



Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (2001) Screening and Panel Showcases Anime Production Design and Genre

**Presented by the Art Directors Guild Film Society
and the American Cinematheque**

Sunday, August 25 at 5:30 P.M. at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica
Sponsored by *The Hollywood Reporter*

LOS ANGELES, DATE, 2013 - [The Art Directors Guild](#) (ADG) Film Society and [American Cinematheque](#) conclude the 2013 ADG Film Series with a special screening of *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie (Tengoku No Tobira)* (2001), a futuristic animated feature from Japan that blends film noir, spaghetti western, Hong Kong style action, and much more into a remarkable work of film art on Sunday, August 25 at 5:30 pm at the Aero Theatre, 1328 Montana Ave. in Santa Monica. *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie*, though considered *anime*, has all the emotion and visceral impact of any great live action film, with a story that mixes past and future architecture and wild action with a feeling of genuine urban realism. *Cowboy Bebop* is unique as it creates its world with a minimum of computer graphics and just a bit of clever rotoscoping -- the vast majority of both human and mechanical action is rendered entirely by hand.

The program, sponsored by [The Hollywood Reporter](#), will begin with a short visual presentation introducing the audience to the special universe of *Cowboy Bebop*. A discussion will follow with **Peter Ramsey**, an ADG Illustrator who advanced to feature Director on the award winning *Rise of the Guardians* (2012) and special guest **Steve Blum**, the acclaimed actor who voices "Spike Spiegel," *Bebop's* lead character, as well *Wolverine*, *The Avengers*, and *Transformers*, among many others. ADG Film Society Founder, Co-Chair and Production Designer **John Muto** will moderate the program.

"*Cowboy Bebop: The Movie* is significant not just for the amazing world that the designers created, but because its cinematic, dramatic, emotional, and even musical elements set it apart from what we ordinarily think of as "anime," said John Muto. "While *Bebop* takes place in the future, and includes plenty of violent action, pyrotechnics, sly humor, and even eroticism, there is very little that is silly or cartoony about it. The characters, and their struggles make it very easy to forget that one is watching animation at all, and simply enjoy the picture just as if it were a contemporary live action movie."

"From the design point of view, *Cowboy Bebop*, like almost all great animated films, creates its own unique world - in this case a terraformed Mars of the next century," adds Muto. "Much of the action takes place in a city that, while it has futuristic elements, also recalls old Earth cities like Paris, Tokyo, New York, and Cairo. The integration of such disparate designs works flawlessly. Equally impressive is the integration of the character design into the created environment - an aspect of animation design that should be given more recognition. The brilliant music score, a mix of jazz and blues, by Yoko Kanno, must also be acknowledged for the special ambience it lends to this very special film."

Shinichirō Watanabe directed *Cowboy Bebop* and Atsushi Morikawa was the Art Director. Other

credited designers include Toshihiro Kawamoto, who designed the characters; Kimitoshi Yamane, the mechanical elements; Shiho Takeuchi, the sets; and Shihoko Nakayama, the color scheme.

“The 2013 ADG Film Society/American Cinematheque Screening Series has been a great success,” said Muto. “We are looking forward to putting together another eclectic and challenging slate of films showcasing unique production design in 2014.” In addition to *Cowboy Bebop: The Movie* (2001), the 2013 Screening Series included *The X-Files Television Show* (1993-2002), design by Corey Kaplan; *Touch of Evil* (1958), design by Robert Clatworthy; and *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea* (1954), design by Harper Goff.

Representing the ADG are Film Society Co-Chairs John Muto and Thomas A. Walsh, and Debbie Patton, ADG Manager, Awards and Events. Working with them are the American Cinematheque’s Gwen Deglise, Margot Gerber, and Grant Moninger. General admission: \$11. American Cinematheque members: \$7. Students/Seniors with valid ID: \$9. All screenings start at 5:30 p.m. 24-hour information is available at 323-466-FILM (3456).

For images: [Cowboy Bebop: The Movie photos](#) For ticket information: [American Cinematheque Tickets](#).

NOTE TO MEDIA: Media are invited to cover!

About the [Art Directors Guild](#):

The Art Directors Guild (IATSE Local 800) represents nearly 2,000 members who work throughout the United States, Canada and the rest of the world in film, television and theater as Production Designers, Art Directors, and Assistant Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Illustrators and Matte Artists; and Set Designers and Model Makers. Established in 1937, ADG’s ongoing activities include a Film Society; an annual Awards Banquet, a creative/technology community (5D: The Future of Immersive Design) and Membership Directory; a bimonthly professional magazine (Perspective); and extensive technology-training programs, creative workshops and craft and art exhibitions. The Guild’s Online Directory/Website Resource: [Art Directors Guild](#); Follow ADG on Twitter: [@ADG800](#); For Facebook: [ADG Facebook](#).

About [American Cinematheque](#):

Established in 1981, the American Cinematheque is a 501(c)(3) non-profit viewer-supported film exhibition and cultural organization dedicated to the celebration of the Moving Picture in all of its forms. At the Egyptian Theatre, the Cinematheque presents daily film and video programming which ranges from the classics of American and international cinema to new independent films and digital work. Exhibition of rare works, special and rare prints, etc., combined with fascinating post-screening discussions with the filmmakers who created the work, are a Cinematheque tradition that keep audiences coming back for once-in-a-lifetime cinema experiences. The American Cinematheque renovated and reopened (on Dec. 4, 1998) the historic 1922 Hollywood Egyptian Theatre. This includes a state-of-the-art 616-seat theatre housed within Sid Grauman’s first grand movie palace on Hollywood Boulevard. The exotic courtyard is fully restored to its 1922 grandeur. The Egyptian was the home of the very first Hollywood movie premiere in 1922. In January 2005, the American Cinematheque expanded its programming to the 1940 Aero Theatre on Montana Avenue in Santa Monica. For more information about American Cinematheque, visit the website: [American Cinematheque](#). Follow the American Cinematheque on Twitter ([@sidgrauman](#)) and Facebook ([Egyptian Theatre](#), [Aero Theatre](#)).

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