



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

*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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