Cottalango Leon

Cottalango Leon (born 1971) is an Indian @-@ American computer graphics technician who won the Academy Award for scientific and technical achievement jointly with Sam Richards and J. Robert Ray in 2016 .

Leon won the Academy Award for " the design , engineering and continuous development " of Sony Pictures Imageworks itView technology , a digital 3D film review software . Leon worked on the itView technology for eight years as the chief contributor .

Schooled in India , Leon is an Arizona State University alumnus . He has worked at Sony Pictures Imageworks since 1996 , and has contributed to the making of several commercially successful films , including the Spider @-@ Man film series and the Men In Black film series .

Early life and family

Leon was born at his mother 's family residence in Thoothukudi , Tamil Nadu in 1971 . Both his parents ? mother Rajam Mariasingam and father Loorthu ? were primary school teachers . When Leon was young , his parents moved from the south of Tamil Nadu to Coimbatore . Leon 's early years were spent in this city ? a place he still visits every two years .

Leon attended the Government High School at Kallapalayam , a village in the Sultanpet Block of Coimbatore . After studying here till grade VII , he studied from grade VIII to grade XII at Kadri Mills High School in Coimbatore . During his childhood , Leon became interested in the subjects of mathematics and science , and also developed , as per him , a keen interest in " the visual aspect of movies " . Subsequently , Leon attended college at the PSG College of Technology from 1988 till 1992 , completing his Bachelors of Engineering degree in computer science . He completed his M.S in computer science from Arizona State University in 1996 , specialising in computer graphics .

Leon married Roopa in 2001 . Roopa also belongs to southern Tamil Nadu , having lived there till her marriage to Leon . The couple have a daughter Shruthi and live in Culver City .

Career

After graduating , Leon joined the New Delhi firm Softek LLC and worked with them for two years till 1994 . As per Leon , during this time , he became inspired by Jurassic Park after watching the film and decided to pursue his career in the technologies used in its making . After completing the master 's degree at Arizona State University in 1996 , Leon worked for a short time as a game programmer with DreamWorks Interactive , before joining Sony Pictures Imageworks in 1996 , where he continues working to date , currently holding the position of Principal Software Engineer .

At Imageworks , as per Leon , he was asked to develop an improved digital film review software as an alternative to a then existing software . Leon released the initial version within two months of having been assigned the job ; after receiving positive feedback from the artists using the software , Leon kept updating various functionalities of the software over the years . This digital 3D film review software , itView , led Leon to get an Academy Award in 2016 . Leon mentions working alone on the project for many years , and that he was over time given a team when the project achieved significant growth . In a 2016 media interview , Leon says that he worked on the itView technology for eight years as the chief contributor .

To date , Leon has worked on several commercially successful films , including Stuart Little , the Spider @-@ Man film series , the Men In Black film series , Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs , The Smurfs , Hotel Transylvania , and Open Season .

2016 Academy Award

Leon , at the age of 44 , won the 2016 Academy Award for scientific and technical achievement for " the design , engineering and continuous development " of Sony Pictures Imageworks itView technology . In a ceremony held on 13 February 2016 at Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills ,

California , Leon received the Academy Award jointly with Sam Richards and J. Robert Ray . As per the Academy , these set of awards are bestowed upon individuals who have contributed significantly over time ? and not necessarily in the past year ? to the motion picture industry .

Richard Edlund , Chair of the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences praised the " outstanding , innovative work " of awardees , adding that their contributions " have further expanded filmmakers ? creative opportunities ... ? The Academy 's award citation praised itView 's API plugin and varied functionalities , mentioning that " itView provides an intuitive and flexible creative review environment that can be deployed globally for highly efficient collaboration . " Leon said that " the award was not totally unexpected " but that it felt " good to be recognised by the Academy and the wider industry . "