



For Release at 8 A.M. PT/11 A.M. ET on December 6, 2024

Artwork [HERE](#)

THE ART DIRECTORS GUILD NAMES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND HALL OF FAME HONOREES FOR THE 29TH ANNUAL EXCELLENCE IN PRODUCTION DESIGN AWARDS

*Art Department veterans Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan Sweetman and J. Dennis Washington Will Receive Lifetime Achievement Awards;
Carl Jules Weyl Added to Hall of Fame*



From Left to Right: Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan Sweetman and J. Dennis Washington (Photo Credit: Vic Rincon)

LOS ANGELES – The [Art Directors Guild](#), IATSE Local 800 (ADG 800) announces the Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame Award honorees, to be honored at the **29th Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards** on Feb. 15, 2025.

Lisa Frazza, Barbara Mesney, Dan Sweetman, and J. Dennis Washington will receive the guild's Lifetime Achievement awards. The ADG will induct legendary production designer **Carl Jules Weyl into the Hall of Fame**. Weyl's illustrious career includes winning an Academy Award® in 1939 for his work on "The Adventures of Robin Hood."

"We're thrilled to recognize these fantastic artisans, who represent the pinnacle of craftsmanship and artistry in art departments," says award show producers Michael Allen Glover, ADG and Megan Elizabeth Bell, ADG in a joint statement.

Scenic Artist, Lisa Frazza will receive Lifetime Achievement Award recognition through the Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists (STG) Council, presented during the ADG Awards ceremony by Production Designer Jack Forrestel. Known for her innovative techniques and keen eye for details—as seen in her faux wood grain, marbelizing and mural work – Frazza worked on hundreds of TV shows during a long career at CBS Television Studios, including "Wheel of Fortune," "Jeopardy," "The Late Late Show with James Corden," "Dancing with the Stars," "Survivor" and 16 years on "The Bold and the Beautiful." Inspired by early memories of visiting the Met, the New York City Ballet and Radio City Music Hall, Frazza began her career as a scenic artist for stage plays and operas.

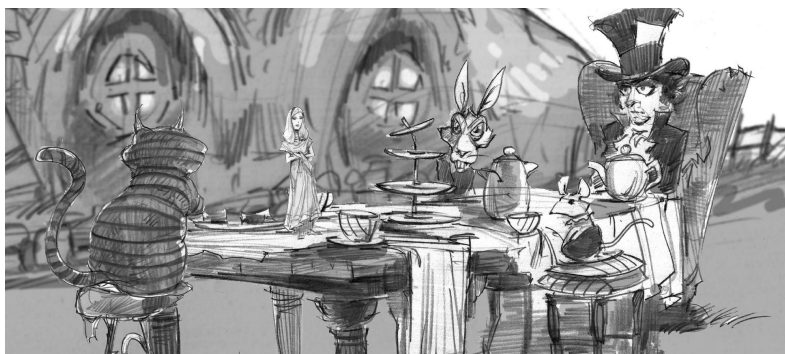
"Lisa Frazza, an exceptional scenic artist, has left an indelible mark on the industry with her dedication,

creativity, and fearless approach to challenges. With hundreds of major productions at Television City on her resume, she's earned the respect of art directors and colleagues alike for her reliability, on-set expertise, and trailblazing role as one of the few female scenic artists of her time. Beyond her artistry, Lisa tirelessly served the guild as a board and council member, chaired the Scholarship Committee for ten years, championed causes like the flex plan, and mentored the next generation with care and generosity," says Clint Schultz, STG Council Chair.

The Set Designers & Model Makers (SDMM) are bestowing their Lifetime Achievement Award on Set Designer, Barbara Mesney, presented by Art Director Dawn Swiderski. Mesney has worked on dozens of award-winning blockbuster films, including "Argo;" "Hail, Caesar!;" "Gone Girl;" "Anchorman;" "Captain America: The Winter Soldier;" "Crazy, Stupid, Love;" "ConAir" and "Mathilda," among many others. Mesney's entertainment career began as a scenic designer and scenic artist for the stage, ultimately serving as associate designer for the American Conservatory Theatre and receiving numerous Dramalogue and Bay Area Theatre Critics Awards. Mesney began working as a set designer in 1989 on the feature film *Class Action*. In addition to her set design work, Mesney has been painting oil colors for three decades and volunteers with the Best Friends Animal Society.

