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***SPECIAL EFFECTS* EXPLORES  
THE MAGICAL WORLD OF MOVIE ILLUSIONS**

**Omni Theater, an IMAX dome, to show *Special Effects* film to complement  
*Star Wars: Where Science Meets Imagination*, a special exhibit opening June 9!**

*Giant Gorilla Menaces San Francisco!*

*Space Chase Snares Rebels; Robots Escape!*

*Extraterrestrials Invade Earth!*

*Board Game Goes Berserk!*

*Hoop Star Hiphops From Court to Silver Screen!*

*Fort Worth, TX – March 21--* Movie special effects, including the above scenes, come alive as never before on the giant IMAX® screen in the dazzling film ***Special Effects***, opening at the Omni Theater in Fort Worth May 25, 2007.

***Special Effects*** features eye-popping visual effects from four motion pictures using state-of-the-art filmmaking techniques, including *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition*, *Independence Day*, *Jumanji*, and *Kazaam*. Audiences will also see King Kong's final battle as well as starship chase scenes choreographed with original *Star Wars* models, newly reshot in the awesome 15/70 format at spectacular scale and resolution.

The film's producer, NOVA -- the PBS science series and producer of 15/70 format films -- got exclusive large-format access to major film and special effects studios to produce this behind-the-scenes look at how movie makers achieve startling and utterly convincing visual effects.

*"Special Effects* celebrates 100 years of cinema and the technological achievements that have made special effects a critical part of the entertainment industry today," says the film's producer, Susanne Simpson.

The film follows the innovative effects wizardry that goes into blockbuster movies, including backstage glimpses of Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) at work on Lucasfilm Ltd.'s *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition*, whose release coincided with the 20th anniversary of the original *Star Wars*. Distributed by Twentieth Century Fox, *Star Wars Trilogy Special Edition* features newly enhanced footage, new digital special effects and a digitally remastered soundtrack.

*Special Effects* similarly explores the making of Twentieth Century Fox's summer 1996 motion picture epic *Independence Day*, which answers the question, "What if you woke up tomorrow morning to find an enormous spaceship hovering over your entire city?"; TriStar's 1995 box office hit fantasy of a boardgame-come-alive, *Jumanji*, and *Kazaam* from Interscope Communications, Inc. (with effects by Rhythm & Hues, winner of the 1995 Academy-Award® for visual effects for *Babe*), opened summer 1996 and starring Shaquille O'Neal as a rapping genie with magical powers.

Viewers will also see history repeat itself as King Kong battles airplanes on the giant screen in a 1990s update of the classic story, newly created in the 15/70 format exclusively for the film by Hollywood's masters of movie magic.

NOVA is renowned for making science as accessible as it is fascinating, a task it accomplishes in *Special Effects* by showing how movie model makers, matte painters, pyrotechnicians, camera operators, animators and computer graphics artists rely on the principles of visual perception to fool the audience. The film demonstrates how the visual cues we use to orient ourselves in the real world -- color, form, light, motion and depth -- are manipulated to create the illusion of reality on the screen.

Soaring 50-to-80 feet high, IMAX and IMAX *Dome* screens cover roughly 10 times the area of a standard movie theatre screen, engulfing audiences in an experience that encompasses their entire field of view. "The medium itself is a 'special effect' of total visual immersion," says executive producer Paula S. Apsell. "What better way to explore the techniques that go into creating the perfect movie illusion? And who better to do it with than ILM?"

The film marks the large-format debut for ILM, the company founded by George Lucas in 1975 to produce the special effects for *Star Wars*. Since its inception, ILM has created masterful special effects for more than 100 films, including *Forrest Gump*, *The Mask*, *Jurassic Park*, *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, *E. T.: The Extraterrestrial*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. ILM artists have garnered 14 Academy-Awards® for best achievement in visual effects and nine Academy technical achievement awards for pioneering developments in the field.

Four-time Academy-Award-winner Ben Burt, the director of *Special Effects*, most recently directed *Young Indiana Jones and the Attack of the Hawkmen*, a Young Indiana Jones movie for broadcast on the Family Channel. He was the principal director of the IMAX film *Blue Planet* and co-director of *Destiny In Space*. Burt won his Oscars® for his innovative sound design on *Star Wars*, *E. T.: The Extraterrestrial*, *Raiders of the Lost Ark* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

*Special Effects* is NOVA's third foray into the large-format medium, following its highly acclaimed giant-screen documentaries *To The Limit* and *Stormchasers* (both produced with the Museum Film Network and MacGillivray Freeman Films) which were created under the same leadership team of executive producer Paula S. Apsell and producer Susanne Simpson.

The PBS television series NOVA and NOVA's large-format films are produced by WGBH Boston, the station providing more than one-third of all PBS prime time programming, including *Masterpiece Theatre*, *Mystery!*, *Frontline*, *The American Experience* and *This Old House*.

*Special Effects* is produced by NOVA/WGBH Boston with major funding from the National Science Foundation, corporate funding by Silicon Graphics Computer Systems and the participation of 18 science museums.

## ***SPECIAL EFFECTS***

A Production of NOVA/WGBH Boston  
Executive Producer: Paula S. Apsell  
Producer: Susanne Simpson  
Director: Ben Burt  
Co-Producer: Laurel Ladevich  
Narrator: John Lithgow

Music: Christopher Stone  
Special Visual Effects: Industrial Light & Magic  
Post Production Facilities Provided by Skywalker Sound  
Major Funding Provided by the National Science Foundation  
Corporate Funding Provided by Silicon Graphics Computer Systems  
Air Transportation for *Special Effects* provided by United Airlines  
Distributed by Imax Corporation.

Visit the *Special Effects* Web site at [www.pbs.org/nova/specialfx](http://www.pbs.org/nova/specialfx)