

THE SATURN RINGS

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JAMES CAMERON, GALE ANNE HURD RECEIVE SPECIAL DR. REED AWARDS SATURNS CELEBRATE 30 YEARS

On May 5, 2004, in Universal City, California, aliens, wizards, and creatures (and their creators) came together at the 30TH Annual Saturn Awards to celebrate the recent triumphant success of their films. The anniversary program was especially poignant as *James Cameron*, *Gale Anne Hurd*, and many others, remembered the Founder of the

Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, *Dr. Donald A. Reed*, and his dedication and devotion to these genres.

In 1962 Dr. Donald A. Reed began his quest to bring honor to the best in genre films and did so with amazing success until his untimely passing in 2001. From such

luminaries as *Rod Serling*, *Lon Chaney Jr.*, *Bud Abbott*,

Fritz Lang, and *Christopher Lee* to such contemporaries as *Steven Spielberg*, *James Cameron*, *Peter Jackson*, and *Bryan Singer*, Dr. Reed shined his unique spotlight on them all.

The ballroom at the Universal Sheraton was filled to capacity with industry professionals and fans, all with the same idea—celebrating the genres of science fiction, fantasy, horror, action, adventure, and thriller. Among those gathered for the festivities were *Ann Robinson* (star of the original “War of the Worlds”), *Frank Darabont*, *Larry Cohen*, *James Karen*, *Drew Struzan*, *Terry Moore* (star of “Mighty Joe Young”), *Joss Whedon*, *Sean Astin*, *Scott Speedman*, *Ben Browder*, *Amy Acker*, *Tom Arnold*, *Dan Harris*, *Jeremy Sumpter*, *Tyler Hoechlin*, *Michael Welch* (“Joan of Arcadia”), *Richard Kelly* (director of “Donnie Darko”), *Eli Roth*, *Kevin Sorbo*, and *Samantha Mathis*. Also on hand were *Jon Favreau*, *Michael Mulvihill*, *Mark Altman*, *Kelly Carlson* (“Nip/Tuck”), *Mick Garris*,

James Cameron and Gale Anne Hurd (far right) with their Dr. Donald A. Reed Awards.





Ron Perlman, Natasha Henstridge, Lawrence Bender, Will Kemp, Alison Eastwood, Shane Black, Stuart Gordon, Donal Logue, Lou Ferrigno, Lauren Shuler-Donner, and Isaiah Washington.

Comedian **Jeffrey Ross**, master of ceremonies for his second year in a row, kept the laughs coming throughout the two-and-a-half hour show.

The first presentation of the evening was the 2003 Dr. Donald A. Reed Award to filmmaker James Cameron. Voted this award in 2003, Cameron was unable to attend that year's ceremony. Presenting the award was his friend, comic actor **Tom Arnold**. "Jim Cameron

is...considered in our circle to be the modern-day Stanley Kubrick, said Arnold. "This special Saturn was not merely voted in recognition of Jim's tour-de-force filmmaking expertise and his explosive visual style, but to celebrate his undying devotion to science fiction, fantasy & horror films. Jim is truly one of the biggest fans there is."

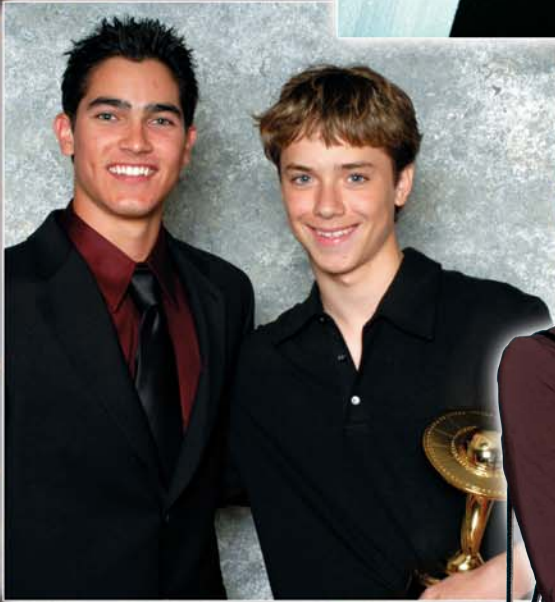
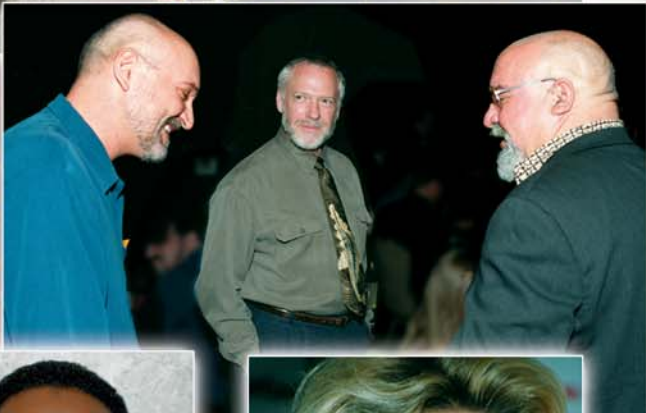
"I feel very comfortable here," Cameron said during his acceptance remarks, "because I know that I'm with the kind of people that I understand!...When I think about where sci-fi, fantasy and horror are now versus where they were when I was a kid—they were ghetto-ized. They were second-class citizens. And now...some of the biggest, most critically celebrated and successful films are genre pictures..." In ending, he enthused, "It's great getting a Saturn [Award]. They represent the spirit of this man, Dr. Reed, who was a friend of mine. There was not a fiber of his mental or physical being that was not dedicated to the types of films that we love. He spent all his waking hours and all of his energy while he was on this Earth promoting the...art of being a great fan. And he really showed us how to... celebrate these films...I think we all owe him a great debt. I'm very happy to receive an award that is in his name. It means a great deal to me as a genre filmmaker."

