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**LEGENDARY FX ARTIST RAY HARRYHAUSEN TO RECEIVE USC PICKFORD AWARD
Man Behind *Sinbad* and *Jason and the Argonauts* Magic Celebrated on May 11**

April 4, 2007, LOS ANGELES – Ray Harryhausen, iconic cinematic special effects innovator and inspiration to legions of modern filmmakers, will receive the Mary Pickford Foundation Award at the USC School of Cinematic Arts 2007 commencement ceremony, Dean Elizabeth M. Daley announced today.

The award, which goes to the men and women of USC who have made an indelible impact on the entertainment industry, recognizes the role that the Oscar-winning Harryhausen played in defining and revolutionizing special effects during a career spanning more than 40 years. Harryhausen studied cinematography and art direction at USC in the 1930s.

“Ray Harryhausen’s artistry has practically made his name synonymous with special effects,” Daley said. “From pre-historic sea monsters to sword-wielding skeletons, Ray has thrilled audiences and spurred both creative and technological innovation.”

Among the notable films that featured Harryhausen’s artistry are *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*, *Jason and the Argonauts*, *One Million Years B.C.*, *The Valley of Gwangi*, *The Golden Voyage of Sinbad* and *Clash of the Titans*.

In 1992, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded him an honorary Oscar for Lifetime Achievement for his many years of stunning visual contributions to film. Harryhausen’s stop-motion work is intensely detailed, often shot at no more than 13 frames per day (a half-second of elapsed film time), meaning sequences could take as long as two months to complete.

Harryhausen will address the May 11 event at USC’s Galen Center via video presentation. He is the 13th recipient of the Pickford award, which is conferred in association with the Mary Pickford Foundation. Past recipients include: William Fraker, Conrad L. Hall, Alan Ladd, Jr., Michelle Manning, Walter Murch, Jay Roach, Gary Rydstrom, Stacey Sher, John Singleton, David L. Wolper, Laura Ziskin and Robert Zemeckis.

About the USC School of Cinematic Arts cinema.usc.edu

Since 1929, the USC School of Cinematic Arts has fueled and mirrored the growth of entertainment as an industry and an art form. The school offers comprehensive programs in directing, producing, writing, critical studies, animation and digital arts, production, and interactive media, all backed by a broad liberal arts education and taught by leading practitioners in each field. Its more than 10,000 alumni are among the world’s most distinguished animators, scholars, teachers, writers, directors, producers, cinematographers, editors, sound experts and industry executives. Since 1973 not a year has passed without an alumnus or alumna being nominated for an Academy Award.