

# ADAM BALAZS

## BIOGRAPHY



*"I have always been interested in depicting what is not visually present in a scene: the hidden motifs, the incidental, underlying factors and associations. All these things that contribute to the unparalleled magic of the moment make us think in color rather than in black and white."*

Over the years Adam Balazs' name has become synonymous with innovative film scoring that is not afraid of taking chances. His distinctive voice, a blend of tradition from his European classical training and his expertise in contemporary electronics, makes him one of the most versatile composers of his generation.

Examples of Adam's wide-ranging versatility can be heard in *The Butterfly Effect 3: Revelations* (Seth Grossman, dir.), and director Gabor Csupo's (*Bridge to Terabithia*) *The Secret of Moonacre*, based on the



ever-popular children's novel "The Little White Horse" by Elizabeth Goudge. The latter film stars Ioan Gruffudd, Natasha McElhone and Dakota Blue

Richards.



Adam is also the first Hungarian composer to premiere his work at Carnegie Hall since Béla Bartók premiered his *Concerto for Orchestra*, January 11, 1944.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Adam Balazs began playing the piano at the age of seven. His father, an internationally respected composer, having always been in favor of his son's ambitions, introduced Adam to the fundamentals of music composition.

*“One of my earliest memories is sitting at the piano with my father. He wrote a score to an animation series and I was in charge of “timing” the music with a stopwatch. Even then I knew that this job was something really special...”*

At the age of 16, Adam decided to pursue his film career professionally and in turn, completed his musical studies at the Béla Bartók Conservatory of Budapest as a composition major while concurrently, attending the Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest (ELTE) majoring in English.

At 23, he was offered an Adjunct Lecturer position at the Department of American Studies at the ELTE University. It was during this period he pursued doctoral studies in English Renaissance and Baroque Literature. He taught a course entitled “American Jazz: The History of a Cultural, Social and Political Phenomenon,” for four semesters. Although his music career as a classical film composer started to bloom in Europe, Adam was determined to become a film composer in the United States.

In 1998, Adam moved to New York to pursue his musical career. As a resident of New York, he was fascinated with every aspect of living and working in the multicultural capital of the world. New York, and its highly stimulating, artistic atmosphere, serves as a source of constant inspiration to him.

Adam’s major breakthrough came when he met HBO Creative Director, Robert Priddy. They developed a close working relationship and a long-lasting friendship that resulted in over one hundred image spots for Cinemax in the course of four years. Adam had been responsible for the musical re-designing of the network. Once the rave reviews revealed that the transformation of Cinemax’s musical image was significantly due to Adam’s fresh and energetic approach, the producers of HBO commissioned him to create the main network’s off-channel image and write music for HBO promotions.



The exposure of Adam’s music being featured on cable television had created a multitude of opportunities and spawned several film projects in which he worked as the composer, producer and arranger. Adam’s recent composing assignments include *The Secret of Moonacre* (Ioan Gruffudd, Natascha McElhone); *The Butterfly Effect 3: Revelations* (Chris Carmack, Rachel Miner); *The Elephant King* (Ellen Burstyn, Jonno Roberts; an Official Selection, Tribeca Film Festival, among numerous others); *California Dreaming* (Lea Thompson, David Foley, Patricia Richardson); *El Camino* (Elizabeth Moss, Leo Fitzpatrick); *The Killer Next Door* (Tobin Bell, Billy Dee Williams); *Shock Act* (winner at the Tribeca and Chicago International Film Festivals); *Hot Lunch* (Best Feature, Coney Island and Woods Hole Film Festivals); and, *The Library* (Brian Greenburg; Grand Prize, Brooklyn Film Festival).

Adam's music is featured in the soundtrack of *Bedazzled* (Brendan Fraser, Elizabeth Hurley), and in the hit television series, *Friends* (NBC) and *Project Runway* (Bravo), among others.

*"I love the challenge of time, the fevered, seemingly never-ending hours spent with creation. All to consolidate a concept by infusing the images with the sounds of my vision."*

Even in his traditional orchestral scores, Adam cannot escape the musical flavors that derive from his Eastern European background. In a highly competitive market, it's noteworthy that Adam, a native of Hungary, has access to the best players, conductors, halls and studio professionals working in Hungary.

A true recognition of Adam's career came when Ambassador Dr. Gábor Horváth, Consul General of the Republic of Hungary, and the Board of Directors of the *Coordinating Committee for the Commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution*, asked him to write a symphonic poem in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. The Philharmonia Orchestra of Yale performed the piece at Carnegie Hall, October 15, 2006, at a benefit concert recognizing this most historic event.



