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Georgetown native Mary Lynn Machado celebrated the 2013 Oscar wins of *Life of Pi* with visual effects supervisor Bill Westenhofer (left) and animation director Erik DeBoer last month but (right) earlier joined 500 colleagues in protesting the bankruptcy of the animation firm she worked for— Rhythm & Hues. Machado says the firm's bankruptcy was largely the result of demands from movie studios.

Submitted photos

## Local artist lost job days before Oscar win

By EAMONN MAHER

Staff Writer

Last month on the star-filled night in Hollywood when Academy Award recipients were proudly displaying their Oscar trophies for the cameras, Georgetown native Mary Lynn Machado was carrying a picket sign instead.

Despite playing a major role in producing one of the characters in the critically acclaimed film *Life of Pi*,

which won four Academy Awards that evening, the 48-year-old visual effects artist had learned just a few days beforehand that she was out of a job.

The Los Angeles-based company called Rhythm & Hues that Machado had adored working for over the past 17 years had declared bankruptcy and more than 300 employees were let go, putting a major damper on what has been the proudest achievement of her professional career.

She did drop by the location of the Academy Awards to join in a protest with about 500 similarly displaced colleagues, hoisting a placard that read, 'Studio Greed Makes Us Bleed,' then returned to her Redondo Beach home to watch the ceremony on TV, with *Life of Pi* winning the Academy Award for Visual Effects.

*Life of Pi* was based on a fantasy adventure book written by Canadian author Yann Martel in which a spiritually inquisitive 16-year-old Indian boy survives a shipwreck and is stranded on the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger, among other animals.

"A few of the Rhythm & Hues' people got together to watch, but I couldn't

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