

Joel Christopher Payne

Temple City High School 1989 Alumni, Joel Christopher Payne will be the Grand Marshal for 2018. A licensed Disney artist Joel's story began his life in Temple City attending La Rosa, Cloverly, Oak Avenue and Temple City High School. Disneyland and Disney feature animation ignited a lifelong passion which led Joel to his current career.

Joel didn't have any formal artistic training, and at the age 20 embarked on a 22 year career that would be forged through the fires of on-the-job experience. In 1993, Joel's big break would come from New World Computing, a game company known for the popular "Might and Magic" Series. His very first game project "Heroes of Might and Magic" became critically acclaimed and is currently on its 7th sequel.

In 1995 Joel become one of the youngest video game directors, pioneering techniques is Digital Set creation three years before Robert Stromberg would coin the phrase "Digital Backlot." In 1996, Joel finally got his chance to work with Disney on "Disney's Virtual Jungle Cruise," a ride still in operation in Florida's Disneyquest. Since 1996, Joel has built 3D worlds for Steven Spielberg's "Sky Pirates", Art Directed Disney's Atlantis the video game, Mortal Kombat:Shaolin Monks, Max Steel and Star Ship Troopers:Roughnecks, Silent Hill:Homecoming and Baldur's Gate:Dark Alliance. In 2008 Joel headed up the first virtual version of Universal Studio's world famous Backlot facades creating digital doubles of the famous "Back to the future courtyard." In 2009 his company Digital Backlot designed 75 original 3D characters for the project Growums featured on the show "The View."

In 2011 Payne began to pursue his dream of a fine art career in earnest. With inspiration and influence from his Disney and entertainment pedigree. Joel found new energy and dedication in his inventive new form of mixed media artwork dubbed "Believable Fantasy" a hybrid of 3D modeling and traditional oil painting techniques. Joel wants every painting he does to be a "WOW." He wants the viewer to experience the same Disney Magic he felt as a little boy -- to create the illusion as believable as possible so that he can inspire others to feel the magic Walt created in his life.

For more information about Joel visit his website www.wishpictures.com