

# South Jersey native nominated for Oscar for 'Life of Pi'



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Former Wenonah resident **Tim Squyres**, who has edited 11 of director Ang Lee's 12 films, has been nominated for an Oscar for his work on Lee's acclaimed fantasy adventure "[Life of Pi](#)." The movie also has been nominated for "Best Picture" and "Best Director."

The **85th Academy Awards** will be televised Feb. 24 on ABC (Channel 6).

Nominated for an Oscar previously for editing Lee's "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," Squyres is a graduate of Gateway Regional High School and Cornell University whose parents reside in Wenonah. The father of two, Squyres now lives in Maplewood in Essex County.

Filmed in 3D, "Life of Pi" was nearly three years in production. It has been called "an astonishing technical achievement."

"We never make the same movie twice," says Squyres, who missed being 12-for-12 editing Lee films because he was committed to another project while "Brokeback Mountain" was in production. "He varies; everything is a challenge to himself, forcing him to take chances.

About the nomination, "I'm excited about this," he told the Times last week. "The movie has been very well received."

Squyres says, from a personality standpoint, his temperament is similar to Lee's.

"You have to be able to get along to do this type of work," he explained. The two film-making professionals find they're attracted to the same type of scripts.

Lately, Squyres says, he's been "extremely busy."

"But I can do only one thing at a time. Right now, I'm looking for the next big film."

Squyres was in Los Angeles last week for the Critics' Choice Awards for which "Life of Pi" received 11 total nominations, the same number of Oscar nominations the film received.

This time, he said, his excitement about the Oscars is a departure from his previous position on such awards. Honored for winning the Taiwan equivalent of an Oscar for his work on "Crouching Tiger," Squyres was not pleased to hear the presenter botch his name. He has been nominated for other editing awards including "Gosford Park" for best edited feature film. Squyres and Lee have teamed since combining efforts on "Pushing Hands" in 1992. He also edited Lee's Oscar-winning "Sense and Sensibility" and one of his personal favorites, "Ride With the Devil."

But "Crouching Tiger" grossed \$100 million and copped four Oscars.

Tim Squyres is part of one of Gloucester County's ultimate family success stories. His twin, Pam, is a highly-regarded West Coast freelance writer. His brother, **[Dr. Steven Squyres, was lead scientist for NASA's Mars exploration — interviewed here](#)** some months ago. Their proud parents are Arthur and Felicie Squyres, his mother being known to generations of Glassboro residents from her career as librarian in the borough's public library.

Tim had thought of following his brother, a Cornell professor, and becoming an astronomer, but a Cornell film class for beginners altered the direction of his life. He wound up working part-time at an Ithaca cable TV company, learning the nuances of editing.

It was a prudent decision.

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