

# D I M E N S I O N

June 1996

The Los Angeles Chapter of ACM/ SIGGRAPH Newsletter

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## L.A. SIGGRAPH PRESENTS: SUMMER SOLSTICE AT SONY PICTURES IMAGEWORKS

FRIDAY, JUNE 21  
AT SPI'S NEW ADDRESS

9050 W. WASHINGTON BLVD, CULVER CITY  
(SEE MAP ON PAGE 2)

GATES OPEN 6:30 PM - PRESENTATION 8:00 PM  
BBQ - OUTDOOR PARTY  
NO HOST BAR - ADMISSION LIMITED TO 500

PLEASE NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MEETING ON OUR REGULARLY  
SCHEDULED DATE OF JUNE 11

*Fees: \$1 LA SIGGRAPH members / \$5 non-members. Membership ID will be required for priority entry and reduced admission to meetings. Members with lost or forgotten cards must verify membership status at the membership table. Note: Members who paid the new rate of \$25 annual fee (effective Jan 1996) will be admitted free of charge.*

### The Event

L.A. SIGGRAPH's June meeting features Sony Pictures Imageworks at their brand new facility. The June SIGGRAPH Summer Solstice event will be held in the outdoor plaza in front of the new site. Imageworks will highlight a dramatic year of change. Come celebrate the start of summer and see Sony's new home. Imageworks will present its latest developments, new techniques, show film and video, and host a summer barbeque on the lawn. The evening will include a look at the Silicon Graphics "Magic Box". The program will include insights from Ken Ralston, Bill Birrell, Bill Schultz, Lincoln Hu, Jerome Chen, Frank Foster, George Merkert, Ron Brinkmann, and Debbie Denise.

### About Sony Pictures Imageworks

The new building is only part of the story. The architecture of Imageworks is based on its people and Imageworks has some of the best in the business. Imageworks is growing strong with more than 250 computer graphic artists, visual effects supervisors, producers, technical and support staff. Imageworks has experienced tremendous growth since its inception just four years ago as the first major studio "in-house" visual effects production company. Imageworks is rapidly expanding to become a world-class effects facility. Last August, Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) announced plans to substantially increase the scope of its digital imaging and visual effects capabilities, appointing visual

effects pioneer and five-time Academy Award-winner Ken Ralston president of Imageworks. Ralston's appointment is a pivotal element of SPE's determination to establish the studio as a leader in digital, state-of-the art visual effects technology. Ralston is widely recognized as a revolutionary force in motion picture and television special effects. His sensational skills are evident in numerous films, but perhaps most notably in RETURN OF THE JEDI, WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT and FORREST GUMP. Ralston won Academy Awards for his work on each of those films. Under his guidance and direction, Imageworks is evolving into the filmmaker's effects company.

Frank Foster continues to expand his pre-visualization division to include multimedia. Frank and his team are preparing several exciting projects for the upcoming SIGGRAPH convention set for August in New Orleans, including a state-of-the-art VRML demonstration utilizing Sony's new CyberPassage web browser. Foster also broke new ground in the field of PC-based visual effects production, which he pioneered on JOHNNY MNEMONIC, and managed to soar to new heights with the stunning butterfly sequence of THE CRAFT.

### SPECIAL THANKS

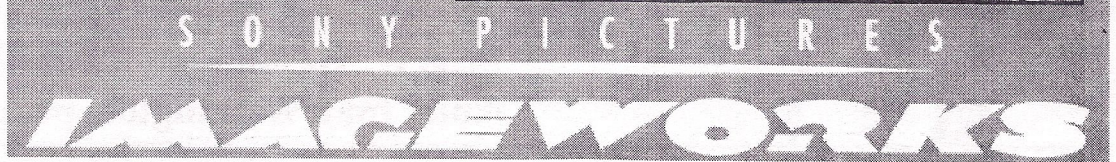
Joan Collins - Program Coordinator  
Don Levy - Head of Advertising and Publicity,  
Imageworks

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If you are interested in helping on the "June Meeting Subcommittee", contact Joan at (310)450-4494 or email collins@siggraph.org



A scene from Columbia Pictures' THE CRAFT.



## Imageworks scores with *The Craft*

Columbia Pictures' *The Craft*, a supernatural thriller about four girls exploring their inner powers through witchcraft, showcases ground-breaking visual effects created by Sony Pictures Imageworks. Directed by Andrew Fleming, the film opened May 3 and became the weekend's #1 box-office attraction.

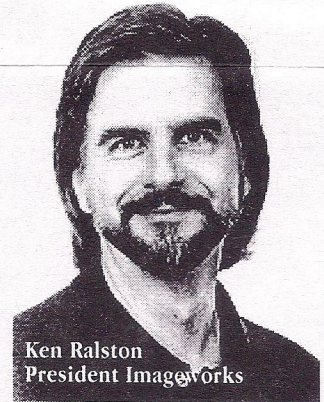
Frank Foster will discuss how Imageworks's visual effects team sought imaginative solutions to creative challenges. In one notable visual effects sequence, hundreds of Monarch butterflies are seen fluttering around the film's four central female characters, absolutely photo-real results were achieved. Fleming, who says he "felt a real partnership with Sony Pictures Imageworks, especially their boundless attention to detail," collaborated with Imageworks with hopes of making "the surreal believable."

## Imageworks wishes to Acknowledge

Imageworks would like to welcome some of the people who have recently joined the company: Visual Effects Supervisor **Scott E. Anderson**, who shared this year's Academy Award for visual effects for his outstanding work as visual effects supervisor on *BABE*. Anderson recently completed work on *JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH* — at Imageworks — and is currently in pre-production on two new projects. **Tracy Hauser** is leading the Imageworks expansion into commercial production since being named executive producer of that division. As part of this division's launch, the signing of director Rupert Wainwright was announced; this Clio Award winner has already attracted several prominent national accounts. **Barry S. Weiss**, who comes to Imageworks from Turner Feature Animation, was named vice-president of Imageworks's animation division. He is teamed with animation director Eric

Armstrong, an ILM alum whose credits include *CASPER* and *JURASSIC PARK*. Together, they are building an animation division that is being designed by, and for, animators. Also new to the company: Head of production **Ralph Horan**, co-department heads **Sheena Duggal** and **Mark Holmes** who run the high speed digital compositing department, and Visual Effects supervisor **Stephen Rosenbaum**. Familiar faces at Imageworks also abound: Senior V.P. and General Manager **Bill Birrell**, Oscar-winning Visual Effects Supervisor **Tim McGovern**; CG Supervisors **Ron Brinkmann**, **Jerome Chen**, and **John McLaughlin**; Senior Producer **George Merkert**; and Visual Effects Supervisors **John Nelson**, **Kelley Ray**; and producers **Suzanne Pastor**, **Aileen Timmers**, **Robin D'Arcy**, **Camille Cellucci** and **Mickey McGovern**.

Imageworks would like to thank **Alberto Velez** and his crew in systems administration. Their monumental effort involved moving and installing more than eight miles of cable to wire Imageworks's new facility, requiring round-the-clock work so that the task could be completed without any interruption to our production schedule. Imageworks ALSO SALUTES its software crew and welcomes new member **Serge Sretschinsky**. They keep our technology happily humming.



Ken Ralston  
President Imageworks

### -----Map to the Event-----