The Set Designers and Model Makers Craft Council Chair, Tim Croshaw, says: "For over 30 years, Barbara Mesney has transformed Hollywood storytelling with her set designs. Known for her exceptional ability to bring concepts to life through her detailed, hand-drawn draftings, she has shaped the look of some of the industry's most iconic productions. Her creativity, precision, and artistry have left an enduring legacy in the Art Department, inspiring future generations of filmmakers and designers. Congratulations, Barbara, on this well-deserved honor celebrating your remarkable career."

Dan Sweetman will receive his Lifetime Achievement Award from the Illustrators and Matte Artists (IMA) Council, presented by Storyboard Artist David Lowery. With more than 30 years working in films, Sweetman has served as the Storyboard Artist for films including "Braveheart," "Contact," "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," "Spider-Man," "The Prestige," "Alice in Wonderland," "Birdman," and most recently "Mufasa: The Lion King." Prior to his film work, Sweetman created illustrations for newspapers and magazines such as the LA Times and The New York Times and drew for Vertigo and DC Comics.



Storyboard Art from "Alice in Wonderland" (2010) by Dan Sweetman

"With over 100 films, including two Best Picture winners in *Braveheart*, and *Birdman*, Dan has erased the lines between genres to work with a who's who of A-List Directors, including Mel Gibson, Peter Weir, Chris Columbus, George Miller, Robert Zemeckis, Sam Raimi, and Christopher Nolan, to name a few. His enduring career is a testament to his skill and talent in visualizing and bridging the gap between the script and the shot, emphasized by the trust these directors continue to have in him as their storyboard

artist. We celebrate this and his accomplishments in his continuing career with this year's Lifetime Achievement Award," says Tim Wilcox, ADG Illustrators and Matte Artists Council Chair.

The Art Directors (AD) Council is also set to honor Production Designer, J. Dennis Washington, celebrating his work over more than 50 years in the film industry. Washington's award will be presented by Agent Ann Murtha. Washington designed for films including "Stand by Me," "The Fugitive," "Dante's Peak," "White Men Can't Jump," "Nebraska" and "13 Days," as well as three films with the legendary director John Huston. Born in Santa Monica, California, Washington studied architecture in college. In 1965, MGM hired Washington as a junior set designer and he knew from that moment he would work in art departments for his whole career.

"J. Dennis is a master of the craft. His dedication to excellence and ability to create visually stunning worlds has made him a true legend in our industry, and we're honored to celebrate his career," says Evan Rohde, AD Council Chair.

Also during the Excellence in Production Design Awards, the ADG will bestow its Hall of Fame Honor on legendary Art Director Carl Jules Weyl. In the 1930s and 1940s, Weyl was renowned for his influential design on Hollywood classics including "Casablanca" and "The Big Sleep." Weyl won a Best Art Direction Oscar for his work on the film "The Adventures of Robin Hood" and was later nominated in the same category for "Mission to Moscow." He passed away in 1947.



Carl Jules Weyl at work on "The Adventures of Robin Hood" (1938)

As previously announced, the ADG Awards ceremony will take place at the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown.

The Art Directors Guild Awards are proud to be sponsored by Presenting Level: Sweetwater / NEP Live Events; Premier Level: Astek Wallcoverings, CushLight, Dazian; Diamond Level: Goodnight & Co. Platinum Level: Interior Design Solutions (Belbien).

ABOUT THE ART DIRECTORS GUILD:

Established in 1937, the Art Directors Guild (ADG, IATSE Local 800) represents 3,300 members who work throughout the world in film, television and theater as: Production Designers and Art Directors; Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists; Set Designers and Model Makers; Illustrators and Matte Artists. ADG 800's ongoing activities include a Film Society screening series, the annual "Excellence in Production Design Awards" gala, a bimonthly craft magazine (*PERSPECTIVE*), figure drawing and other creative workshops, as well as extensive technology and craft training programs. For the Art Director Guild's online directory and resources, please visit www.adg.org.

<u>FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADG AWARDS:</u> Debbie Patton, ADG Awards & Events Director Debbie@adg.org 818.762.9995	<u>MEDIA & PRESS CONTACT:</u> EBComs PR Mackinley Sullivan, mackinley@ebcoms.com Ranjinder Hans, ranjinder@ebcoms.com Red Carpet Media Credential application HERE
<u>SPONSORSHIP/ADVERTISING/PREMIUM SEATING:</u> IngleDodd Media, Awards Department ADGAwards@IngleDodd.com 310.207.4410 x 245	<u>CONNECT WITH THE ADG:</u> Website: https://adg.org/ Facebook: facebook.com/ADG800 X (Twitter): twitter.com/ADG800 Instagram: instagram.com/adg800 Perspective Magazine: https://adg.org/perspective/