



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.

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From reader reviews:

Leta Welter:

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