Joss Whedon, who won two awards during the evening (Best DVD Television Release "The Complete Firefly," and Best Network Television Series "Angel"), was grateful to the fans and to the talented writers and actors he has worked with. Echoing these sentiments (via video) was **James Marsters**, who won Best Supporting Actor TV for "Angel" and "Buffy, the Vampire Slayer." "It has been a real wild ride these past six years to be a part of a company, and now two companies, that have expanded the genre of fantasy television... and given an actor like me enough meat to sink his teeth into, and to get one of these," Marsters said, hoisting his Saturn Award high.

Producer **Naren Shankar** accepted the Best Network Series award for "CSI." "I spent a lot of years writing on shows like 'Star Trek: The Next Generation,' 'The Outer Limits,' and 'Farscape,' so it feels kind of funny taking this Saturn Award for 'CSI,' but it feels very good. The thing about science fiction and fantasy shows is that they encompass all genres [medical shows, cop shows, lawyer shows], but it doesn't work the other way around!"

"Quentin [Tarantino] is more than

From top: Ronald D. Moore, Lou Ferrigno, and David Eick; Frank Darabont, Drew Struzan, and Stuart Gordon; Isaiah Washington; Kelly Carlson; Tyler Hoechlin and Jeremy Sumpter; Sean Young and Lawrence Bender.



a genre movie maker, he's a movie lover!" said producer **Lawrence Bender**, accepting the Best Action/Adventure/Thriller award for "Kill Bill, Volume 1. "It's guys like Quentin, Eli Roth, and Peter Jackson that are the real genre fans."

Best Supporting Actor winner **Sean Astin** ("Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King"): "Wow, this is really humbling.... Being a part of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy has been like grabbing the third rail of human life on this planet.... And I'm grateful to my father, John Astin, for not only being my spiritual and philosophical and creative touchstone, but [also] advocating my work to Peter Jackson years before when he worked with him on 'The Frighteners.' The real reason I love science fiction is the elements of mythology that are a congealing force. It surrounds us and penetrates us and binds us together.... This award is a celebration of imagination.... I'm forever grateful...that the sci-fi community has embraced 'Lord of the Rings' most vocally and vociferously for the last few years. "

"X2: X-Men United" garnered the Best Science Fiction award. "I'm very proud to receive this Saturn Award," said producer **Lauren Shuler-Donner**. "...I am extremely pleased to be a part of this genre. I am a late inductee in the past seven or eight years and I hope to continue for many, many more years to come."

Accepting the prize for Filmmakers Showcase, **Eli Roth** said, "...Although tonight I'm being singled out in front of this crowd, this award is for all of us for the future of horror."

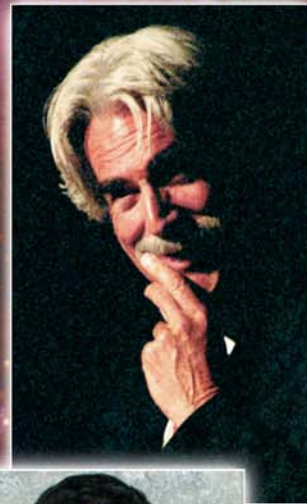
Industry legends had words of praise for the Academy and its founder on the occasion of its 30th anniversary. Said director/producer **Roger Corman**, "I've been associated with the Academy almost from its inception. One of the fondest memories is the night I presented an award on behalf of the Academy to director **Fritz Lang**."

