

It's Not Just Film That Gets Developed in the Lab...

Special effects aren't the only area in which scientists work on films. Screenwriters and producers are also looking to researchers — and their findings — for ideas, including how to spin a better story. Kirby points to *Finding Nemo*. This 2003 animated movie is about a talking clownfish searching for his missing son.

"It's one of my favorite examples of a scientifically accurate film," says Kirby, referring to the realism of the undersea habitats created onscreen. "The filmmakers did a lot of research and talked to a lot of scientists to make sure that film was as accurate as possible. Outside of having the fish talk, of course."

And just as scientists inspire movies, the opposite is true as well, says Loverd, at the Science and Entertainment Exchange.

Walk through any scientific lab and the odds are high that you'll see a picture of Star Trek's Spock, a Cylon from *Battlestar Galactica* or perhaps a superhero, Loverd says. "These characters have inspired scientists."

He explains how the Exchange hosts events such as talks and retreats to give scientists and filmmakers a way to share ideas. As a result, he says, producers may "leave our events with new ideas for films and TV shows, or make big changes to the project they're working on." Loverd notes that the system isn't perfect. A movie still may tweak the science if it makes the story better, after all.

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