

Alan McFarland

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SUMMARY

I specialize in special effects lighting, custom electronics, embedded control systems and animatronics for motion picture, themed environments and miniatures. In addition to over 27 years of experience in feature film production, I have a background in electronic engineering and circuit board design with extensive experience in embedded systems programming for microcontroller environments.

MANUFACTURING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2014-2016 **LG&P Instore Agency; Director, Electronic Solutions**

- Created the Electronic Solutions Team (EST) within LG&P, enabling the company to take on construction of displays using modern technology, and branching out to new customers needing electronic solutions. Responsibilities included architecting, designing, and delivering electronic solutions for Fortune 500 clients in accordance with bespoke specifications for each project.

2014-2016 **Lynx Innovation Inc.; Research & Development Supervisor**

- Electronic design and client prototype development duties, culminating in large volume manufacture of retail displays in mainland China.

1994-present **Applied Magic FX; Sole Proprietor**

- Electronics design, lighting design, software coding and consultation on major motion pictures, unique lighting projects, animatronics and special effects for many years. Clients include Activision, Microsoft, The Walt Disney Company, Paramount Pictures, Universal Studios, Warner Bros. and The Magic Castle®.

• **FILM PRODUCTION**, Special Effects Electronics and FX Lighting Engineering

(partial list; more on www.imdb.com)

Adventure Force 5 (2019)

Black Lightning (2017)

Other Space (2015)

Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance (2011)

127 Hours (2010)

TRON: Legacy (2010)

Watchmen (2009)

Apollo 18 (2011)

Iron Man (2008)

The Last Mimzy (2007)

Stealth (2005)

Spider-Man 2 (2004)

Spider-Man 1 (2002)

xXx (2002)

Stuart Little (LaserCue™, 1999)

Bicentennial Man (1999)

"Babylon 5" (1995-8)

"Star Trek Voyager" (1997-8)

Star Trek: First Contact (1996)
The Fifth Element (1997)
The Ice Storm (1997)
Titanic (1997)
Men in Black (1997)
Money Train (1995)
Speed (1994)
Lawnmower Man (1992)
Sometimes They Come Back (1991)
Hunt for Red October (1990)

• **RETAIL & THEATRICAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS:**

"IBM Watson", (2019-2020) IBM Inc.
"Amazon Echo", (2018) Amazon
Star Wars Episode 7, (2015) The Walt Disney Company
Crimson Peak, (2015) Legendary Pictures
"Windows 10", (2015) Microsoft
"Skylanders", (2011-2013) Activision Inc.
"Wolfenstein", (2014) Bethesda Game Studios
"Build a Better Burger", (2012) Sutter Home
Frozen, (2013) The Walt Disney Company
Turbo, (2013) Dreamworks Animation
The Hunger Games, (2012) Lionsgate
Woman in Black, (2012) Hammer Films
TRON: Legacy, (2010) The Walt Disney Company
Coraline, (2009) Focus Features

• **US PATENTS:** (*named inventor or named co-inventor*)

- **Modular lighting arrays**, May 7, 2013, US 8,434,898
- **Modular lighting arrays**, November 29, 2011, US 8,066,403
- **Method and apparatus for eliminating television commercial messages**, September 19, 2006, US 7,110,658
- **Method and apparatus for controlling a video player to automatically locate a segment of a recorded program**, December 7, 1999, US 5,999,688
- **Method and apparatus for eliminating television commercial messages**, November 16, 1999, US 5,987,210
- **Method and apparatus for eliminating television commercial messages**, December 9, 1997, US 5,696,866
- **Method and apparatus for eliminating television commercial messages**, June 23, 1992, US 5,692,093
- **Method and apparatus for inserting digital data in a blanking interval of an RF modulated video signal**, October 3, 1995, US 5,455,630
- **Method and apparatus for controlling a videotape player to automatically scan past recorded commercial messages**, July 6, 1994, US 5,333,091

EDUCATION

1980-1985 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Film Production and Graphic Design
Additional credits in Electrical Engineering, Chemistry and Computer Science Studies
University of Texas at Arlington

1986-1987 Cinematography Fellowship, American Film Institute

2005-2007 Gnomon School of Visual Effects, Autodesk Maya and motion tracking

2013-2014 Los Angeles Valley College, C++ programming and analog circuit design