



Masters of FX: Behind the Scenes with Geniuses of Visual and Special Effects

By Ian Failes

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It would be rare these days to find a film that did not in some way depend on the magic of visual effects, from the raging computer-generated dinosaurs in Steven Spielberg's *Jurassic Park*, to the fantastical worlds of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, and the photoreal tiger and ocean in Ang Lee's *Life of Pi*. Through interviews with 16 of the leading effects pioneers from around the world (see list below), author Ian Failes explores the making of some of the most memorable film sequences ever produced, showcasing the shift from practical to digital magic with original behind-the-scenes imagery, shot breakdowns, and detailed explanations of some of the secrets behind the making of cinema's most extraordinary creations.

Visual effects artists and films discussed include:

Dennis Muren (*Star Wars: Episodes IV–VI*; *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*; *Jurassic Park*; *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*; *War of the Worlds*)

Bill Westenhofer (*Babe: Pig in the City*; *Cats & Dogs*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *The Golden Compass*; *Life of Pi*)

Joe Letteri (*The Lord of the Rings* trilogy; *King Kong*; *Avatar*; *Planet of the Apes*; *The Hobbit* trilogy)

Rob Legato (*Apollo 13*; *Titanic*; *The Aviator*; *Hugo*)

Paul Franklin (*Pitch Black*; Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy; *Inception*; *Interstellar*)

Richard Edlund (*Star Wars: Episodes IV–VI*; *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; *Ghostbusters*; *Multiplicity*);

Edson Williams (*X-Men: The Last Stand*; *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*; *The Social Network*; *Captain America* films)

Karen Goulekas (*Godzilla*; *The Day After Tomorrow*; *10,000 BC*; *Green*

Lantern);

Chris Corbould (*Golden Eye; Die Another Day*; Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight* trilogy; *Inception*);

Ian Hunter (*The X-Files; The Dark Knight; The Dark Knight Rises; Inception; Interstellar*)

John Rosengrant (*Terminator* films; *Jurassic Park; Iron Man* films; *Real Steel*)

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Editorial Review

Review

"The new book *Masters of FX* from Focal Press highlights 16 of the visual effects professionals who are among the best in their craft. ... Through its profiles of these VFX pioneers and their films, *Masters of FX* is a successful exploration into a complex and fascinating art form." ?John Mraovich, MovieArtBook.com

About the Author

Ian Failes is a journalist with visual effects trade publication **fxguide.com**. Based in Sydney, Australia, Ian has a background in law, but found his passion watching and writing about films and visual effects.

Users Review

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Robert Jenkins:

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