In 2000, Adam Balazs founded Yellowgator Productions Inc. Spanning from independent movies and theatre productions to commercials, the company's clients include HBO, Cinemax, 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, The Weinstein company, BenderSpink, Infinity features, Unison Films, After Dark Films and Appendix Productions.

*"I am a film composer. This is my passion. This is my life."*

Adam, his wife and two daughters, are residents of Los Angeles, California.



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# ADAM BALAZS

COMPOSER

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Los Angeles New York Budapest, Hungary

Citizenship: Hungary (EU)

## MUSIC AWARDS

**Best Impact of Music in a Feature Film, Gold Medal for Excellence, Director's Choice**

Park City Film Music Festival, "*The Elephant King*," Unison Films, Seth Grossman, dir.

**Best Use of Music in a Short Film, Silver Medal for Excellence**

Park City Film Music Festival, "*Slingers*," Appendix Productions, Rory Kindersley, dir.

**Best Impact of Music in a Documentary, Medal for Excellence, Director's Choice**

Park City Film Music Festival, "*My Name Is Alan and I Paint Pictures*," Raw Media Films, Johnny Boston, dir.

**Outstanding Musical Score**

Sacramento International Film Festival, "*The Elephant King*," Unison Films, Seth Grossman, dir.

## MOTION PICTURES

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: REVELATION  
After Dark Films / BenderSpink / Infinity Features

Seth Grossman, dir.  
A.J. Dix, J.C. Spink, Rob Merilees, prods.

ON THE CROSS BAR (Feature Documentary)  
Magafilm

Mano Csillag, dir.  
Gábor Kálomista, prod.

LAST STOP  
LAID Films

Andrew Rodriguez, J.D. Stimson, Jr., dirs./prods.

BORN AND BRED (Feature Documentary)  
24<sup>th</sup> Hour Productions

Justin Frimmer, dir./prod.

THE SECRET OF MOONACRE (*Moonacre* Theme, Additional Music)  
Forgan-Smith Entertainment / Spice Factory

Gábor Csupo, dir.  
Michael Cowan, Meredith Garlick, Monica Penders,  
Jason Piette, prods.

A COUNTRY STABBED IN THE HEART (Feature Documentary)  
Megafilm

János Vecsernyés, dir.  
Gábor Kálomista, prod.

*Best Picture, Team Category, Guirlande d'Honneur, Fédération Internationale Cinéma Télévision Sports, Milan, Italy*

ANDRASSY STREET 60.  
Stone Bridge Films

Peter Engert, dir.  
Zoltan Furedi, Daniel Popa, Attila Somlai, exec. prods.  
Don Schmeichel, Zsolt Varga, prods.

THE KISS GOODNIGHT (Soundtrack, Music Supervisor)

Juszt Balazs, dir.  
Judit Romwalter, exec. prod.; Andreea Stanculeanu, prod.

