

# VFS Alumni Stories



Vancouver Film School (VFS) graduates work for leading companies worldwide, win awards for their projects, and have their films screened at international film festivals. Here are a few achievements by alumni pursuing their dream careers.



## AWARDS

**Chad Moffitt**, **Digital Character Animation** grad, was on the Oscar-winning animation team behind the **Lord of the Rings** trilogy.

**Alec McClymont**, a graduate of the **3D** program, won an **Emmy** in 2007 for Outstanding Special Visual Effects in **Battlestar Galactica**. He also won a Gemini and a Visual Effects Society Award that same year.

**Film Production** grad **Neil Kopp** won a 2008 **Independent Spirit Award** for producing Gus Van Sant's **Paranoid Park** as well as the acclaimed 2006 film **Old Joy**.

**3D** graduate **Mark Shirra**'s VFS short film **A Great Big Robot from Outer Space Ate My Homework** was an official selection at **Siggraph**, won Best Student Production at the **Leo Awards**, and, most impressively, got him hired at **Pixar**. He worked as a layout artist on **Wall-E**.

**Parallels**, a documentary about draft dodgers made by **Paul St. Amand** in the **Film Production** program, won the 2008 **Triggerstreet Online Short Film Festival**'s top prize. The judges included Robin Williams, Jeff Goldblum, and Sam Mendes.

**Digital Design** graduate **Cesar Montero**'s commercial **Sex and the Socket**, made at VFS, won Gold in the Best Student Marketing category at the prestigious **M16 Advertising Awards**.

## FILM & TV

**3D** graduate **Neill Blomkamp** has directed award-winning TV ads for **Nike** and **Citroen**. He was attached to direct the big-screen adaptation of the **Halo** video game, and co-wrote and directed the 2009 sci-fi film **District 9**, produced by Peter Jackson.

After **Janelle Henderson** graduated from the **Makeup Design** program, she returned to her island home, Dominica, and worked as a makeup artist on **Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest**.

**Jeremy Bowker** and **Jessica Lemes da Silva** were both hired by **Skywalker Sound** straight out of the **Sound Design** program. Jeremy was on the Oscar-nominated **Ratatouille** sound team and worked on the hit Disney musical **Enchanted**. Jessica's credits include **Beowulf** and **Iron Man**.

**3D Animation & Visual Effects** alum **Lino Di Salvo** was **Supervising Animator** on Disney's hit animated film **Bolt**. He also lent his voice to the **Vinnie the New York Pigeon**, prominently featured in the film's advertising.

**Tara Spencer-Nairn** attended VFS's **Acting** program. She starred in the **Genie Award**-nominated film **New Waterford Girl**, and held a lead role on the hit Canadian comedy **Corner Gas** for the entire series.

**Lon Molnar**, a graduate of the **3D** program, founded the Toronto-based visual effects studio **Intelligent Creatures**. His long list of credits includes **Chicago, Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Babel, Stranger Than Fiction**, and **Watchmen**.

*It's quite amazing where my strength and success comes from, and I must say that most of it comes from what I learned at VFS.*

**Bonnie Lee Bouman**,  
Acting for Film & Television Graduate  
Casting, POSEIDON ADVENTURE (TV)

*VFS made it easy to connect with various companies in the industry. Although the onus was on us to foster the relationships that would lead to jobs, the staff at VFS provided a 'foot in the door' that gave me an opportunity to prove myself.*

**Armando Troisi**, Game Design Graduate  
Cinematic Designer, MASS EFFECT

## VFS MEDIA CONTACT

If you are a journalist and would like to learn more about Vancouver Film School, please refer to the contact information below. We'll be happy to help you.

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**Katherine Walker**, **Film Production** alum, served as associate producer on **The Amazing Race** and has twice been nominated for Emmys for producing **The Apprentice**.

**Writing** graduate **Jason Young**'s short film **How to Disappear Completely** was produced by **Coffee Films** in Britain and later screened at the prestigious **Cannes Film Festival**.

**3D** graduate **Kolby Jukes** is well-known among toy collectors as one of the main sculptors of **DC Direct**'s line of **Dark Knight** collectibles, including action figures and busts. He is also an established 3D artist in the video game industry.

**Scott Weber**, a graduate of **Film Production**, has directed short films, commercials, music videos, and industrial films. His first feature film was the thriller **Desolation Sound**, starring Jennifer Beals and Ed Begley, Jr.

**Acting** graduate **Niall Matter** has had lead roles in the TV series **The Best Years** and the Sci Fi original series **Eureka**. He appeared in **Watchmen** as the character **Mothman**.

**David Luce**, a graduate of the **Writing** program, develops documentaries and reality TV series for **Fremantle Media** in Los Angeles.



## GAMES

There are **Game Design** grads working at virtually every major studio in Vancouver. In 2009, four – **Francois Chaput**, **Mbuso Radebe**, **Brock Robin**, and **Mike Wilson** – worked on **Relic Entertainment**'s hit PC game **Dawn of War II**. The development team also included six **Animation & Visual Effects** graduates and one **Sound Design** graduate.

**Joseph Lawrence** of **Sound Design** has worked for **Blizzard Entertainment** since 2004, on **Diablo II**, **World of Warcraft**, and **WoW** expansions. He currently holds a Lead Sound Designer position.



## VISUAL MEDIA

Immediately after graduation, **Digital Design** alumnus **Mark Miller** was hired by New York's Firstborn Multimedia. He's gone on to serve as creative director at **thehappycorp** and now runs his own studio, **Dark Igloo**, with clients including MTV and Pepsi.

**Duelity**, a motion design project by **Digital Design** students **Ryan Uhrich** and **Marcos "Boca" Ceravolo** won a PopVox Award and screened at the Art of Digital show in San Diego. They were both hired by **Thank You Motion Graphics** in Copenhagen soon after graduation.

The award-winning marketing and design firm **Blast Radius** was founded by VFS graduates **Gurval Caer**, **Lee Feldman**, and **Steve Harmer**. The company's clients have included **BMW**, **Heineken**, **Nike**, and **Nintendo**.

VFS measures its success by the accomplishments of its students. We're proud to be a part of a life-changing experience for alumni the world over.

See [vfs.com/blog](http://vfs.com/blog) for countless more examples.

*All the teachers were professionals, my classmates were great – and then, Vancouver. I fell in love with the city and snowboarding in the winter.*

**Daniel Osaki**, Animation & Visual Effects Graduate  
Lead Modeler and Emmy Nominee,  
**BATTLESTAR GALACTICA**

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