

# Neil Davidge

## COMPOSER

As co-writer and key sonic facilitator on the lauded **Massive Attack** albums **Mezzanine**, **100th Window** and **Heligoland**, Bristol, England's Neil Davidge has been integral in birthing some of the most arresting and innovative sounds of the Nineties and Noughties. He has also enjoyed a parallel career composing for Film and Television. His early venture into the world of film scoring included **The Storm That Brought You To Me**, from Louis Leterrier's 2010 fantasy film **Clash Of the Titans**, and his co-write score for **Trouble The Water**, a moving study of Hurricane Katrina victims that won the 'Best Documentary' gong at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival.

Following that, Neil won over an entirely new audience in 2012 with Microsoft / 343 Industries - the company behind famed multi-million-selling franchise **Halo** - who commissioned him to write the score for the quantum leap in fun-filled alien slaughter that is **Halo 4**. The soundtrack went on to sell over 90,000 albums, 120,000 downloads and was the highest charting game soundtrack ever in the US billboard charts.

The stellar success of Halo 4 resulted in further movie score work including the 2014 Henrik Ruben Genz movie **Good People** starring Kate Hudson and James Franco, the Tom Green directed **Monsters: Dark Continent**, and the 2015 Canal Plus 10-part thriller TV series **Spotless** starring Mark Ruffalo, Michael Keaton and Rachel McAdams. In 2017 Neil scored several highly coveted BBC1 dramas including the Anthony Horowitz TV series **New Blood**, the BBC four-part drama **In The Dark**, and new 2018 Jim Sturgess/ Agyness Deyne pre-apocalyptic thriller **Hard Sun**. Most recently, Neil scored both series of the Jez Butterworth, Sky Atlantic / Amazon Prime 10-part epic dark Roman drama **Britannia**, and the BBC's documentary series' **Earth from Space** and **8 Days: To the Moon and Back**.

Neil was born in Bristol, England in 1962. As a teenager he loved to paint, creating both fine-art works and more abstract pieces. Prior to studying graphic design at Brunel Technical College, he became enamoured with the late 1970's UK punk and reggae scenes and began painting likenesses of the Banshees' Siouxsie Sioux and the dub poet Linton Kwesi Johnson, amongst others.

Having learned guitar in line with the punk DIY ethic of the time, Neil later embarked upon long hours of alchemical, 'suck-it-and-see' experimentation during which time he learned the complex but rewarding art of sound recording. Happily, he was in situ at Bristol's Coach House Studios when famed trip-hop act **Portishead** recorded parts of their debut album **Dummy** there between 1991-1994, and in 1996, he hooked-up with **Massive Attack** on The Hunter, a song for the **Batman Forever** soundtrack that featured Everything But The Girl vocalist Tracey Thorn. That same year, Massive Attack won a '**Best Dance Act**' **Brit Award**, cementing a working relationship with Neil Davidge that would continue for some 17 years.

It was Massive Attack's stately, cinematic sound - together with Neil's longstanding affinity with visual mediums that lent his scoring for film, TV and advertising an air of inevitability. After auteur **Luc Besson** approached Neil and Robert Del Naja of Massive Attack to commission music for his martial arts thriller **Unleashed**, a swathe of other, attractively varied coups followed. Among them were scores for the films **Bullet Boy** and **Battle In Seattle**, advertising campaigns for Jaguar and Adidas, and Neil's collaboration with **Snoop Dogg** while scoring music for **In Prison My Whole Life**, a feature documentary about US death-row journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal.

It's an impressive résumé as it stands, but it's his score for the release of **Halo 4** - the latest incarnation of the wildly successful gaming franchise - that Neil Davidge is understandably most excited about. This, after all, is the video game franchise that has already sold over 40 million copies and generated some \$2 billion of merchandising revenue. The game whose worldwide community of fans is known as the 'Halo Nation' and the game that has spawned a series of much loved comic books, and anime films. Some would say it is... THE GAME.

"To be honest, I can't think about all that", laughs Neil. "If I did I might go mad! I just have to concentrate on the music and hope that, if it moves me, then fans will get a similar feeling. If they do, I'll have done my job."

