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 with?**

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 Ana-Lucia  
 Charlie  
 Claire  
 Danielle  
 Eko  
 Hurley  
 Jack  
 Jin  
 Kate  
 Libby  
 Locke  
 Michael  
 Sawyer  
 Sayid

## John Bruno Q&A

SFX talks to the Visual Effects Supervisor on X-Men: The Last Stand

[11 May 2006 11:01am]



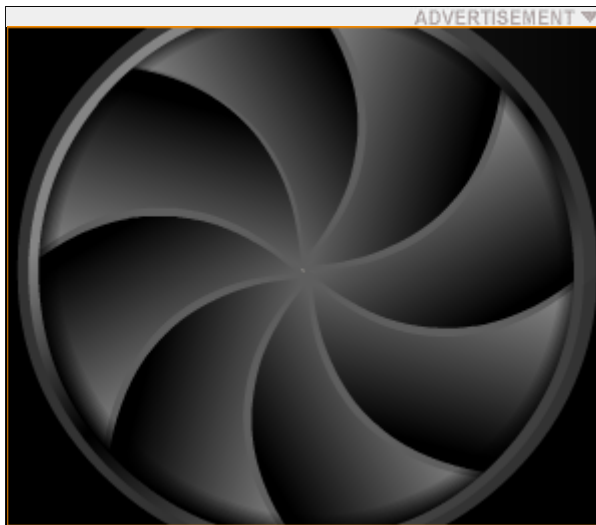
The latest X-Men movie looks set to deliver amazing set-piece scenes and incredible combat sequences, and SFX spoke to Academy Award-winning visual effects supervisor John Bruno about how these will be achieved.

In 1995, Bruno spent five months in the pre-production phase of Titanic. Bruno directed two seasons of Star Trek Voyager (1999 –2000) and in 2001 served as producer and second unit

director on James Cameron's Imax presentation "Ghosts of the Abyss". He's famous for his work on The Abyss, Ghostbusters and Terminator II, amongst many others.

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X-Men: The Last Stand uses a mixture of CGI effects, miniatures and large-scale models. We understand that the biggest scene in any X-Men film so far will show Magneto ripping up the Golden Gate bridge and shifting it across the water to use as a way onto Alcatraz.

In addition, innovative computer visuals have been used on the characters as well as the scenes – John Bruno used brand new rejuvenation software called LOLA, which applies 3-D patches over the actors' existing facial features. We asked him to tell us a little

**SFX: What was the most difficult visual effect to achieve in the new X-Men movie?**

**John Bruno:** "There were two. Both involving Xavier. The first is at the opening of the film which starts in 1985. We had to make both Xavier and Dr Lensure (Magneto) look 20 to 30 years younger. For me the entire success of the film was based on the believability of this scene for the audience. Second: The atomisation of Jean Grey's house involving both Xavier and Magneto. This was as complex as it gets. All objects (chairs, books, lamps) start out practical and then are replaced with CG counterparts which had to look photo-real before atomising into dust."

- Shannon  
 Sun  
 Walt

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### What was the most time consuming effect to set up?

"The Golden Gate Bridge. It involved plate photography, miniatures, two full-size (one to one) mock-ups of the bridge, and also one 300 feet x 90 feet mock up and one 125 feet by 100 feet. One intact - one collapsed."

### How would you characterise the visual style of the new X-Men movie?

"Realistic. The style of all the X-Men movies seems to have that theme. Realism. Keep it within the known universe."

### Which mutant power would you have if you could choose one?

"Phasing. It's stealthy and seems to be the least painful!"

You can read our review of X-Men: The Last Stand in issue 145 of SFX, on sale on 7 June 2006. The movie hits your local multiplex on 26 May.

Dave Bradley

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