

= Rahul Thakkar =

Rahul C. Thakkar is an Indian @-@ American software inventor who jointly won the Academy Award for scientific and technical achievement in 2016 . Thakkar won the Academy Award for creating the " groundbreaking design " of DreamWorks Animation Media Review System , a scalable digital film review platform .

Thakkar was also a key member of the animation software development team for Shrek , which went on to win the first @-@ ever Academy Award for Best Animated Feature at the 74th Academy Awards . Thakkar holds 25 patents , including patents pending , and has additionally developed a web standard . He currently resides in Virginia , working in the aerospace industry for a Boeing subsidiary .

= = Early life and family = =

Thakkar was born to Prabha Thakkar and Chandrakant Thakkar in United Kingdom and was subsequently raised in India . Thakkar 's mother Prabha , whom he considers his inspiration , was a teacher . His father Chandrakant was , as per Thakkar , an " actor , writer and director " apart from being a voice @-@ over artist .

Thakkar spent his early years in Mumbai and considers himself a Mumbaikar . Thakkar completed his graduation from the University of Mumbai with a degree in computer science . Eventually , Thakkar studied at Utah State University to complete his Master 's in computer science in 1995 . He credits his mother for encouraging his interest in science .

Because of his father 's background , Thakkar 's early years in India were spent around actors . During these initial years , Thakkar worked with his father for some time in Mumbai , contributing to a 1971 Films Division of India documentary , and playing parts in television and radio shows . Thakkar also worked as a voice @-@ over artist for television advertisements . At the same time , Thakkar 's interest in mathematics and science remained predominant . Later on , he moved to the United States as he believed it was easier to make visual effects movies in Hollywood . Currently , Thakkar stays with his wife and family in Virginia .

= = Career = =

In the United States , after graduating , Thakkar worked for a few television advertisements , developing their visual effects . Thakkar also developed the show opening software for CBS ' 1994 and 1996 election coverage , and for the Late Show with David Letterman .

Thakkar joined Pacific Data Images in 1996 . Pacific Data Images was acquired by DreamWorks in 2000 , enabling Thakkar to work with the film production company . While at DreamWorks , Thakkar worked with his mentor Richard Chuang (the co @-@ founder of Pacific Data Images) on designing the DreamWorks Animation Media Review System , which subsequently led Thakkar to jointly win the Academy Award in 2016 . Thakkar was the primary coder for the system 's product suite since his time at PDI , when it was not yet known as DreamWorks Animation Media Review System .

As Thakkar explained in a 2016 interview to The Times of India , the DreamWorks Animation Media Review System was developed in an era of 56K modems : " They wanted any artist to view any number of shots , back @-@ to @-@ back , from part of the film , in high resolution , at 24 fps , with high quality audio , with speed @-@ change control , from any phase of production from any department (story , editing , animation , modeling , layout , lighting , vfx , etc .) ... " As per Thakkar , it was a technology that allowed technicians and artists in multiple locations to simultaneously work on films in real time ; one of the main provisions was useful transparency , enabling artists and technicians to seamlessly do their work without any need to think about the technology . Apart from the DreamWorks Animation Media Review System , Thakkar says he additionally headed DreamWorks ' " high performance particle system rendering software " and " colour management system and software " .

At PDI and DreamWorks , Thakkar worked on several films , including Forces of Nature , Antz , The Legend of Bagger Vance , The Peacemaker and A Simple Wish . Thakkar was also a key member of the animation software development team for Shrek , which went on to win the first @-@ ever Academy Award for Best Animated Feature at the 74th Academy Awards . On 24 March 2002 , the day of the Academy Award presentation , the contributions of Thakkar and his two colleagues for the film Shrek were recognised at a function held in New York .

After leaving DreamWorks in 2002 , Thakkar worked in PIXIA Corp from 2003 to 2013 as a Chief Architect and Vice President of Technology in the area of satellite imagery . He then worked at Madison Square Garden from 2013 to 2014 as Vice President of Technology contributing in the entertainment , media and sports fields . Later , in 2014 , he became the Vice President of R & D at Brivio Systems , a company operating in the access control industry . Thakkar left Brivio in 2015 , and since then has been engaged with the aerospace industry , working for a Boeing subsidiary as a Chief Cloud Architect .

At the time of winning the 2016 Academy Award , Thakkar had 25 patents in his name , including patents pending , and had also developed a web standard .

= = 2016 Academy Award = =

Thakkar won the 2016 Academy Award for scientific and technical achievement for his " groundbreaking design " of DreamWorks Animation Media Review System . He was interviewed by six members of the Academy during the shortlisting process . In a ceremony held on 13 February 2016 at Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills , California , Thakkar received the Academy Award jointly with Pacific Data Images ' co @-@ founder Richard Chuang . 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 .

Thakkar commented in a January 2016 interview to India @-@ West , " It is quite humbling to be recognized by AMPAS (Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences) with a technical achievement award ... It ? s a wonderful feeling to know that the work we did two decades ago was still in use by the film industry . I am honored to be sharing this award with Richard Chuang , a mentor and pioneer in visual effects . " He further revealed that he was excited about attending the award ceremony , additionally commenting that he expected more Indians to be featured in the Academy Awards winners ' lists in the coming years .

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 the awardees , adding that their contributions " have further expanded filmmakers ? creative opportunities ... ? The award presenters noted Thakkar and Chuang 's pioneering contributions in stereoscopic 3D viewing for CyberWorld . The Academy 's award citation praised the DreamWork Animation Media Review System 's film review capabilities , mentioning that the technology " continues to provide artist @-@ driven , integrated , consistent and highly scalable studio @-@ wide playback and interactive reviews . "