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December 1996 The Los Angeles Chapter of ACM/SIGGRAPH Hewsletter

L.A. SIGGRAPH PRESENTS: AN EVENING WITH WARNER DIGITAL STUDIOS A SPECIAL SCREENING OF

THURS., DEC. 12, 1996 VETERANS WADSWORTH THEATER VA GROUNDS, BLDG. 226 EISENHOWER AVE., LOS ANGELES PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7:30PM

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There will be no Social Hour at this event. Registration is free for LA. SIGGRAPH members and \$5 for non-members. Become a member the night of the event, and your registration is free! Parking is \$5 per car in the lots adjacent to the theater.

The December L.A. SIGGRAPH Chapter meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12 instead of Tuesday, December 10. At this meeting, Warner Digital presents a special screening of Tim Burton's "Mars Attacks!"

L.A. SIGGRAPH members and guests will receive a sneak preview of Tim Burton's science fiction comic fantasy, "Mars Attacks!" — featuring an all-star cast that includes Jack Nicholson, Glenn Close, Michael J. Fox, Lukas Haas and Martin Short. Warner Bros. will officially open "Mars Attacks!" on Friday, December 13.

Warner Digital Vice President Michael Fink, who served as Warner Digital's Visual Effects Supervisor on "Mars Attacks!" will present an inside look at how the studio accomplished the film's wide range of photorealistic visual effects.

Fink will discuss how Warner Digital created both traditional and computer generated elements and also composited them digitally. From a 5,000 frame CG title sequence to a host of miniatures, digital matte paintings and a computer animated robot, Warner Digital's work on "Mars Attacks!" provides classic examples of the challenges of visual effects filmmaking today.

As Warner Digital's Vice President and Senior Visual Effects Supervisor, Michael Fink brings an experienced eye to these

## Directions to the Wadsworth

From Downtown Los Angeles: Take the 10W to the 405N. Exit Wilshire Blvd. WEST (the second ramp). From LAX: Take Century Blvd. east to the 405N. Exit Wilshire Blvd. WEST. From the San Fernando Valley: Take the 405S to Wilshire Blvd. WEST.

Once on Wilsbire Blvd., continue under freeway and past the on-ramp. Take an immediate right off Wilsbire at the V.A. FACILITIES exit. Turn right at the stop sign and then left at the top of the bill onto Eisenbower Ave.

challenges. An Academy Award nominee in 1993 for supervising the visual effects in "Batman Returns," Fink has a list of visual effects supervisor credits that includes "Braveheart," "Eraser" and "War Games," one of the first features to make extensive use of computer graphics. He has also been a visual effects consultant on projects as varied as "Blade Runner," "Back to the Future" and "The Hunt for Red October."

Fink, who earned his M.A. at Cal Arts, joined Warner Digital in 1995 and has been instrumental in building the studio's visual effects team. While he has been associated with innovative technology throughout his career, Fink's emphasis is on making technology serve the creative needs of filmmakers. Warner Digital's and Industrial Light & Magic's collaboration with Tim Burton on "Mars Attacks!" demonstrates just how important to storytelling visual effects have become. Warner Digital is proud to host its first L.A. SIGGRAPH event with this special screening. Company executives will also be on hand to answer questions about the variety of creative and technical positions currently available at the company's state of the art studio in Burbank. We look forward to seeing you there.

> Special Thanks Tim Sarnoff, Ellen Somers, Aaron Au, and Genny Yee of Warner Digital Studios

THE TUES., DEC. 10 CHAPTER MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO THURS., DEC. 12, 1996. Printed on recycled paper

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## Thursday, December 12, 1996 A Special Preview Screening of "Mars Attacks!"

Los Angeles Chapter SIGGRAPH P.O. Box 9399 Marina del Rey, CA 90295



L.A. SIGGRAPH wishes to acknowledge *Betsy Asher Hall* for her invaluable contributions to our Chapter:

> 1993 - Secretary 1994 - Vice Chair 1995 - Co-Chair 1996 - Newsletter Editor

## L.A. SIGGRAPH 1996/97 Executive Council

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