

## **PENN JILLETTE AND GEARBOX SOFTWARE CEO RANDY PITCHFORD TO OPEN THE 2016 D.I.C.E. SUMMIT**

### *11 Additional Speakers Cover Topics in VR, Automotive, Film and Storytelling*

LOS ANGELES – January 21, 2016 – The Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences confirms 11 additional speakers for its 2016 D.I.C.E. Summit (#DICE2016) conference, taking place Feb. 16-18, 2016, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center. Invited speakers will explore the magical and sometimes elusive *Art of Engagement* – the varying ways we enlist and enrapture others as we build the entertainment medium of the future.

The prestigious group of speakers represents industry leaders from every region and across all areas of game development. Summit sessions and the 19<sup>th</sup> D.I.C.E. Awards will be live streamed through a variety of partners who will be announced shortly.

“Engagement is central to both business and art,” said Martin Rae, president, Academy of Interactive Arts & Sciences. “This year a variety of talented people will explore engagement and how it deeply affects what they do – whether it is advancing automobile technology, building boundless entertainment franchises, or creating open worlds based on experience. As always, our audience will be treated to big ideas that will help drive their own creative pursuits forward.”

### **Assumptions and Expectations with Interactivity and Magic:**

Setting the stage as the Wednesday Opening Conference Keynote will be a special presentation by two friends: **Penn Jillette**, author, actor and half of legendary magic team *Penn & Teller*, and **Randy Pitchford**, magician, co-founder and president of Gearbox Software. Discussing “Assumptions and Expectations with Interactivity and Magic,” this session will incorporate some lessons in misdirection of attention, expectation disruption and just plain old-fashioned lying. Jillette and Pitchford will then lead members of the audience through a magic trick that will move from the live theater to virtual reality.

### **Automobiles, the Next Mobile Platform:**

Looking towards the future of interactive entertainment technology and new platform development, the Summit stage welcomes a group of individuals who are looking to the automotive industry for the next great leap forward in innovation. Moderator **Rich Hilleman**, chief creative director at Electronic Arts, will lead the panel “Automobiles, the Next Mobile Platform,” discussing innovations in open computing systems, new transportation service models, self-driving technology and social interactive real-time robot racing, and how can gaming become a part of this evolving platform. Panel participants include:

- **Dr. Frankie James**, managing director, General Motors Advanced Technology Silicon Valley Office, where her team is focused on identifying new technologies and trends within the Silicon Valley business ecosystem. Her particular focus is on human-machine interactions (HMI) and driver experience.

- **Sahin Kirtavit**, Senior Director of Automotive Solutions, NVIDIA. Kirtavit is responsible for the company's DRIVE PX car computing platform, and leads the ADAS and Autonomous Driving ecosystem.
- **Oriol Servia**, partner and managing director of Formula E team, Dragon Racing. A native of Barcelona, Servia has been a professional racing driver in the IndyCar Series for over 15 years in the United States. Career highlights include a Runner-up finish in the Champcar World Series, 4<sup>th</sup>-place finishes in the IndyCar Series and Indianapolis 500, and an Indylights Championship.

### **Franchise Fever: Pursuing Big Ideas and Big Audience**

Film and television producers Roy Lee and Adrian Askarieh will be joined by Steven Weintraub, from entertainment website *Collider*, to discuss the entertainment industry's relentless pursuit of franchise material and evergreen properties. For their talk "Franchise Fever: Pursuing Big Ideas and Big Audience," they will explore the challenges and rewards of pursuing high concept, big idea properties with avid fan bases. How do you engage content creators, filmmakers and fans in a way that builds on a properties existing momentum? What are the potential pitfalls? And how do you stay ahead of the competition? This conversation includes:

- **Roy Lee**, president, Vertigo Entertainment. Lee has seen enormous success adapting international horror and crime films like *The Ring*, *The Grudge* and *The Departed* for American audiences. Most recently, he has produced *How To Train Your Dragon*, *The Lego Movie* and is currently working on upcoming *Minecraft* movie and *The Lego Movie* sequel.
- **Adrian Askarieh**, CEO and president, Prime Universe Films, Inc. Askarieh produced video game films *Hitman*, 2015's *Hitman: Agent 47*. Currently, he is in development for the upcoming *Deus Ex* (which he will be producing with Lee), *Just Cause*, and *Jonny Quest*, all based on preexisting IP brands.
- **Steven "Frosty" Weintraub**, editor-in-chief, [Collider.com](http://Collider.com). Where cinephiles and fandoms converge, the entertainment website *Collider* was started by Weintraub in the summer of 2005, and the brand was recently acquired by Complex. With content that speaks directly to the key demographics targeted by most major studios, the site is an influencer in the industry, counting many studio heads and filmmakers as daily readers.

Additional new speakers to take the 2016 D.I.C.E. Summit stage:

- **Tommy Francois**, new IP editorial director, Ubisoft – As the "Best of D.I.C.E. 2015," Francois will provide an updated take on an audience favorite from D.I.C.E. Europe, "**Creative Maturity Through Life Experiences – How to Build Engaging Open Worlds.**" Francois will talk about the work done by his team to source, create and share access to the best resources in order to inspire the development teams at Ubisoft, and thereby foster mature creativity.
- **Rhianna Pratchett**, writer, narrative designer and lead writer for the Tomb Raider reboot, will be presenting "**From Overlords to Tomb Raiders – A career in the narrative trenches**" where she looks back over her industry career and reflects on the ways in which narrative has evolved, and how improving the way we work with writers can improve how we engage with players.

These industry experts will join previously announced speakers: **Niccolo de Masi**, Chairman and CEO, Glu Mobile Inc.; **Mike Gallagher**, CEO, Entertainment Software Association (ESA); **Todd Howard**, game director and executive producer, Bethesda Game Studios; **Soren Johnson**, CEO and design director, Mohawk Games; **Sid Meier**, co-founder and director of creative development, Firaxis Games; **Brian Reynolds**, chief creative officer, Big Huge Games; **Bruce Shelley**, who helped develop the *Age of Empires* series.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual D.I.C.E. Awards and 2016 D.I.C.E. Summit registration is open! Register now at [www.dicesummit.org](http://www.dicesummit.org).

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