

EAST WEST
PLAYERS

120 Judge John Aiso St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Telephone 213.625.7000
FAX 213.625.7111

website:
www.eastwestplayers.org

email:
info@eastwestplayers.org

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Contact: Christine Huynh
(213) 625-7000 ext. 12
chuynh@EastWestPlayers.org

Pixar Animation Studios recognized with Visionary Award and Jordan Nagai recognized for Breakout Performance Award for Animated Feature Up at East West Players 44th Anniversary Visionary Awards

East West Players (EWP), the nation's premier Asian American theatre, will recognize **Pixar Animation Studios** with the EWP Visionary Award on their feature animation film *Up*. **Jordan Nagai**, the voice of Russell from the animated film *Up*, will be recognized with the Breakout Performance Award at East West Players 44th Anniversary Visionary Awards and Silent Auction, which takes place at the Hilton Universal City on Monday, April 19, 2010. The awards gala recognizes those who have helped to raise the visibility of the Asian Pacific American community through their craft.

"We are proud to honor a very progressive film company like PIXAR who cast an Asian American character alongside an elderly one to play the leads in a feature film. We also honor young actor Jordan Nagai with our Breakout Performance Award," says EWP's Producing Artistic Director Tim Dang. "This evening promises to be an exciting and fun-filled night of entertainment and promises to showcase the depth of Asian American talent in the entertainment industry."

Honorees

Pixar Animation Studios is an Academy Award®-winning computer animation studio. *Up* won Golden Globe Awards for Best Animated Feature Film and Best Original Score from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association. More recently, the film received five Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture, making *Up* only the second animated film in history to receive such a nomination, following *Beauty and the Beast* in 1991. It was awarded with two Academy Awards for Best Animated Feature and Best Original Score in 2010. Pixar's objective is to combine proprietary technology and world-class creative talent to develop computer-animated feature films with memorable characters and heartwarming stories that appeal to audiences of all ages. Pixar is now a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Walt Disney Company. Accepting on behalf of Pixar will be Production Designer for *Up*, **Ricky Nierva**. Ricky joined Pixar Animation Studios in May 1997. He was the lead character designer for *Monster's Inc.* and the character art

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director for the Academy Award-winning feature Finding Nemo. Ricky most recently completed working as the production designer on Disney Pixar's Academy Award-winning feature *Up*.

Jordan Nagai started his acting career at around one and a half years old and first appeared in the PSA commercial *First Five*, as well as doing print work for companies such as Pacific Care and JC Penney. While attending Saturday Japanese school, his principal sent out an audition notice for Disney Pixar's *Up*. After several auditions, Jordan got the role of "wilderness explorer" Russell and had a great time working on his first big film. The Breakout Performance award recognizes someone who, through an outstanding performance that year, has made a huge impact on the visibility of the Asian Pacific American community.

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East West Players' 44th Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction will be held on Monday, April 19, 2010 at the Hilton Universal City, 555 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City, CA 91608. The no-host reception and silent auction will start at 6pm. The dinner and awards program will start at 7pm. Tickets are \$175 - \$1,250. For more information on East West Players' 44th Anniversary Visionary Awards Dinner and Silent Auction please visit www.EastWestPlayers.org or contact Development Manager Lisa Tang at (213) 625.7000 x17 or LTang@EastWestPlayers.org.

Additional celebrity talent and honorees to be announced.