



SMA TALENT

ALEXANDER BALANESCU **Film Composer & Virtuoso Musician**

Don't recognise the name? Then put it into Google and you get more than a staggering 238,000 hits, including his 32 film and tv scores on IMDbPro, most recently for Daniel Mulloy's Edinburgh Film Festival Best Short **Baby**, made by Sister Films for Channel 4, as well as sites with concert reviews and countless video performance clips on YouTube. This Romanian born prolific composer is one of the world's leading contemporary violinists who started scoring films as a young man back in the late 1980's. He scored Philip Haas's Oscar and Palm D'Or Nominated **Angels and Insects** for The Goldwyn Company/Playhouse Pictures. He worked again with Philip Haas on **The Death of Pentheus**, which was shown at the 2010 Venice Film Festival. Wim Wenders has included several of his recorded pieces in his latest film, the much lauded **Pina 3D**.

Other screen credits include the Canal Plus comedy thriller **Le Poulpe**, directed by Guillaume Nicloux; **Il Patigiano Johnny**, directed by Guido Chiesa for Rome's Fandango Films; Renny Barlett's **Eisenstein** for the Canadian Amérique Film Company; more than 20 animations mostly written and directed by British multi-award winner Phil Mulloy; the Hungarian film **Tablo** for director Gabor Dettre; and **How I Celebrated The End of the World**, for Strada Films/Les Films Pelléas, for which he won Romania's **GOPO** award for Best Film Soundtrack.

A child prodigy violinist, he and his family left communist Romania in 1969 for Israel where he continued his studies before going on to London's Trinity College of Music. He then went to The Julliard in New York to complete his studies. In 1979 he became leader of the **Michael Nyman Ensemble** for 15 years and he was also a member of the **Gavin Bryars Ensemble**. He later joined the **Arditti Quartet** before establishing the **Balanescu Quartet**, now one of the contemporary classical world's leading ensembles with a worldwide cult following – hence Google's outstanding number of links. The Quartet currently has more than a dozen albums on release in various countries and regularly tours in four continents. He is featured on collaborations with, among others **The Pet Shop Boys**, **Grace Jones**, **Goldfrapp**, **Spiritualized** and **Carla Bley**.

Alexander's ballet scores have been performed by The Royal Ballet, The American Ballet Theatre, Hungarian National Ballet, Compagnia La Scala, Montreal Ballet, The Suzy Block Company and many others. 2007 saw the premiere, of his full length ballet **Lorenzaccio**, choreographed by Jochen Ulrich for Landestheater, Linz and performed by the Bruckner Orchestra.

Three years ago he was commissioned by **Opera North** to set a Shakespeare sonnet as part of the presentation of Shakespeare's complete works by the Royal Shakespeare Company. He has also written for productions at Theatre de la Place, Liege, Belgrade State Theatre, Cabaret Dromesko, Rennes, and Watford Palace Theatre.

His increasingly strong links with his Romanian roots have been the catalyst for collaboration with the extraordinary singer and actress **Ada Milea**, resulting in the pieces **The Island** and **God's Playground**. His solo recital programmes, most recently in London, Naples, Linz, Budapest, Gyor, Szgel and Bucharest include music by Nyman, Sciarrino, Reijch, Glass, in addition to his own works. He performed Korngold's violin concerto at the South Bank's Meltdown Festival in London with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.

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Credits Include

Features

BABY (Channel 4/Sister Films) Dir. Daniel Mulloy
ANGELS AND INSECTS (The Goldwyn Company/Playhouse) Dir. Philip Haas
SKELTONS WARMING THEMSELVES (Kimbell Art) Dir. Philip Haas
THE DEATH OF PENTHEUS (Kimball Art) Dir. Philip Haas
TABLO (Budapest Filmstudio) Dir. Gabor Dettre
HOW I CELEBRATED THE END OF THE WORLD (Strada Films/Les Film Pelléas)
Dir. Calatin Mitulescu
EISENSTEIN (VIF Filmproduktion) Dir. Renny Barlett
ILL PARTIGIANO JOHNNY (Fandango Film) Dir. Guido Chiesa
LE POUPLE (Telema/Canal Plus) Dir. Guillaume Nicloux
DANCING THROUGH DARKNESS (Oxford Films/BBC) Dir. Theresa Griffiths
KARL KRAUS (La Sept) Dir. Lutz Becker
LE MENSONGE D'UN CLOCHARD (Sara Films) Dir. Radu Mihaileanu

Television

HOLLYWOOD NOW (Omnipix) Dir. Anthea Kennedy
LADY OF THE LAKE (Spectre/Arts Council) Dir. Vera Neubauer
TRYING TO KISS THE MOON (Channel 4/Arts Council) Dir. Steve Dwoskin
FACE OF OUR FEAR (Channel 4/Arts Council) Dir. Steve Dwoskin
BLACK ATHENA (Channel 4) Dir. Chris Spencer
DOGS WALK FISH TALK (Channel 4/Konick) Dir. Larry Sider
SPINOZA (Channel 4/ Badnung) Dir. Chris Spencer
CLEOPATRA (CHANNEL 4/Signals) Dir. Jo Ann Kaplan
PUBLIC ART (ITV) Dir. Chris Spencer
LOVE ACROSS THE WALL (Channel 4/Cinecontact) Dir. Ron Orders
PLAY (Ballet Russes) Dir. Gillian Lacey
SECOND BREATH Dir. Gillian Lacey
JAPAN LIVE PERFORMANCE (Channel 4/Koninck) Dir. Phil Day
HILDA AT DARJEELING (Channel 4/Koninck) Dir. Mandy Rose

Animation

WIND OF CHANGES (Arts Council/BBC) Dir. Phil Mulloy
HISTORY OF THE WORLD (Spectre/Arts Council) Dir. Phil Mulloy
THE SOUND OF MUSIC (Channel 4/Arts Council) Dir. Phil Mulloy
DING DONG (BBC/Arts Council) Dir. Phil Mulloy
COWBOYS (Channel 4/Spectre) Dir. Phil Mulloy
POSSESSION (Channel 4) Dir. Phil Mulloy

Ballets

AS ONE Choreographer Jonathan Watkins for The Royal Ballet Covent Garden
ISADORA GOES DOWNTOWN Choreographer Lori Belilove for Isadora Duncan Dance Company
TOOT Choreographer Didy Veldman for Ballet Canadiens Montreal
ZIVOT, DRAGI ZIVOT Choreographer Mark Boldin for Boldin Company Zagreb
LORENZACCIO Choreographer Jochen Ulrich for Landestheater Ballet Linz
MODERN BALLET Hungarian National Ballet Budapest
SLOKAS Choreographer Lauri Stallings for American Ballet Theatre
VOLLMOND & MASURCA FOGO Choreographer Pina Bausch for Tanztheater Wuppertal
LOOKING UP AT DOWN Choreographer Suzy Block for Suzy Block Company Amsterdam
SILVER & EXHALE Choreographer Rosemary Lee for Norfolk & Norwich Festival
ONE PLUS ONE Spring Loaded with Darsham Singh Bhuller QEH London
POSSESSED Meryl Tankard Company Adelaide Festival & Barossa Festival
LUMINITZA Compagnia La Scala Milan
ANGELS & INSECTS Choreographer Jochen Ulrich for Koln Dance Forum
ORESTEA & ROSSO CANTATO Choreographer Virgilio Sieni for Compagnia Sieni
POSSESSION Choreographer Krystina for Spring Loaded Festival