



It's Academy Awards Season - Great Artists With Great Technology Are Creating Great Movies

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Autodesk and Shotgun Software Are CG Tools of Choice for All 5 Best VFX and 7 Best Picture Academy Award Nominees

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 17, 2015-- The role of technology in the service of great storytelling continues to evolve, and this year's Academy Award nominees reflect the impressive artistry of the global computer graphics (CG) industry. From Best Pictures and VFX, to Best Cinematography, Animated Features and Shorts, [Autodesk, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ:ADSK) media and entertainment software played a supporting role in the creation of many of this year's most acclaimed movies. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences also recognized Autodesk technology with a Scientific and Technical Achievement Award (Sci-Tech Award).

"It's an honor to contribute to such a creative community in which the Best VFX Oscar-winning movie for 20 consecutive years has used Autodesk software," explains Chris Bradshaw, Autodesk senior vice president. "We're also so pleased the Academy recognized Robert Bridson on our R&D team for his voxel data structures technology."

Best Visual Effects

In the Best Visual Effects category, all five film nominees—"Captain America: The Winter Soldier," "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," "Guardians of the Galaxy," "Interstellar" and "X-Men: Days of Future Past"—used Autodesk technology to help bring these films to audiences worldwide. The phenomenal work contained in these five movies was created by thousands of talented artists working at 25 visual effects studios on four continents with work spanning the production process from previsualization through virtual cinematography, post-production and color grading.

This year's nominees for Best Animated Feature show off a broad range of animation styles from hand-drawn, to stop-motion to CG. Autodesk software played a role in four of the five Best Animated Feature nominees: "Big Hero 6," "The Boxtrolls," "How to Train Your Dragon 2," and "The Tale of The Princess Kaguya;" two Best Animated Short contenders: "Feast" and "The Dam Keeper;" and seven of the eight movies nominated for Best Picture: "American Sniper," "Birdman," "Boyhood," "The Grand Budapest Hotel," "The Imitation Game," "Selma" and "The Theory of Everything."

Scientific and Technical Achievement Awards

The Academy hosts a special awards ceremony annually to recognize individuals whose achievements "demonstrate a proven record of contributing significant value to the process of making motion pictures." In [a press release](#), Richard Edlund, Academy Award-winning visual effects artist and Scientific and Technical Awards Committee Chair said, "They [our honorees] exemplify the phenomenal creativity of professionals in the scientific and technical community, and the invaluable contributions they make to what is arguably the most creative industry in the world."

This year the Academy awarded a Technical Achievement Award to Robert Bridson, a senior principal research scientist at Autodesk, for his "pioneering work on voxel data structures and its subsequent validation in fluid simulation tools [that] have had a significant impact on the design of volumetric tools throughout the visual effects industry. This voxel technology (aka 3D pixel) has been used throughout the industry with Weta Digital in New Zealand as one of the earliest adopters for "Avatar." Autodesk scientists, designers and technologies have been similarly recognized seven times in past SciTech Award ceremonies.

Autodesk congratulates the following studios that used Autodesk and/or Shotgun software to contribute movie magic to this year's Academy Award-nominated films: Alchemy 24, Animal Logic, The Artery, BlueBolt, Cantina Creative, Cinesite, CoSA Visual Effects, Digital Domain, Double Negative, DreamWorks Animation, EFILM, Encore, Finland Finish, Framestore, Fuel VFX, Hydraulx, Industrial Light & Magic, LAIKA, Lola Visual Effects, LOOK! Effects, Luma Pictures, Luxx Studios, Method Studios, Modern VideoFilm, Mokko Studio, Moving Picture Company, Prime Focus, Proof, Rhythm & Hues, RISE VFX Studio, Rising Sun Pictures, Rodeo FX, Sony Pictures Imageworks, Studio Ghibli, Technicolor, The Third Floor, Tonko House, Union Visual Effects, Vision Globale, Walt Disney Animation Studios, Weta Digital and Whiskytree.

To watch trailers and breakdown reels from many of these nominees, please visit the Autodesk YouTube channel [Academy Award playlist](#).

About Autodesk

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