapelle

BEST MUSIC - FEATURE

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - FEATURE
Helen Chen, Dave Bleich, Wendell Dalit,
Scott Watanabe, Celine Kim

FIXED

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - FEATURE
Craig Kellman

IN YOUR DREAMS

BEST VOICE ACTING - FEATURE
Craig Robinson

BEST FX - FEATURE
Dmitriy Kolesnik, Stephen Paschke,
David Sellares, Stephanie McNair

LOST in STARLIGHT

BEST FEATURE - INDEPENDENT

The Twits

BEST VOICE ACTING - FEATURE
Maitreyi Ramakrishnan

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - FEATURE
Kei Acedera, Tristan Poulain, Jules Rigolle,
Fernando Peque, Remi Salmon

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - FEATURE
Estefania Pantoja, Alexandre Diboine,
Clement Dartigues, Fernando Peque, Remi Salmon

TELEVISION

Asterix & Obelix the big fight

BEST TV/MEDIA - LIMITED SERIES

BEST CHARACTER ANIMATION - TV/MEDIA
Floriane Caseiro

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Borja Montoro

BEST EDITORIAL - TV/MEDIA
David Boyadjian

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Aurélien Predal

DEVIL MAY CRY

BEST MUSIC - TV/MEDIA
Power Glove, Alex Seaver, Tyler Demorest

HAUNTED HOTEL

BEST EDITORIAL - TV/MEDIA
Benjamin Morse, Benjamin Martian, Marshall Wetta

LONG STORY SHORT

BEST VOICE ACTING - TV/MEDIA
Abbi Jacobson

LOVE DEATH + ROBOTS

BEST CHARACTER DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Robert Valley

BEST PRODUCTION DESIGN - TV/MEDIA
Gigi Cavenago

BEST STORYBOARDING- TV/MEDIA
Edgar Martins

MY MELODY KUROMI

BEST TV/MEDIA - CHILDREN

