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Phoenix Guitar Gala: John Lasseter Guitar announced

Director of Toy Story, Bug's Life is also Chief Creative Officer for Pixar and Disney films

PETALUMA, CA (Feb 4. 2008) – Artists, musicians, and legends have banded together to make the Phoenix Guitar Gala & Carnaval possible. The event, the first of its kind for the Phoenix, will occur in the very building it supports – 201 Washington Ave. Petaluma, CA. It will feature 20 guitars designed and/or autographed by local artists and national legends, including George Lucas, Devo, Seth Green of Robot Chicken, Stan Lee (formerly of Marvel Comics), Les Claypool of Primus, John Lasseter, Devo, and more.

The event, scheduled to take place Sat. February 28, will feature a live Internet auction, a cocktail party in celebration of the event, a silent auction featuring artist memorabilia, and appearances by select artists listed above.

JOHN LASSETER

John Lasseter is chief creative officer of Pixar and Disney Animation Studios and principal creative advisor, Walt Disney Imagineering. He is a two-time Academy Award®-winning director and oversees all Pixar and Disney films and associated projects. Mr. Lasseter directed the groundbreaking and critically acclaimed films Toy Story, A Bug's Life and Toy Story 2. Additionally, he executive produced Monsters, Inc., Finding Nemo, and The Incredibles. Mr. Lasseter returned to the director's chair in 2006 with the release of Disney·Pixar film, Cars.



In 2004, Mr. Lasseter was honored by the Art Directors Guild with its prestigious "Outstanding Contribution To Cinematic Imagery" award, and received an honorary degree from the American Film Institute.

Under Mr. Lasseter's supervision, Pixar's animated feature and short films have received a multitude of critical accolades and film industry honors. Mr. Lasseter received a Special Achievement Oscar® in 1995 for his inspired leadership of the Toy Story team. His work on Toy Story also resulted in an Academy Award®-nomination for "Best Original Screenplay," the first time an animated feature had been recognized in that category. Finding Nemo, released spring 2003, became the highest grossing animated feature of all time, and won the Oscar® for "Best Animated Feature Film."

As creative director of Pixar, Mr. Lasseter enjoyed the critical acclaim and box office success of *The Incredibles* in 2004. The film was recognized with a record-breaking 16 Annie Award nominations and several "Best Of" awards by *The Wall Street Journal*, American Film Institute, National Board of Review and many others.

Mr. Lasseter also has written, directed and animated a number of highly renowned short films and television commercials for Pixar, including *Luxo Jr.* (1986 Academy Award® nominee); *Red's Dream* (1987); *Tin Toy* (1988 Academy Award® winner); and *Knickknack* (1989), which was produced as a 3D stereoscopic film. Pixar's *Tin Toy* became the first computer animated film to win an Oscar® when it received the 1988 Academy Award® for Best Animated Short Film.

Prior to the formation of Pixar in 1986, Mr. Lasseter was a member of the Computer Division of Lucasfilm Ltd., where he designed and animated the computer-generated Stained Glass Knight character in the 1985 Steven Spielberg-produced film *Young Sherlock Holmes*.

Mr. Lasseter attended the inaugural year of the Character Animation program at California Institute of the Arts and received his B.F.A. in film there in 1979. While attending California Institute of the Arts Mr. Lasseter produced two animated films, both winners of the Student Academy Award® for Animation; *Lady and the Lamp* in 1979 and *Nitemare* in 1980. His very first award came at the age of five when he won \$15.00 from the Model Grocery Market in Whittier, California, for a crayon drawing of the Headless Horseman.

John's guitar will be available for auction on February 28, 2009. Though he is not personally designing it, it will be autographed by him.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT

For more details on sponsorships and the event, contact Jim Agius at jimagius@gmail.com or Kim Loop at kim@petalumaphoenix.org.

For more details on the non-profit organization or programs, contact Amber Faur at amber@petalumaphoenix.org.

More information can be found at the Gala's official website – phoenixguitargala.com

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