"The Academy has stood for quality and a wise and generous representation of the worth of horror and fantasy and science fiction at a time when many others did not," said director/producer **Wes Craven**. "Congratulations Saturn Awards! I've received one myself and it stands on the proudest shelf in my house."

And actor/director **Leonard Nimoy** said, "I was given a [Lifetime Career] Saturn Award a number of years ago...and I'm very proud to have it. Dr. Reed had the fine foresight and persistence to honor science fiction at a time when they were not high on the agenda of the other academies. And it's a shame because there have been so many great talents, craftsmen and filmmakers who have been overlooked for so long. I think it's a great achievement for this Academy to have made up for that deficit. Happy 30th anniversary, Saturn Awards. May you continue to live long and prosper for years to come."

A gracious **Peter Jackson** accepted the Best Director award for "Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," via video, with these words, "...[This is] an honor that I really, truly, cherish. I remember ...accepting a Saturn Award in 1993 for 'Dead Alive.' This was... the first major award that anybody ever gave to me in my career. So, the Saturn

From top: Alison Eastwood; Sam Elliott; Naren Shankar; Scott Speedman; Jon Favreau; Samantha Mathis; Ben Browder, Lauren Shuler-Donner, and Ralph Winter.





Awards and the Academy of Science Fiction have a really special place in my heart. This [first] award is still displayed in a private place on my shelf. And it's a real thrill to think that an award for 'Return of the King' is going to join it tonight. It's sort of a full circle. Ten years apart in actual fact. 'The Lord of the Rings' films were a once in a lifetime chance to... just have fun and play with the most enormous toy box in the world.... I'm pleased that the fun has been shared with an audience."

The most prestigious award of the night went to producer *Gale Anne Hurd* who accepted her special award, the 2004 Dr. Donald A. Reed award, from her dear friend, *Sam Elliott*.

In presenting the award Elliott spoke eloquently, "There is no doubt that Dr. Reed's spirit is here with us tonight and he's cheering a great bravo for his friend, Gale. Gale is not only a champion of genre films, but filmmakers as well. Her incredible success as a producer has not only been good for the box office, but it has been a boon to the overall health of the film industry. Quite simply, Gale Anne Hurd is good for the movie business..."

"This really is all about Dr. Reed," *Gale Anne Hurd* said, "much less about me, must less about anyone receiving this award. I remember back twenty years ago... when 'The Terminator' was first completed, it didn't have... 'classic' written [all] over it as many feel [it has] today. In fact, the studio that financed the film referred to it as

a 'down-and-dirty action film' and was embarrassed to screen it to critics. Dr. Reed screened the film and I've never seen a more enthusiastic reaction to any movie in my career, and that buoyed Jim's and my spirits. When we were feeling like poor stepchildren, Dr. Reed guaranteed us that there would be [many] accolades to come. And there were. We won a number of Saturn Awards. And those were the *only* awards we won for that film. Orson Wells didn't win anything for 'Citizen Kane,' either. But that's only because Dr. Reed was not around at the time! Because he would've recognized greatness [as he] did every year when he was the President of this Academy."

Hurd recounted, "Over the next two decades, Dr. Reed was always the first to call after he'd seen one of my films. Especially the first to offer words of encouragement if the film wasn't a huge hit at the box office or if its reviews were underwhelming.

"As much as he loved films and filmmakers, he loved this Academy. It was his life's blood. Films were his passion. Genre films especially. And all of us who knew him and considered him a friend are poorer with his passing. But his legacy lives on in this Academy and in this award, which bears his name. And my respect for Donald Reed is precisely why I flew fourteen hours from Berlin yesterday to be here to accept this award in person. And I'd like to thank Dr. Reed—I know that he is here in spirit—for his friendship, for his support when I—and so many in this room and those who couldn't be here—needed it the most. And for his commitment to genre films and filmmakers long, long before it was fashionable. Thank you."

Robert Holguin continues the work of Dr. Reed as he plans the 2005 show—*The 31ST Annual Saturn Awards*.

**Top to bottom-left: Kevin Sorbo; Sean Astin; Eli Roth; Amy Acker.
Top to bottom-right: Donal Logue; Joss Whedon; Jenna Boyd; Katherine Ross.**



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