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Visual Effects Society Announces its 2020 Board of Directors Officers

Mike Chambers Re-Elected as Board Chair

Los Angeles (January 16, 2020) – Today, the Visual Effects Society (VES), the industry’s global professional honorary society, announced its 2020 Board of Directors officers. The officers, who comprise the VES Board Executive Committee, were elected at the January 2020 Board meeting. The officers include Mike Chambers, who was re-elected as Board Chair.

“Our Society is proud and fortunate to have strong, impassioned leadership represented on our Executive Committee,” said Eric Roth, VES Director. “This dedicated group of professionals gives their considerable expertise and volunteer time to our organization. And I’m excited about their collective vision and plans to advance our global membership even further.”

The 2020 Officers of the VES Board of Directors are:

- Chair: **Mike Chambers**
- 1st Vice Chair: **Lisa Cooke**
- 2nd Vice Chair: **Emma Clifton Perry**
- Treasurer: **Laurie Blavin**
- Secretary: **Rita Cahill**

Mike Chambers, Chair

Mike Chambers is a freelance Visual Effects Producer and Independent VFX Consultant, specializing in large-scale feature film productions. He is currently in post-production on *Tenet*, his fourth collaboration with esteemed writer-producer-director Christopher Nolan. Other recent credits include *Greyhound*, *Dunkirk*, *Alice Through The Looking Glass*, *Transcendence* and *The Dark Knight Rises*. Chambers has contributed to the visual effects efforts on numerous Academy & BAFTA award-winning films, and he has personally won three VES Awards for Best Visual Effects, on *Dunkirk*, *Inception*, and *The Day After Tomorrow*. He was also nominated for his work on *I Am Legend*.

Chambers is beginning his sixth term as Chair of the VES. He has been a member for over 20 years, serving multiple terms on the Board of Directors, and he has previously served on the Executive Committee as both Vice Chair and Secretary. He is also a member of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences (AMPAS), and the Producers Guild of America (PGA).

Lisa Cooke, 1st Vice Chair

Lisa Cooke has spent more than twenty years as an animation/VFX producer, creative consultant, screenwriter and actor. Firmly believing that it is vital for science to effectively communicate its truths to a broader audience, she started Green Ray Media, and for the last ten plus years, has been using animation and VFX to help science communicate the amazing stories it has to tell.

In the past, Cooke has worked for clients including Lucasfilm, Fox, Nickelodeon Films, ABC, CBS, Paramount and Universal, and in the VFX and animation industry for companies including Pixar, Glasgow-based Digital Animations Group, and Tippett Studio. As Senior Producer at Reardon Studios, she helped bring the MOVA Contour reality capture to the film industry.

Cooke has also taught story structure at the SF Academy of Art, JFK University and Ex'pression College, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. She served six years on the Bay Area Board of Managers before joining the VES Board of Directors, where she serves as Chair of the Archive Committee and was 2nd Vice Chair in 2019.

Emma Clifton Perry, 2nd Vice Chair

Emma Clifton Perry is a Senior Compositor with more than 15 years experience working across feature films, longform/TV series, commercials and advertising.

Clifton Perry has worked both in house with FOX and at VFX facilities worldwide including WETA Digital, Framestore, MPC, Rising sun Pictures, DrD, Method Studios and The Mill, amongst others working both as an artist and in leadership roles. She is currently based in Wellington New Zealand, offering remote compositing and vfx consulting services worldwide. She also provides guest lecturing services to various universities, having herself studied at the NCCA, Bournemouth University,UK.

In recent years Clifton Perry has served several terms as Chair, Co-Chair and Secretary/Treasurer on the VES New Zealand Board of Managers. She is currently in her fourth year on the VES Board of Directors.

Laurie Blavin, Treasurer

Laurie Blavin's 20-year career spans the culture, creativity, and technology of both Hollywood and Silicon Valley. A proven leader with expertise in building and managing creative and technical teams, she counsels companies and professionals in strategy, brand value stewardship, and full-cycle staffing and recruiting for international companies large and small, startup and established businesses. She is passionate about humanizing the technology side of organizations, while supporting the seeming chaos that sometimes accompanies visionary innovation.

On the VFX and Entertainment front, Blavin has worked at or for Dreamworks Animation, The Orphanage, Scanline VFX, MPC, and Technicolor. Prior to focusing on VFX, she worked at AOL, vivid Studios, Walmart.com, and Blurb.

Away from work, Blavin is a collector and curator of fine photography and spends time behind the camera on personal projects. This is Blavin's first term on the VES Board of Directors.

Rita Cahill, Secretary

Rita Cahill is an international business and marketing/PR consultant for a number of US, Chinese, Canadian, UK and EU companies for visual effects and animation projects. Current and former clients include companies in the feature film, television, VR and game industries, as well as government and educational entities. She is also a partner in MakeBelieve Entertainment, a film development company and serves as Executive Producer on a number of international projects.

Previously, Cahill was the VP Marketing for Cinesite where she oversaw the marketing of four divisions of the pioneering digital studio's services. Prior to Cinesite, Cahill was a founding Board member of the Mill Valley Film Festival/California Film Institute and remains on the Institute's Emeritus Board of Directors. Cahill was also the Founding Consultant on the formation and establishment of the Singapore International Film Festival.

This is Cahill's sixth term as Secretary. Previously, Cahill served as Chair or Co-Chair of the VES Summit for eight years.

About the Visual Effects Society

The Visual Effects Society is a professional global honorary society dedicated to advancing the arts, sciences and applications of visual effects and to upholding the highest standards and procedures for the visual effects profession. It is the entertainment industry's only official organization representing the extended global community of visual effects practitioners, including supervisors, artists, producers, technology developers, educators and studio executives. VES' more than 4,000 members in over 40 countries worldwide contribute to all areas of entertainment – film, television, commercials, animation, music videos, games, new media and special venues.

To learn more about the VES, visit www.visualeffectssociety.com and follow us on Twitter: @VFXSociety. Read *VFX Voice*, our award-winning signature print and digital publication, at www.vfxvoice.com.