

# KEVIN SARGENT

## COMPOSER

In October 2003, an unexpected email popped up in Kevin's inbox. In response to his music for the film **Crush**, it read:

"Your score besides being so right for the movie, also displayed a rare quality among composers these days: You write terrific melodies! I was very impressed."

Burt Berman, President, Music Division, Paramount Pictures.

How many composers can boast Kevin Sargent's multi-faceted background as a musician and stage performer? Perhaps it is this which gives his work such appeal, work in which memorable, evocative themes are integrated in an imaginative, poly-stylistic approach. Whether it is a sinister, deadpan boss nova (BBC TV's recent **Macbeth**) or timeless autumnal lyricism (William Boyd's meditation on the Sonnets **A Waste of Shame: The Mystery of Shakespeare And His Sonnets**, starring Rupert Graves), Kevin's artful and haunting scores never fail to lift the work they serve; he has that rare ability of capturing the very spirit of any project, and that certainly describes his deceptively simple but hugely evocative score for **Lilies**, the World Productions period drama serial for the BBC. Kevin has also just completed the score to **Saddam's Tribe**, adapted from Alan Bashirs & Lars Sigurd Sunnanaa's book "The Insider", chronicling the lives of Saddam Hussein's closest friends and family. He completed a magical score for the BBC's Christmas adaptation of Noel Streatfield's much loved novel, **Ballet Shoes**, as well as scoring **Honest** for Greenlit Prods and ITV. He recently scored **Blue Murder** series 5 for Granada. Kevin scored the slick BBC drama, **The last days of Lehman Brothers**, a fantastic dramatic realisation of the events which led to the collapse of Lehman Brothers Bank, nearly 6 months into the currently felt turmoil in the world's financial markets. Most recently he completed **Joe Maddison's War** for Mammoth Screen, written by the late, great, Alan Plater.

Although an accomplished, classically-trained pianist, he in fact began his career as a drummer, percussionist and keyboardist with cult dance/rock pioneers **Thrashing Doves**. Signed to A&M and Elektra Records, he learnt his craft at the elbow of legendary producers Chris Thomas, Jimmy Iovine and jazz luminary Tommy Lipuma, recording three critically-acclaimed albums in Los Angeles, London and New York and touring the US and Europe. Their funky, and controversial, **Jesus on the Payroll** reached the Billboard Top Twenty dance chart.

As a founder member of acclaimed comedy team **The Hurricane Club**, Kevin also boasts a parallel background in theatre and comic improvisation, performing off-the-cuff sketches for many years at their weekly West End residency. As journal *Music from the Movies* noted of **Crush**, "his music not only supports but adds to the comedy." A flair for dramatic and often mischievous juxtaposition reflected in a refined compositional style, blending passion and imagination with great timing, taste and attention to detail. Kevin's bolder ideas can be cunning; for the Joan Allen/Kevin Costner dramatic comedy **The Upside of Anger**, his witty and affecting score included a set of variations on a non-existent Scandinavian folk tune, while for crime caper **Fakers**, an Italian arietta was given a zestful swing-Bach treatment. **A Waste of Shame: The Mystery of Shakespeare And His Sonnets** gave us the chance to enjoy his serious side (for which he was nominated for an Ivor Novello Award), with a tender chamber score, rich in the mystery and finely-felt English melancholy of Shakespeare's inner world.

**Killing Joe**, directed by Mehdi Norowzian, and which Kevin scored, was nominated for an American Academy Award as Best Live-Action Short. Selections from his score for **Crush** were premiered to great acclaim before an audience of ten thousand by the Kentucky Symphony Orchestra in Cincinnati, sharing the programme with music by Leonard Bernstein, John Williams and Danny Elfman.

Kevin has also forged an enviable reputation in commercials, where his characterful, stylish and eclectic contemporary voice has complimented a host of international and prestigious campaigns including **Guinness, Adidas, Cerruti, Peugeot, Financial Times, Eurostar, Dulux, Harrods, Goodyear, Glenfiddich, Hyundai, Ford Galaxy, Land Rover** and **Patek Philippe**. His work for **Barclays**, featuring Sir Anthony Hopkins and directed by Tony Scott, was rewarded with top honours from both the D&AD and Creative Circle, while **Adidas 'Tim Henman'**, featuring counter-tenor James Bowman, saw him a finalist in the British Television Advertising Awards for Best Original Music.