*Neil Davidge, April 2012.*

# GAME

**HALO 4**

343 Industries / Microsoft

## FEATURE FILM

**MONSTERS: A DARK CONTINENT**

Vertigo Films  
Director: Tom Green  
Producer: Scoot McNairy, Gareth Edwards, Rory Aitken, Allan Niblo, Rupert Preston, Ben Pugh, James Richardson  
Starring: Joe Dempsie, Johnny Harris, Nicholas Pinnock, Parker Sawyers, Kyle Soller, Jesse Nagy, Jeff Hill

**GOOD PEOPLE**

Film 360  
Director: Henrik Ruben Genz  
Producer: Ed Cathel III, Ben Forkner, Thomas Gammeltoft, Eric Kranzler, Avi Lerner, Tobey Macguire  
Starring: James Franco, Kate Hudson, Tom Wilkinson, Omar Sy

**CLASH OF THE TITANS**  
(Additional Music)

Warner Bros Pictures  
Director: Louis Leterrier  
Producer: Kevin De La Noy, Basil Iwanyk,  
Starring: Sam Worthington, Ralph Fiennes, Liam Neeson, Gemma Atterton

**PUSH**

Summit Entertainment  
Director: Paul McGuigan  
Producers: Bruce Davey, William Vince, Glenn Williamson  
Starring: Dakota Fanning

**GOMMORAH**  
(Soundtrack)

Fandango Films  
Director: Matteo Garrone  
Producers: Domenico Procacci

**TROUBLE THE WATER**  
(with Robert Del Naja)

Elsewhere Films  
Director: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin  
Producers: Carl Deal, Tia Lessin  
Writer: Frank Cottrel Boyce  
Starring: Eddie Marson, Omid Djallili

**\*\*\*Sundance Film Festival Best Documentary\*\*\***

**BATTLE IN SEATTLE**  
(with Robert Del Naja)

Hyde Park Ents  
Director: Stuart Townsend  
Producer: Stuart Townsend, Mary Aloe, Maxine Remillard, Kirk Shaw  
Starring: Woody Harrelson, Ray Liotta, Michelle Rodriguez,  
Channing Tatum, Charlize Theron

**IN PRISON MY WHOLE LIFE**

Fandango  
Director: Marc Evans, Livia Guiggioli, Nick Goodwin-Self  
Producer: Christine Langan  
Starring: Timothy Spall, Juliet Stevenson

**MIAMI VICE**  
(soundtrack)

Universal Pictures  
Director: Michael Mann  
Producers: Michael Mann, Pieter Jan Brugge  
Starring: Colin Farrell, Jamie Foxx

**UNLEASHED**  
(with Massive Attack)

Europa Corp  
Director: Louis Leterrier  
Producers: Luc Besson, Steve Chasman, Jet Li  
Starring: Jet Li, Morgan Freeman, Bob Hoskins

**BULLET BOY**

BBC Films  
Director: Saul Dibb  
Producers: Mark Boothe, Ruth Caleb, Paul Hamann  
Starring: Ashley Walters, Jamie Winstone

**BLADE II**  
(soundtrack)

New Line Cinema  
Director: Guillermo Del Toro  
Producer: Peter Frankfurt, Patrick J. Plamer, Wesley Snipes  
Starring: Wesley Snipes, Kris Kristofferson, Ron Perlman

**MOULIN ROUGE**

Twentieth Century Fox  
Director: Baz Luhrmann  
Producer: Fred Baron, Martin Brown  
Starring: Nicole Kidman, Ewan McGregor, John Leguizamo, Jim Broadbent

## TV

**BRITANNIA**  
(series 1 & 2)

Vertigo Films / Amazon Studios / Sky  
Creators: Jez Butterworth, Tom Butterworth, James Richardson  
Producer: Rick McCallum, Rupert Ryle-Hodges  
Starring: David Morrissey, Kelly Reilly

**8 DAYS: TO THE MOON AND BACK**

BBC Studios  
Director: Anthony Philipson  
Producer: James Van Der Pool

**EARTH FROM SPACE**

BBC Studios  
Director: Barney Revill  
Producer: Justin Anderson  
Starring: Chiwetel Ejiofor

**HARD SUN**

Euston Films / BBC One  
Directors: Brian Kirk, Nick Rowland, Richard Senior  
Producer: Hugh Warren  
Starring: Jim Sturgess, Agyness Deyn

**NEW BLOOD**

BBC / Eleventh Hour Films  
Directors: Anthony Philipson, Bill Eagles  
Producer: Eve Gutierrez  
Starring: Mark Strepan, Ben Tavassoli

**SPOTLESS**

Canal+

Director: Pascal Chaumeil, Colin Teague, China Moo-Young

Producer: Moritz Polter, Hugh Warren

Executive Producer: Rola Bauer, Jonas Bauer, Suzanne Berger

Starring: Marc-Andre Grondin, Denis Menochet

**LUTHER**

(Title music, Massive Attack)

BBC

Director: Sam Miller, Brian Kirk, Stephan Schwartz

Producer: Katie Swinden

Starring: Idris Elba

Neil Davidge Website: <http://www.neildavidge.com/index.html>