

6th Annual NAD Centre Awards of Excellence Gala
THE INDUSTRY AWARDS 12 000 \$ TO CGI RELIEF

Montreal, May 26, 2006 – The National Animation & Design Centre (NAD Centre) held Wednesday evening its sixth annual Awards of Excellence Gala today with industry members that have supported it since its debut. Around 200 guests including sponsors, graduates from the classes of 2004-2005, corporations, government and media representatives gathered at the Lion d'Or to honour young talent in digital content creation.

Nine graduates from the classes of 2005-2006 of the NAD Centre's professional 3D graphics training programs shared six Awards of Excellence of \$ 2000 each, totaling \$ 12000 in prizes. The winners were selected by a jury formed by representatives of the companies that have contributed to the Awards fund. The 2006 winners are:

- **A2M Award for Best Cut-Scene**
Philippe Poisson, Design and Digital Art for Video Games, Group of Fall 04
- **National Bank of Canada Award for Best Scenario**
Kristen Tooley, 3D Animation and Visual Effects for Film and Television, Group of Winter 05
- **Electronic Arts Montreal Award for Best Animation**
Marc-Antoine Matton, Design and Digital Art for Video Games, Group of Fall 04
- **Buzz Image Group Award for Best Image Quality**
Team Virginie Goulet, Pascale St-Pierre and Catherine Hébert, 3D Animation and Visual Effects for Film and Television, Group of Fall 04
- **INGENIO Award for Best Modeling**
Nicolas Viau, Design and Digital Art for Video Games, Group of Winter 05
- **Ubisoft Award for Best Animation**
Team Étienne Laroche and Guillaume Pelletier, 3D Animation and Visual Effects for Film and Television, Group of Fall 04

Four other students received special mentions for the overall quality of their work, as well as for their team spirit and positive attitude while in training. Joseph Botardo and Cyrille Domoraud each received a one-year membership from the International Game Developers Association and a 3ds Max licence offered by Autodesk while Nestor Benito and Sylvain Désormeau received one-year memberships from ACM SIGGRAPH Montreal and SOFTIMAGE|XSI licences from Novipro and Softimage.

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The Awards of Excellence and the Gala have been made possible by the generous contribution of:



THE INDUSTRY AWARDS CGI TALENT (cont'd)

Tribute Prize to Alexandre Lafortune

The NAD Centre awards the Tribute Prize to a graduate with an exceptional career inspiring the young artist relief. This year's recipient is Alexandre Lafortune, a 1994 graduate, 33-year old Montrealer father of 3. His career started on spinning wheels with a first project in which he created, scripted and directed a commercial for non-profit Tel-jeunes organization with the Softimage team. Freshly out of school, Alexandre did not waste any time. Successive mandates from 1994 to 1997 enabled him to confirm an undeniable polyvalence: Big Bang, Innovitech which was preparing a production for the universal exhibition of Lisbon, NAD Centre to teach Softimage 3D, Enzyme Digital Marketing; Buzz Image Group on the *Johnny Quest* project and then the TV series production of *Barbe Rouge* at Productions Roger Héroux. Afterwards, Alexandre worked 4 years at Voodoo Media Arts as Senior 3D Animator where he collaborated on numerous TV advertisement messages for clients such as Tropicana, Canon, Molson, Rogers, Cherrios and Lucky Charms. In 2001, he joined Buzz Image Group, one of the most important post houses in Quebec. As Effects Supervisor, he worked on several significant feature film projects such as *The Fountain*, *Brokeback Mountain*, *Stay*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Extreme Ops* and TV ad campaigns for clients such as Ford, Toyota, Bell, Discovery Channel and YTV.

The Gala took place thanks to the contribution of Alpha-Vision, Audiokinetic, Autodesk, Softimage Avid and S.P.I.N. while ACM SIGGRAPH Montreal, Autodesk, Novipro, Softimage Avid and IGDA offered prizes for the Special Mentions.

"We are extremely grateful for the industry members' generosity and involvement towards our graduates. This evening pays an homage to the graduates' labour and to their commitment to contribute to the growth of the whole industry", said NAD Centre's General Manager Suzanne Guèvremont. "We hope the industry will continue believing and investing in such ways in young talent."

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THE INDUSTRY AWARDS NEW CGI TALENT (cont'd)

About the NAD Centre NAD

Established in 1992, the National Animation and Design Centre is a self-financed subsidiary of Le Cégep de Jonquière. Since its inception, it trained more than to 800 CGI professionals who presently work in the film and television, post-production and gaming industries for companies such as Hatch FX, A2M, Buzz Image Group, Ubisoft, Hybride Technologies, Electronic Arts, WETA, etc. The NAD Centre, the first school world-wide to provide SOFTIMAGE software training, is one of a select handful of SOFTIMAGE|XSI, an Avid DS Authorized Training Centre (ATC) and an Autodesk Media & Entertainment Training Centre. With close to fifteen years of training experience, R & D, knowledge transfers and consulting services to individuals, corporations and education facilities, the NAD Centre enjoys an enviable reputation locally as well as in Venezuela, France, Italy, Russia, Spain, the United States, Japan and the United Kingdom.

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Event press kit and photos available at :
www.nadcentre.com/Press/Gala2006

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