Kevin is rightly building a reputation as a gifted composer for all media, whose versatility and passion is reflected in music of genuine individuality and heart. And as for actually working with him, as producer Lee Thomas discovered:

"With music, I usually reckon on either the process or the result being rewarding. With Kevin, it's *both*."

## COOL MUSIC LTD

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## FILMS

### **THE UPSIDE OF ANGER**

Sunlight Productions  
UK Score  
Director: Mike Binder  
Producer: Jack Binder  
Starring: Kevin Costner, Joan Allen

### **CRUSH**

FilmFour  
Director: John McKay  
Producer: Lee Thomas  
Starring: Andie Macdowell, Anna Chancellor,  
Imelda Staunton

### **FAKERS**

Director: Richard Janes  
Producer: Richard Janes  
Starring: Matthew Rhys, Kate Ashfield, Art Malik

## TELEVISION/SHORT FILMS

### **JOE MADDISON'S WAR**

ITV / Mammoth Screen  
Directors: Patrick Collerton  
Producer: Howard Ella  
Executive Producers: Michelle Buck / Damien  
Timmer

### **THE LAST DAYS OF LEHMAN BROTHERS**

BBC  
Directors: Michael Samuels  
Producer: Lisa Osborne  
Executive Producer: Ruth Caleb

### **BLUE MURDER**

SERIES 4 & 5

Granada  
Directors: Juliet May, Graham Theakston  
Producer: Mike Dormer, Hugh Warren, Jane  
Macnaught  
Executive Producer: Carolyn Reynolds

### **BRAVE YOUNG MEN**

Baby Cow Productions  
Director: Sam Leifer  
Producer: Teddy Leifer

### **HONEST**

Greenlit Prods / ITV  
Director: Julian Holmes / Brian Kelly  
Producer: Jill Green / Eve Gutierrez  
Writer: Jack Williams  
Starring: Amanda Redman

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<b>BALLET SHOES</b>	BBC Director: Sandra Goldbacher Producer: Piers Wenger Writer: Heidi Thomas Starring: Emma Watson, Amelia Fox, Mark Warren, Richard Griffiths
<b>SADDAM'S TRIBE</b>	World Productions / BBC2 / Discovery USA Director: Chris Menaul Producer: Roberto Troni / Monica Garnsey
<b>LILIES</b>	World Productions Director: David Moore Producer: Chrissy Skinns
<b>AFTERSUN</b>	Tiger Aspect Director: Peter Lydon Producer: Rhonda Smith
<b>A WASTE OF SHAME: THE MYSTERY OF SHAKESPEARE AND HIS SONNETS</b>	BBC Director: John Mckay Producer: Chrissy Skinns Writer: William Boyd  <b>*Ivor Novello Award Nomination 2006: Best Original TV Music*</b>
<b>MACBETH</b>	BBC Director: Mark Brozel Producer: Pier Wilkie Writer: Peter Moffat
<b>THE CANTERBURY TALES</b>	BBC Director: John McKay Producer: Kate Bartlett
<b>E=</b>	Liberty Films Director: Alexander Ross
<b>KILLING JOE</b>	Joy Films Too Director: Mehdi Norwozian Academy Award Nominee – Best Short – Live Action 2000
<b>WET AND DRY</b>	BBC/C4 Brief Encounters Director: John McKay
<b>OUT &amp; ABOUT WITH HP LOVECRAFT</b>	National Film & TV School

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# COMMERCIALS

**ADIDAS**

Finalist Best Original Music British TV  
Advertising Craft Awards

**OTHERS INCLUDE:**

Kerrygold, BT, Dulux, Barclays, Mastercard, Hyundai,  
Le Shuttle, Volvo, Glenfiddich, Ford Galaxy,  
Renault, Harrods, Motorola, Equitable Life, Patek  
Philippe, Cerruti, The Guardian, Vidal Sasson,  
Velux, Paine Webber, Investments, Talus Wines,  
Bass Ales, Fanta, East Midlands Electricity,  
Rimmel, Shell, Weekend FT, and The Observer.

Kevin is represented by Claire Baughan at Blaze Music, London and by Seth Kaplan at Evolution Partners in the USA for commercials.

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