

# MEDIA RELEASE



2222 Laguna Canyon Road • Laguna Beach, California 92651

[www.lcad.edu](http://www.lcad.edu)

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**February 13, 2012**

## **CONTACT**

Jennifer Daniels (949) 376-6000 x233  
[jdaniels@lcad.edu](mailto:jdaniels@lcad.edu)

## **Legendary Animation Director Delivers Guest Lecture at Laguna College of Art + Design**

[Laguna College of Art & Design](#) proudly announces a first-time gallery show of original art by [Chris Sanders](#) as well as a personal visit by the artist himself. Chris Sanders is one of the top artists, story men and directors in the animation Industry today, with one of the biggest followings of any artist working in the field. Sanders has influenced dozens of this generation's most popular animated films.

This highly sought after artist rarely makes personal appearances and, because of a long-time connection with animation department heads, the college has been privileged to host this first ever gallery showing of the artist's original artwork. "This is a very big honor for us and brings much attention and prestige to our school and our world-class [Animation Department](#) in particular," remarked LCAD Professor and former Disney colleague David Pruiksmá.

Chris Sanders joined Walt [Disney Feature Animation](#) in 1987 in the newly-formed Visual Development department. He contributed to the story, character and production design of hit films such as Beauty & the Beast, The Lion King and Mulan. Chris was the creator and co-director of Lilo & Stitch, which showcased his unique and appealing design sensibility. At DreamWorks Animation, Chris co-directed How to Train Your Dragon and is currently working on The Croods. In addition to his directing responsibilities, he also is a comic strip artist, author and illustrator.

"This event is possibly one of the most anticipated events of the Guest Series to date. Students and fans began lining up to meet and talk to Mr. Sanders hours before he arrived on campus and patiently stood in line in the cold evening air to enjoy just a few moments, one on one, with one of their idols. The eager audience went into the room in small groups, nervous and excited, but came out walking on clouds as Mr. Sanders generously posed for photos and shared stories of his process and philosophy while signing books, videos and mementos brought by fans and students, not just from LCAD, but from other art schools as well. It was a joy for me to watch as it happened over and over again the whole night, and the students are still raving about it days after the event!" beamed Pruiksmá.

Sanders responded, post event, that he was very impressed with and inspired by LCAD and its "bright, enthusiastic and polite" students, and he eagerly awaits another visit in the very near future.

Sanders is the latest to join a series of guest artist's shows and visits to LCAD that began in 2009 and included guests such as [Don Hahn](#) (Top Disney Producer of Beauty and the Beast, Lion King and more), Chris Buck (Director of Tarzan, Surf's Up and currently directing at Disney Feature Animation), Kirk Wise and Gary Trousdale (Directors of Beauty and the Beast, The Hunchback of Notre Dame and Atlantis), Ralph Eggleston (Academy Award Winning Pixar Director and Art Director on films such as Little Nemo, Wall-E, The Incredibles, etc.) Janet Waldo (Actress and Voice of Judy Jetson), Sean Bishop (Top Story Artist at Dreamworks, Director at Disney Toon Studios), Charles Solomon (Author, Animation Historian, Teacher and Film Critic) to name just a few. "Our goal with this guest series is to continue bringing top industry talent down to LCAD to interact with, instruct and inspire our eager and talented students," added Pruiksma.

**Images:**

Animator Chris Sanders lecturing and demonstrating for LCAD students – Photos by Glen Miller

**Founded on Classical Drawing Skills, Fueled by Creative Energy, and Dedicated to Excellence**

Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, nonprofit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing & Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Animation, and Master of Fine Arts degrees in Painting and Drawing.

[WWW.LCAD.EDU](http://WWW.LCAD.EDU)

# # #