



VISUAL EFFECTS *in* NON-EFFECTS MOVIES

Although you might expect to see visual and special effects in fantasy, science fiction or action films, they are also used in non-effects films to erase telephone wires, neon signs and other similar unwanted elements from a scene. When filmmakers cannot find the ideal location for a scene, or if the real location would be too expensive to film, they may create it in the computer. For example, shots of a London neighborhood were digitally generated in *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason*.

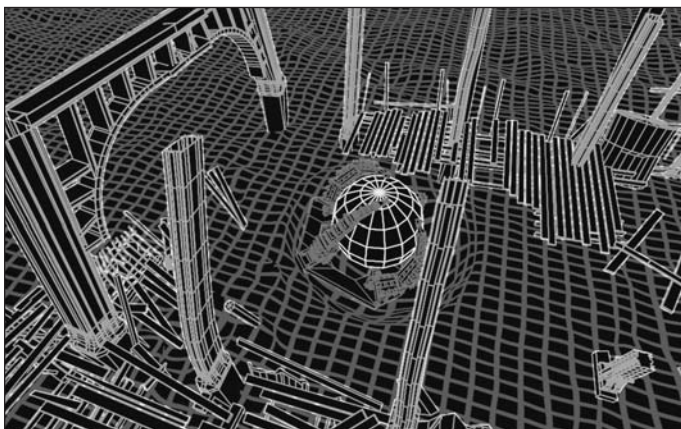
Visual effects artists work together with cinematographers, makeup artists, costume designers and stunt performers to enhance their work. Flaws in lighting and color can be digitally corrected. Computer graphics are used to supplement or create makeup. Stunts can be performed more safely because digital technology makes it possible to remove strong cables and other supports from the image.

Read an action, fantasy or science fiction short story. While you read, think about how this story could be made into a film. Use more paper if you need it for your answers.

What effects might be needed if this story became a movie?

What details bring this story to life?

Do any of these details require visual effects? Why?



This wireframe computer image allows the visual effects animator to control an image point-by-point when creating the destruction of the “set” in *SPIDER-MAN 2* (2004). Courtesy of Sony Entertainment.



The Real-Time Motion Capture process is demonstrated at an Academy lecture in Beverly Hills. Jeff Price, the actor in the center, is wearing a suit with white dots and sensors which allow computers to create a digital record of his movements, which can be applied to a digitally created character. Courtesy of Motion Analysis Studios.

Are there scenes in the story where you might not expect to see visual effects but where they could be used? Explain why you would use visual effects in these scenes.

Now read another story about people like you. Describe what is happening in the story.

Keeping in mind such things as makeup, safety and budget, how could visual effects be used to enhance a film of this story?

How would you plan to film the story without visual effects?
