And the winner is...

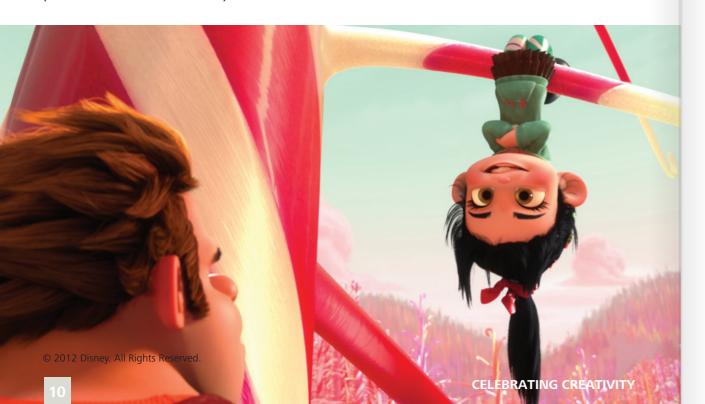## 2013 award nominations celebrate marriage of storytelling, artistry, and technology

Autodesk Media and Entertainment technology has played a pivotal role in the creation of some of the most iconic and breathtaking movie imagery over the past two decades. From large post-production studios to small boutique houses, talented artists across the globe—from North America and Europe, to Asia, Australia, and New Zealand—combined digital artistry, Autodesk software, and great storytelling to make the most celebrated films of this past year.

Academy Awards

Computer-generated effects created using Autodesk® Maya® software were used in all five nominees for the 2013 Best Visual Effects Oscar®: *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey; Life of Pi; Marvel's The Avengers; Prometheus; and Snow White and the Huntsman*. Between them, the five nominated movies contained over 7,000 special effects shots that involved the work of 30 visual effects studios using Autodesk software in more than ten countries.

In the 2013 Academy Awards Best Animated Feature category, all of the nominees used Maya software. The nominees included two 3D animated features *Brave* and *Wreck-It Ralph*, and three stop motion movies: *Frankenweenie*, *ParaNorman*, and *The Pirates! Band of Misfits*.

(The winner was Brave.)

BAFTA

Autodesk customers had a good showing at the 2013 BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts) awards where all five of the best visual effects nominees, *The Dark Knight Rises, The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, Prometheus, Marvel Avengers Assemble,* and *Life of Pi*, used Autodesk Media and Entertainment software to achieve their spectacular visual effects. As at the Academy Awards, *Life of Pi* was the winner, with the BAFTA "mask" trophy going to graphics house Rhythm and Hues for their inspiring visual effects created with the help of Maya and Autodesk® Mudbox® software.

Talented artists also used Autodesk software in the creation of a number of other acclaimed films in 2012, including: *Argo, Flight, Les Miserables, Lincoln, Silver Linings Playbook, Skyfall, Ted,* and *Zero Dark Thirty*.

AEAF

Another event of rising prestige in the film and animation world is the Australian Effects & Animation Festival (AEAF), due to hold its 17th edition later this year in Sydney. The AEAF Awards event pulls in entries from all over the world—not just Australia—and this year, as in years past, Autodesk products figure prominently in the workflows of many of these award-winning companies.

Past winners include Weta Digital, MPC, Framestore, DreamWorks, Cinesite, Sony Pictures Imageworks, Method Studios, Industrial Light & Magic, Digital Pictures, Iloura, Plastic Wax Animation, The Mill, Method Studios, Pixomondo, and Cutting Edge.

Image courtesy of the Mill. ©2012 Universal Studios.

VES Student Award

Established in 2009, the Visual Effects Society (VES) Student Award recognizes the amazing visual effects work being done by students. At the 11th annual VES awards event in Beverly Hills, California, graduation short *Natalis* by Filmakademie students Daniel Brkovic, David Kirchner, and Jan-Marcel Kühn took the award for Outstanding Visual Effects in a Student Project.

Although not a requirement, *Natalis*, along with all of the nominees this year, used 3D animation software from sponsor Autodesk to help bring their films to life. Autodesk offers students access to training materials and to more than 40 software products for free*.

"Every year we're blown away by the beautifully crafted original stories that these students create," said Chris Bradshaw, senior vice president at Autodesk. "We're proud to continue our support for this award and congratulate all of this year's nominees—can't wait to see what they do next."

Autodesk salutes all the 2013 nominees and award winners and we're proud to make the tools of choice for so many talented artists around the world.

*Free Autodesk software is for personal use for education purposes and is subject to the terms and conditions of the end-user license and services agreement that accompanies download of the software.