69TH ANNUAL
ACADEMY AWARDS®

NEWS

ACADEMY OF
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SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY AWARDS® ANNOUNCED FOR 1996

BEVERLY HILLS, CA — An Oscar® statuette and 12 other awards will be presented for scientific and technical achievement by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the 69th Academy Awards, Academy President Arthur Hiller announced today.

The statuette will be presented to the Imax Corporation for the method of filming and exhibiting high-fidelity, large-format, wide-angle motion pictures. It is an upgrade of a Scientific and Engineering Award originally presented to the Imax Systems Corporation in 1985.

The awards were voted by the Academy's Board of Governors, based upon recommendations from the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee, chaired by Edmund M. DiGiulio.

Awards will be presented this year on Saturday evening, March 1, 1997, at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel.

Scientific and Technical Awards are given for devices, methods, formulas, discoveries or inventions of special and outstanding value to the arts and sciences of motion pictures and that also have a proven history of use in the motion picture industry.

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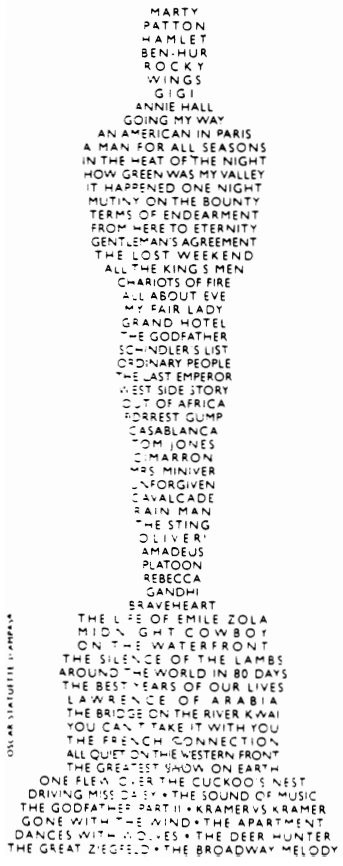

Awards may be granted in any of three classifications: Academy Award of Merit (Oscar statuette), for basic achievements that have a definite influence upon the advancement of the industry; Scientific and Engineering Award (Academy plaque), for those achievements that exhibit a high level of engineering and are important to the progress of the industry; and Technical Achievement Award (Academy certificate), for those accomplishments that contribute to the progress of the industry.

Academy Awards for Scientific and Technical achievement for 1996 are:

TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

(Academy Certificates)

To **Perry Kivolowitz**, for the primary design, and **Dr. Garth Dickie** for the development of the algorithms, for the shape-driven warping and morphing subsystem of the **Elastic Reality Special Effects System**.

These components form the core of an efficient and easy-to-use system that greatly simplifies the creation of shape-changing visual effects in motion pictures.

To **Ken Perlin** for the development of **Perlin Noise**, a technique used to produce natural appearing textures on computer generated surfaces for motion picture visual effects.

The development of Perlin Noise has allowed computer graphics artists to better represent the complexity of natural phenomena in visual effects for the motion picture industry.

To **Nestor Burtnyk** and **Marceli Wein** of the National Research Council of Canada for their pioneering work in the development of software techniques for **Computer Assisted Key Framing for Character Animation**.

The pioneering work of Burtnyk and Wein demonstrated the first significant use of the computer in two dimensional key-frame character animation and influenced many subsequent developments in computer animation techniques.

Technical Achievement Awards, continued:

To **Grant Loucks** for the concept and specifications of the **Mark V Director's Viewfinder.**

The Mark V has simplified the operation and extended the range of a valuable tool used for previewing scenes covering a wide range of lens focal lengths and film formats.

To **Brian Knep, Craig Hayes, Rick Sayre** and **Thomas Williams** for the creation and development of the **Direct Input Device.**

The Direct Input Device is an encoded armature that allows stop-motion animators to bring their skills and artistry directly into computer animation.

To **James Kajiya** and **Timothy Kay** for their pioneering work in producing **computer generated fur and hair** in motion pictures.

This pioneering work inspired the development of the computer-generated fur and hair systems that are in use today.

To **Jeffrey Yost, Christian Rouet, David Benson** and **Florian Kainz** for the development of a system to create and control **computer generated fur and hair** in motion pictures.

This system represents a significant advancement for controlling computer generated short fur and long hair in a motion picture production environment.

To **Richard A. Prey** and **William N. Masten** for the design and development of the **Nite Sun II lighting crane and camera platform.**

The Nite Sun II is a mobile crane system for location lighting and camera use. This unique, self-contained system with its platform, has the ability to lift 1,200 pounds of personnel, lighting and camera equipment up to 124 feet above the ground.

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SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING AWARDS

(Academy Plaques)

To **John Schlag, Brian Knep, Zoran Kacic-Alesic** and **Thomas Williams** for the development of the **Viewpaint 3D Paint System** for film production work.

Viewpaint is an interactive 3D paint system that allows artists to apply color and texture details to computer generated effects.

To **William Reeves** for the original concept and the development of **particle systems used to create computer generated visual effects** in motion pictures.

The concept of particle systems inspired and continues to influence further developments in the area of computer generated tornadoes, flames, sparks, snow, clouds and other visual effects.

To **Jim Hourihan** for the concept and design of the **Dynamation software system** for motion picture visual effects.

Dynamation is used to create a wide variety of computer generated effects such as tornadoes, flames, sparks, snow and clouds in motion pictures.

To **Jonathan Erland** and **Kay Beving Erland** for the development of the **Digital Series Traveling Matte Backing System** used for composite photography in motion pictures.

This system reduces both the time and expense of shooting and posting composite photography. The spectral reflectance of the backing material, paint formulation, and the spectral transmission of the flourescent lamps match the peak sensitivity of the recommended camera film.

ACADEMY AWARD OF MERIT

(Oscar statuette)

To **Imax Systems Corporation** for the method of filming and exhibiting high-fidelity, large-format, wide-angle motion pictures.

(Originally awarded a Scientific and Engineering Award [plaque] in 1985, this is an "upgrade" award.)

Integral to the process for presenting cinema programs in the Imax or Omnimax format is the rolling loop projector, developed from a film transport mechanism originally invented by P. R. W. Jones. Improvements made on the patent by the Imax Systems Corporation, and the development of other peripheral equipment, made possible the high-speed, horizontal projection of 70mm pictures, fifteen perforations per frame, onto screens of unusually large proportions in theaters designed to specifications for optimum viewing of those motion pictures. An exceptional sense of participation is experienced by audiences when pictures, photographed to the requirements of the process, are shown in Imax or Omnimax theaters.

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