



ART DIRECTORS GUILD TO HONOR
JON M. CHU
WITH THE 2026 CINEMATIC IMAGERY AWARD



LOS ANGELES, CA (January 13, 2026) — The Art Directors Guild (ADG, IATSE Local 800) is pleased to announce that acclaimed filmmaker **Jon M. Chu** will receive the **2026 Cinematic Imagery Award**.

“Between imagination and the screen, there is an entire world built by artists,” said **Jon M. Chu**. “On *Wicked* and *Wicked: For Good*, I witnessed firsthand how production designers, art directors, set decorators, and extraordinary crews created Oz not just as a setting, but as a living, breathing emotional landscape. I share this honor with the countless craftspeople who poured their hearts into those worlds, and I am deeply grateful to the Art Directors Guild and its members for this recognition.”

The ADG also announced last week that *Wicked: For Good* and *Wicked: One Wonderful Night* garnered nominations for Excellence in Production Design Awards.

The **ADG's Cinematic Imagery Award** is given to a filmmaker whose body of work has significantly enriched the visual experience of storytelling and elevated the visibility of the art department. Previous recipients include Jason Reitman, Baz Luhrmann, Jane Campion, Steven Spielberg, Christopher Nolan, Martin Scorsese, and George Lucas.

“Jon M. Chu’s work exemplifies the power of cinematic imagery to move audiences and deepen storytelling,” said **Dina Lipton, President of the Art Directors Guild**. “His bold visual language and unwavering commitment to collaboration have helped shine a spotlight on the essential role of the art department, and we are thrilled to recognize his remarkable contributions with the 2026 Cinematic Imagery Award.”

2026 Cinematic Imagery Award Honoree: Jon M. Chu

Filmmaker Jon M. Chu is known for his visually stunning blockbuster films, as well as his kinetic work across various genres from groundbreaking series to commercials and films. His unique storytelling ability has earned him the honor of inclusion on the Hollywood Reporter’s Power 100 list as well as Variety’s New Hollywood Leaders.

Most recently, Chu directed Universal Pictures’ *Wicked: For Good*, which opened #1 in the global box office after its premiere on November 21. Oscar-nominated actresses Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande star in the epic conclusion to Part 1, which garnered an Academy Award nomination for *Best Picture* and quickly became the highest-grossing Broadway musical adaptation in box office history.

His recent projects include the critically acclaimed adaptation of the musical *In the Heights* for Warner Bros. as well as the worldwide phenomenon *Crazy Rich Asians*, which was nominated for numerous awards, including a *SAG Award*, a *Golden Globe*, and a *PGA Award*. It was the first contemporary studio picture in more than 25 years to feature an all-Asian cast and opened a new chapter in Asian American representation in Hollywood.

Upcoming, Chu is attached to develop and direct the highly anticipated biopic for Britney Spears based on her memoir, *The Woman in Me*, with Universal as well as Dr. Seuss’ *Oh, the Places You’ll Go!* with Warner Bros and JJ Abrams’ Bad Robot and the *Crazy Rich Asians* Broadway musical. His previous films include *GI. Joe: Retaliation*, *Now You See Me 2*, *Justin Bieber’s Never Say Never* and many more representing over 1.3 billion dollars in the worldwide box office. His memoir, *Viewfinder*, is his journey from growing up in Silicon Valley to transitioning to Hollywood and helming major studio projects, released Summer 2024.

Event Information

Previously announced honorees for the **30th Annual Excellence in Production Design Awards** include **Bo Welch, Jann Engel, Tom Southwell, and Stephen McNally**, who will receive the **ADG’s Lifetime Achievement Awards**.

The ceremony will take place on **February 28, 2026**, 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: Creative Artists Agency, Cush Light, Dazian, OnAir / Astek**; **DIAMOND LEVEL: Goodnight and Company, Universal Prop**

House; PLATINUM LEVEL: Interior Design Solutions and Worldwide Production Agency (WPA) SILVER LEVEL: ShotDeck

About The Art Directors Guild

The Art Directors Guild (ADG, IATSE Local 800) members design the worlds where stories live. From enchanted kingdoms to the streets of today, our members craft the environments that bring film, television, and theater to life. Representing over 3,000 artists, including Production Designers and Art Directors, Scenic, Title and Graphic Artists, Set Designers and Model Makers, Illustrators, Storyboard and Matte Artists. The ADG is dedicated to fostering creativity, promoting education, ensuring safety, and advancing the future of our crafts.

Originally established in 1937, the ADG's ongoing activities include a Film Society screening series, the annual "Excellence in Production Design Awards" gala, a bimonthly magazine PERSPECTIVE, as well as a robust education program. For the Art Director Guild's online directory and resources, please visit www.adg.org