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PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS' ACADEMY AWARD®-WINNING DIRECTOR JOHN LASSETER TO RECEIVE TOP HONOR FROM VISUAL EFFECTS SOCIETY (VES)

AWARD TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 4TH ANNUAL VES AWARDS ON FEB. 15

Los Angeles, October 31, 2005 – Pixar Animation Studios' two-time Academy Award®-winning filmmaker, John Lasseter, whose credits include TOY STORY, A BUG'S LIFE, TOY STORY 2, MONSTERS INC., FINDING NEMO and THE INCREDIBLES, has been selected by the Board of Directors of the Visual Effects Society to be recognized with the organization's *Georges Méliès Award for Artistic Excellence*. The annual award recognizes artists whose contributions to the filmmaking industry have advanced the craft of visual effects. The award is named after Méliès, one of the giants of early French cinema who is arguably cinema's first great fantasist and creator of visual effects, as evidenced by the many effects in his seminal piece, A TRIP TO THE MOON (1902).

Lasseter, who is executive vice president, creative, and a founding member of Pixar Animation Studios, oversees all of Pixar's films and associated projects. His next project finds him back in the director's chair with the highly anticipated animated feature, CARS (June 9, 2006). The VES Award will be presented at the 4th Annual VES Awards on February 15 at the Hollywood Palladium.

"The VES is thrilled to have John Lasseter as its Honoree at the 4th Annual Visual Effects Awards," said Eric Roth, VES Executive Director. "His genius at creating films which captivate both children and adults alike with their humor, whimsy and intelligence is what makes him a true original. His influence in the field of visual effects is incalculable."

VES is now accepting submissions to the 4th Annual VES Awards. More information is available online at www.vesawards.com.

JOHN LASSETER

John Lasseter is executive vice president, creative, and a founding member of Pixar Animation Studios. He is a two-time Academy Award®-winning director and oversees all of Pixar's films and associated projects. Lasseter directed the groundbreaking and critically acclaimed *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life* and *Toy Story 2*. Additionally, he executive produced *Monsters, Inc.*, *Finding Nemo*, and Pixar's most recent film, *The Incredibles*. John returns to the director's chair with the animated feature film *Cars*, to be released June 9, 2006.

In 2004, Lasseter was honored by the Art Directors Guild with its prestigious "Outstanding Contribution To Cinematic Imagery" award, and received an honorary degree from the American Film Institute.

Under Lasseter's supervision, Pixar's animated feature and short films have received a multitude of critical accolades and film industry honors. Lasseter received a Special Achievement Oscar® in 1995 for his inspired leadership of the *Toy Story* team. His work on *Toy Story* also resulted in an Academy Award®-nomination for "Best Original Screenplay," the first time an animated feature had been recognized in that category. *Finding Nemo*, released spring 2003, became the highest grossing animated feature of all time, and won the Oscar® for "Best Animated Feature Film."

As creative executive of Pixar, Lasseter enjoyed the critical acclaim and box office success of *The Incredibles* in 2004. The film was recognized with 10 Annie Awards and several "Best Of" awards by *The Wall Street Journal*, American Film Institute, National Board of Review and many others.

Lasseter also has written, directed and animated a number of highly renowned short films and television commercials for Pixar, including *Luxo Jr.* (1986 Academy Award® nominee); *Red's Dream* (1987); *Tin Toy* (1988 Academy Award® winner); and *Knickknack* (1989), which was produced as a 3D stereoscopic film. Pixar's *Tin Toy* became the first computer animated film to win an Oscar® when it received the 1988 Academy Award® for Best Animated Short Film.

Prior to the formation of Pixar in 1986, Lasseter was a member of the Computer Division of Lucasfilm Ltd., where he designed and animated the computer-generated Stained Glass Knight character in the 1985 Steven Spielberg-produced film *Young Sherlock Holmes*.

Lasseter attended the inaugural year of the Character Animation program at California Institute of the Arts and received his B.F.A. in film from there in 1979. While attending California Institute of the Arts, Lasseter produced two animated films, both winners of the Student Academy Award® for Animation; *Lady and the Lamp* in 1979 and *Nitemare* in 1980. His very first award came at the age of five when he won \$15.00 from the Model Grocery Market in Whittier, California, for a crayon drawing of the Headless Horseman.

VISUAL EFFECTS SOCIETY

The Visual Effects Society (VES) is a professional, honorary society, dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences, and applications of visual effects and to improving the welfare of its members by providing professional enrichment and education, fostering community, and promoting industry recognition. The VES is the entertainment industry's only organization representing the full breadth of visual effects practitioners including artists, technologists, model makers, educators, studio leaders, supervisors, PR/marketing specialists and producers in all areas of entertainment from film, television and commercials to music videos and games. Comprised of a diverse group of about 1,250 global members, the VES strives to enrich and educate its own

members and members of the entertainment community at large through a multitude of domestic and international events, screenings and programs.

PIXAR ANIMATION STUDIOS

Pixar Animation Studios combines creative and technical artistry to create original stories in the medium of computer animation. Pixar has created six of the most successful and beloved animated films of all time: *Toy Story*, *A Bug's Life*, *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters, Inc.*, *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles*. Pixar has won 18 Academy Awards® and its six films have grossed more than \$3.2 billion at the worldwide box office to date. The Northern California studio will release its next film, *Cars*, on June 9, 2006.

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