

Hollywood
THE REPORTER

February 21-27 2006

VISUAL THRILLS >>

The creativity and imagination of you damn nerds is so impressive!," **Bonnie Hunt** gushed to more than 800 of techdom's best and brightest during the fourth annual **Visual Effects Society Awards** on Wednesday at the Hollywood Palladium. The event served as an official Hollywood welcome for the new toon Disney team: Pixar's **John Lasseter** and **Ed Catmull**, the incoming chief creative officer and president, respectively, of Walt Disney Animation. Lasseter got two standing ovations accepting the Georges Méliès Award. His emotional speech recognized Catmull, a beloved brainiac whom George Lucas hired in the '80s and tasked to merge computers with film. Catmull, who got his own huge round of applause, in turn hired Lasseter at Lucasfilm. Lasseter said that even then, he knew: "What will interest people with computer animation is not how you do it, but what you do with it. It's the story and the characters."

— Paula Parisi



John Lasseter and Bonnie Hunt



Edie McClurg and awards co-chairman Tim McGovern



John Ratzenberger, left, and Ed Catmull



Honoree Jim Morris, left, VES' Eric Roth