



NEWS



June 6: LA's Egyptian Theatre hosts Festival of VFX

Fango got the exclusive lowdown from publicist Ellen Pasternack on the 8th Annual Festival of Visual Effects, to be held July 6-8 at Hollywood's Egyptian Theatre (6712 Hollywood Boulevard). The three-day Visual Effects Society extravaganza, set to feature workshops and discussions led by some of the industry's leading artists (including Academy Award winners Dennis Muren, John Myhre and Robert Skotak), will focus on "cutting-edge technological advances, historical achievements, strategic planning and forecasting for the future of visual effects in film, television, and animation." Festival plans also include the transformation of the Egyptian's famed courtyard into a "Festival Courtyard," which will host VFX and entertainment-industry vendors, special displays, raffles and a Hospitality Tent.

"We're thrilled to be at the Egyptian with this year's festival," Pasternack says. "It's a great theatre for the panelists, and the courtyard area



provides a perfect place to hold the event for vendors who've previously wanted to participate as more than just sponsors. We're really excited about it."

In addition to the previously mentioned talent, LORD OF THE RINGS visual FX consultant Mark Stetson, as well as an estimated 50 other "internationally acclaimed entertainment veterans," will be in attendance to enlighten the predicted 3,000 festival attendees. Panels will include "Virtual Vs. Real Sets," (hosted by production designers Myhre, Jeannine Oppewall et al.), "Creating Life One Frame at a Time: The Art of VFX Animation," (hosted by Steve Chiodo, Randy Cook and ILM's senior visual FX supervisor Muren) and the John Bruno, John Jardin, Ian Hunert and Kurt William-hosted "The Challenges of Creating X-MEN: THE LAST STAND," among others.

"A Look Back At ALIENS—20 Years Later," a retrospective of the 1986 horror/sci-fi classic (pictured), should prove to be another highlight of the fest, with panelists set to include creature fabricator Alec Gillis, VFX miniature supervisor Pat McClung, VFX co-supervisor and director of photography Dennis Skotak and VFX supervisor and longtime James Cameron collaborator Robert Skotak. The aforementioned Stetson and his visual FX team will appear as well, hosting the panel "Bringing a Super Hero Back to Life," in which they will discuss the methods they used in resurrecting the Man of Steel for this summer's highly anticipated feature SUPERMAN RETURNS.

Finally, festival pass and invitation holders will have the chance to catch a special advance screening of the ImageMovers/Amblin Ent./Sony Pictures Imageworks film MONSTER HOUSE. Opening theatrically July 21, the computer-animated, PG-rated film (created using the same performance-capture techniques utilized in last year's POLAR EXPRESS) follows the plight of three children who band together to combat the titular mysterious and monstrous abode which threatens their community.

For complete festival information, including detailed programming, admission requirements, etc., click [here](#) or call (310) 822-9181. —*Sean Decker*