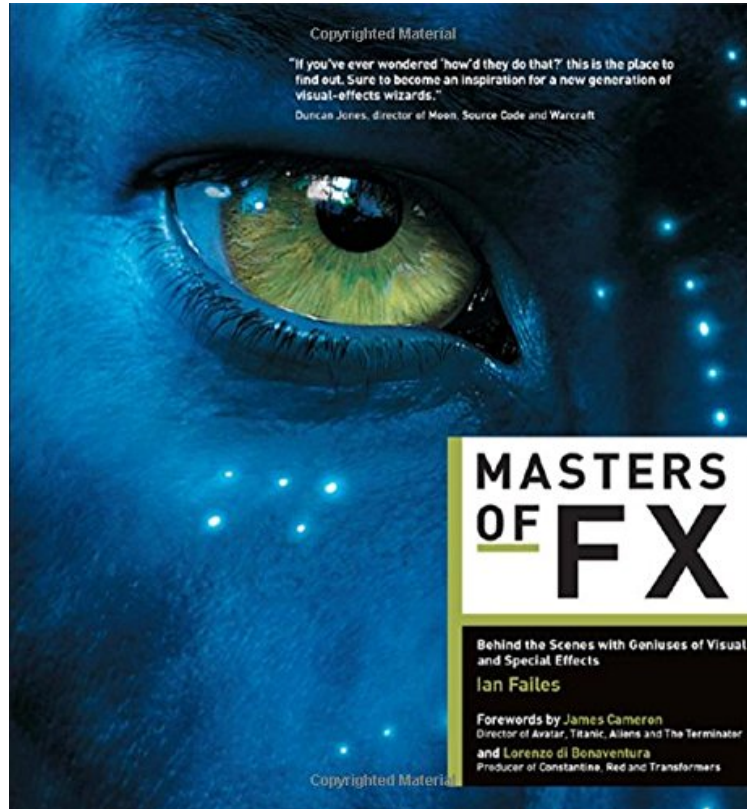


Masters of FX: Behind the Scenes with Geniuses of Visual and Special Effects

Ian Failes

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Ian Failes : Masters of FX: Behind the Scenes with Geniuses of Visual and Special Effects before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Masters of FX: Behind the Scenes with Geniuses of Visual and Special Effects:

1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy indygadgetguyGreat book, but the graphic design hurts readability. Type is hard to read on bright colored backgrounds.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Insightful book on the magic and masters of FXBy Parka[[VIDEOID:3164c22f3fbe2f00d75da2f56d3a6cb7]]This book should have been part of the FilmCraft series of books that were published by Focal Press and ILEX. The presentation style is similar and that series is just lacking a book on visual effects.Masters of FX is a book on that goes behind the scenes to show you how visual and special effects are made. This is done through interviews with 16 top VFX practitioners in the film industry.The contributors includeJohn BrunoChris CorbouldRichard EdlundScott FarrarPaul FranklinKaren GoulekasIan HunterJohn KnollRobert LegatoJoe LetteriDennis MurenJohn RosengrantPhil TippettDouglas TrumbullBill WestenhoferEdson WilliamsI've not heard of all these people but the movies they have helped made are films like Ghostbusters, Star Wars, Inception, Minority Report, Lord of the Rings, Life of Pi, Planet

of the Apes reboots, Jurassic Park, Captain America and other classics and big budget blockbusters. It's fascinating and interesting to read about how visual effects were created for the old movies like Ghostbusters, Terminator and the recent ones such as Interstellar or Avatar. Each of the VFX supervisors would talk about selected sequences that are from the films, e.g. the folding Paris blocks in Inception, and explain the technology involved. Even after reading the explanation, it's still quite awe-inspiring to learn about how those effects are actually created. Those people working in the VFX department are amazing. Many of the supervisors have worked on the same films so there are sections where the films are mentioned a couple of times throughout the book. This is an illuminating book that provides insight into how VFX are created and used in films. It's like magicians explaining their magic tricks. (See more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.)

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Masters of FX - a fascinating look at the innovators in visual effects

By JMM[[VIDEOID:13c382f1001e445a0586915abb9e0bd0]]

When combined with a great story and compelling performances, directors can utilize visual effects to take their films to a level of immersion that was once impossible. Audiences are becoming more and more familiar with visual effects in movies (almost every one of the top grossing films of the last decade have relied on extensive visual effects work); but they are not necessarily familiar with those who are actually responsible for this work. The new book "Masters of FX" from Focal Press highlights 16 of the visual effects professionals who are among the best in their craft. Each featured person gets about 10-12 pages which discusses 4-5 of their most well known movies. In reading through the book, which highlights the various VFX milestones that these individuals were a part of, it's fascinating to see just how many of these guys were involved in some way with the "Star Wars" movies - Dennis Muren, Phil Tippett, Richard Edlund, etc. Here are some others you may (or should) know:- Chris Corbould: special effects supervisor on the James Bond franchise and the Dark Knight trilogy.- John Knoll: CCO of Industrial Light Magic, co-creator of Photoshop, and VFX supervisor of the Star Wars prequels and the Pirates of the Caribbean films.- Joe Letteri: director of Weta Digital and 4-time Oscar winner for his work on Avatar, King Kong (2005), and Lord of the Rings. A wide variety of movies are discussed, so there's something here for everyone. Naturally, there are a lot of science fiction and fantasy films given that they are more reliant on effects than other genres. The book went to press in 2015, and there's no shortage of recent films mentioned (World War Z, Dawn of the Planet of the Apes, Interstellar). But all the classics are here too - Blade Runner, Back to the Future, Raiders of the Lost Ark, and 2001: A Space Odyssey. The topics discussed are just as diverse as the people and films featured. When people hear visual effects they tend to think of CGI and digital effects. But the text serves as a reminder that artists were creating unique characters and environments using practical effects long before the days of computer assistance. The book discusses models and miniatures, forced perspective, and good old-fashioned stunt work. I should also mention that the book includes two forewords - one by director James Cameron and the other by producer Lorenzo di Bonaventura. Cameron states it best when he says "VFX is a love affair with the impossible". There is also a handy glossary with 30+ terms that are relevant to visual effects (rotoscoping, matchmaking, rendering, etc). A book about visual effects no doubt will rely heavily on imagery, and there is plenty of it to be found in the pages of "Masters of FX". I actually found myself wanting to see even more imagery to support the text - each film gets only 1-2 pictures. The good news is that where there are pictures, they are all printed large and at a high resolution. I should also mention that in general, the layout of the book is very appealing. Through its profiles of these VFX pioneers and their films, "Masters of FX" is a successful exploration into a complex and fascinating art form.

*NOTE: A big thanks to Focal Press for making this book available to me for review. **See accompanying video for a brief flip-through of the book.*****A few other books I would also recommend for those interested in VFX: The Art of Film Magic: 20 Years of Weta Industrial Light Magic: The Art of Innovation

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 Nolans 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 Nolans 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)

"The new book *Masters of FX* from Focal Press highlights 16 of the visual effects professionals who are among the best in their craft. Through its profiles of these VFX pioneers and their films, *Masters of FX* is a successful exploration into a complex and fascinating art form." John Mraovich, MovieArtBook.com About the Author Ian Failes is a freelance journalist specializing in visual effects and animation. Based in Sydney, Australia, Ian has a background in law, but found his passion watching and writing about films and visual effects.