

**Dramatists Play Service**  
proudly represents all nominees and winner  
of the  
**2009 Tony Award® for Best Play**  
**Congratulations to**

**GOD OF CARNAGE**  
by Yasmina Reza  
translated by Christopher Hampton  
**Winner**  
2009 Tony Award®

**33 VARIATIONS**  
by Moisés Kaufman  
2009 Tony Award® Nominee  
**DIVIDING THE ESTATE**  
by Horton Foote  
2009 Tony Award® Nominee  
**REASONS TO BE PRETTY**  
by Neil LaBute  
2009 Tony Award® Nominee

**DPS**  
DRAMATISTS PLAY SERVICE, INC.  
440 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10016  
The destination for the finest plays in the English language:  
**www.dramatists.com**  
Tel. 212-683-8960 Fax 212-213-1539

variety.com



[Log In](#) [Variety Discussions](#) [Glossary](#)

[Home](#) | [6/15/2009](#) 3:41 P.M. | [Text size: a- A](#)

GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS  
DESERVE RECOGNITION.



**FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**  
FOR YOUR EMMY® CONSIDERATION



- [News](#)
- [Reviews](#)
- [Charts](#)
- [Features](#)
- [People](#)
- [Media Careers](#)
- [Opinions](#)
- [Video](#)
- [Photos](#)

## Technology

Posted: Wed., May 6, 2009, 8:00pm PT

[TALK BACK!](#) [EMAIL](#) [PRINT](#) [CONTACT](#)

# New Weta unit will wed research, vfx

### Transfx to be headed by Sebastian Sylwan

By DAVID S. COHEN

Weta Digital, the New Zealand vfx shop working on James Cameron "Avatar" and Steven Spielberg's "Tintin," is launching a working group aimed at bringing advanced computer graphics research together with movie vfx production.

The new group, Transfx, is headed by Sebastian Sylwan, who has joined Weta as head of research and development.

### VARIETY TO GO

- [Widget](#)
- [Digital Edition](#)
- [iPhone](#)
- [Mobile Delivery](#)
- [RSS Feed](#)
- [Home Delivery](#)

Get Variety in your inbox

[See list of newsletters](#)

-- Advertisement --

Sylwan was most recently senior industry manager for film and television at software developer Autodesk, where he spearheaded work on stereoscopic 3-D.

Transfx will be partly funded by the Kiwi government but mostly by Weta, Sylwan said. "This is a significant investment (Weta) has committed to."

The core of Transfx is Weta's code-writing team, but it will expand to include advanced computer graphics researchers and students. **The entire Transfx team will consist of about 20 people, half of whom will be new hires. Weta will be recruiting for Transfx at this year's Siggraph and Siggraph Asia computer graphics confabs.**

Sylwan told *Daily Variety* that the new assignment is his "dream job."

"The goal is to get CG closer to reality while maintaining artistic control," he said.

Many visual effects are cobbled together with improvised "hackish" solutions that look good in that shot but can't be reused on other shots, Sylwan said. Transfx will look to find CG techniques that can be applied more generally.

He pointed to simulations of real-world phenomena like fire and water as targets for Transfx. The group will also work on speeding rendering and on digital capture.

Three visiting professors have already come to Weta to work on problems with the group: Henrik Wann Jensen from UC San Diego; Robert Bridson of the U. of British Columbia; and Eitan Grinspun of Columbia U.

The Transfx group will work directly on Weta's slate, which includes "The Lovely Bones."

Besides his position at Autodesk, Sylwan has been director of technology for Digital Domain and chief technology officer for Milan-based vfx shop Lumiq.

#### More Articles:

[Besson's 'Arthur' broke new ground](#)

[Filmax joins in 3-D 'Magic'](#)

[StudioCanal steps into 3-D](#)

[Fallon, Reznor top Webby winners](#)

[TV Week shuts down print production](#)

[Samsung rocks out with 'Prophecies'](#)

-- Advertisement --



**GENERATION KILL**  
...PROFOUNDLY AUTHENTIC...  
**UTTERLY RIVETING...**  
LEAVE IT TO 'THE WIRE' TEAM OF  
DAVID SIMON AND ED BURNS  
TO GET IT RIGHT... SUPERB ACTING  
AND FIRST-RATE DIRECTION."  
—THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

**OUTSTANDING MINISERIES**  
David Simon, Ed Burns,  
George Faber, Charles Pattinson,  
Anne Thomopoulos, Executive Producers;  
Nina Kostroff Noble, Co-Executive Producer;  
Andrea Calderwood, Produced by

**LEAD ACTOR**  
Alexander Skarsgård,  
as Sgt. Brad "Ice-man" Colbert

**SUPPORTING ACTOR**  
James Ransone, as Col. Josh Ray Person  
Lee Tergesen, as Evan "Scribe" Wright  
Jon Huertas, as Sgt. Antonio "Poke" Espera  
Stark Sands, as Lt. Nathaniel Fick

**WRITING**  
David Simon, Ed Burns, Evan Wright  
Based on the Book by Evan Wright

**DIRECTING**  
Simon Cellan Jones, Susanna White

**AND ALL OTHER CATEGORIES**



**HBO** **BYC**  
FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

**Read next article: [Besson's 'Arthur' broke new ground](#)**

© Copyright 2009 **RBI**, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc.

[Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise](#) |

Links posted in this story: Army Archerd, Bashirah Muttalib, Digital Domain, Pete Seeger, Peter Bart, Sebastian

Sylwan, Steven Spielberg, The Lovely Bones, Todd McCarthy

## TALKBACK:

- [VIEW ALL DISCUSSIONS](#) |
-  [COMMENT ON THIS ARTICLE](#)

Have an opinion about this article? Be the first to [comment](#)

<b>Media &amp; Publishing:</b>	<b>Business &amp; Printing:</b>	<b>Electronics:</b>
Variety   LA 411   New York 411   Video Business   Broadcasting & Cable   Multichannel News   Publishers Weekly Library Journal   School Library Journal   Criticas   Tradeshow Week	DM2- DecisionMaker   Zibb   Packaging Digest   Graphics Arts Monthly   Graphics Arts Blue Book   Converting   Expert Business Source   HotFrog USA   The Industry Measure	EDN   Twice   Electronic News   Electronic Business   Test & Measurement World   Semiconductor International   Instat
	<b>Gifts &amp; Furnishings:</b>	<b>Building &amp; Construction:</b>
	Furniture	Buildcore   Building Design & Construction   Building Team
<b>Manufacturing:</b>	Today   Home	Forecast   Construction
Design News   Control	Textiles Today   Home	Equipment

Engineering	Accents	Consulting
Plant	Today   Casual	Specifying
Engineering	Living   Kids	Engineer
Purchasing	Today   Gifts &	Custom
Purchasing	Decorative	Builder   Daily
Data	Accessories	Commercial
Logistics	Playthings	News
Management	Jlrs, Circ,	Housing
Industrial	Keystone	Giants
Distribution		HousingZone
Supply Chain	<b>Hospitality:</b>	Interior
Management	Hotels	Design
Review	Restaurants &	Journal of
Modern	Institutions	Commerce
Materials	Chain Leader	Professional
Handling	Foodservice	Builder
Manufacturing	Equipment &	Professional
Business	Supplies	Remodeler
Technology		Reed
Kellysearch		Connect
		Reed
<b>Subscriptions:</b>		Construction
All Magazine		Bulletin
and eNewsletter		Reed
Subscriptions		Construction

[Data](#) | [Reed](#)

[First Source](#) |

[RS Means](#)