SWEET TOOTH Appendix Productions	Rory Kindersley, dir. Erik S. Weigel, Salvatore Interlandi, prods.
EL CAMINO WinSome Productions	Erik S. Weigel, dir. Barbara J. Weigel, exec. prod. Jason Noto, Frank Giblin, prods.
ARIZONA SEASIDE Rebel Zone Films	j. Pil Pilegaard, dir. R. Emery Bright, exec. prod. Alla Shemer, prod.
MY NAME IS ALAN, AND I PAINT PICTURES (Feature Documentary) Raw Media Films	Johnny Boston, dir./prod.
<i>Best Impact of Music in a Documentary, 2008 Park City Film Music Festival</i>	
<i>Best Documentary, Monaco Charity Film Festival</i>	
<i>Founder's Choice Award, New York International Independent Film &amp; Video Festival</i>	
CALIFORNIA DREAMING NoHo Production Company	Linda Voorhees, dir. Patricia Payne, Wilton Schiller, prods.
SLINGERS Appendix Productions / Little Gorilla Films	Rory Kindersley, dir. Lucas Howe, prod.
<i>Best Use of Music in a Short Film, 2008 Park City Film Music Festival</i>	
<i>Best Short, San Diego Film Festival</i>	
<i>Palm Beach International Film Festival Audience Award</i>	
THE ELEPHANT KING Unison Films	Seth Grossman, dir. Emanuel Michael, Tamar Sela, Tom Waller, prods.
<i>Best Impact of Music in a Feature Film, Park City Film Music Festival</i>	
<i>Audience Award, Oxford Film Festival</i>	
<i>Official Selection, Tribeca Film Festival</i>	
<i>Outstanding Musical Score, Sacramento International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Outstanding Film, Sacramento International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best Narrative Feature, Lonestar Film Festival</i>	
SECURITY Nine Tints Pictures	Mark Edgington, dir. Emoke Szalai, Mark Edgington, prods.
VALLEY OF TEARS (Executive Music Producer) MFD Entertainment / Stone Bridge Films	Peter Engert, dir. Mario Domina, Daniel Popa, exec. prods. Antoni Corone, Michael Sedan, prods.
HOT LUNCH Appendix Films	Rory Kindersley, dir. Cecily Taylor, Christian Hugenat, Rory Kindersley, prods.
<i>Best Feature, Red Bank (NJ) International Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best Comedy Feature, Woods Hole Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best Feature, Coney Island Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best Feature, Hollywood First Glance Film Festival</i>	
SHOCK ACT New York Film Collective	Seth R. Grossman, dir. Emanuel Michael, exec. prod. Tamar Sela, prod.
<i>Best Narrative Short, Tribeca Film Festival</i>	
<i>Best Short, Chicago International Film Festival</i>	
GOOD NEIGHBOR (aka THE KILLER NEXT DOOR) Stage and Frame Productions	Todd Turner, dir. Mary Grace Higgs, prod.
THE LIBRARY Bookworm Films	Rafael Lima, dir. Nat Dinga, prod.
<i>Grand Prize, Brooklyn Film Festival</i>	

ALL ABOUT YOU  
Ari M. Chester Films

Ari M. Chester, dir.  
Ari M. Chester, prod.

LUCKY MAN  
Oyster Films

Rafael Lima, dir.  
Angela Quiles, Nat Dinga, Rafael Lima, prods.

THE FANATICAL TEACHINGS OF JULIAN TAU  
Rebellion Pictures

Keith J. Knight, Adam Hammel, dirs.  
Adam Hammel, exec. prod.  
Adam Hammel, Keith J. Knight, prods.

WTC VIEW (*Featured song* "Tell Me Girlfriend")  
Edgeworx (UK) / Logo

Brian Sloan, dir.  
Robert Arceneaux, exec. prod.  
Robert Ahrens, Brian Sloan, prods.

BEDAZZLED (*Featured song* "Tell Me Girlfriend")  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox

Harold Ramis, dir.  
Neil Machlis, exec. prod.  
Trevor Albert, Susan Hamilton, Harold Ramis, prods.

### **MOTION PICTURES – ORCHESTRATOR**

LULLABY FOR PI, Forecast Pictures / Minds Eye Entertainment  
THE MINISTERS, Alumbra Films / Grow Pictures / Scheherazade

George Acogny, composer, Benoit Philippon  
George Acogny, composer; Franc Reyes, dir.

### **TELEVISION – SERIES / TELEFILMS / DOCUMENTARIES**

HEADLINERS AND LEGENDS  
NBC News

Joe Parlagreco, dir.  
Michele DuMont, prod.

IN PROFILE (Theme and Multiples)  
NBC News

Joe Parlagreco, dir.  
Lara Stolman, prod.

PROJECT RUNWAY: FINALE, PART 2 (*Featured song* "Foxtrotten - The Laura Bennett Collection")  
BRAVO / Fashion Cents

Eli Holzman, writer-creator  
Michael Rucker, Tony Sacco, Barbara Schneeweiss,  
Andrew Wallace, prods.

FRIENDS: THE ONE WITH THE SOAP OPERA PARTY (*Featured song* "Tell Me Girlfriend")  
NBC / Warner Bros. Television

Sheldon Epps, dir.  
Ted Cohen, David Crane, Marta Kaufman, Kevin Bright,  
Shana Goldberg-Meehan, Andrew Reich, Scott Silveri, exec.  
prods.  
Dana Klein, Wendy Knoller, Mark J. Kunerth, prods.

SATAN'S SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (*Featured song* "Tell Me Girlfriend")  
ABC / Spelling Television

Christopher Leitch, dir.  
Aaron Spelling, Duke Vincent, exec. prods.  
Murray Shostak, Robert Berger, prods.

I WANNA BE EVERYTHING  
Sincere Image

Helena Lumme, dir.  
Bonnie Curtis, exec. prod.  
Mikka Manninen, Yashar Hedayat, prods.

THE VINEYARDS OF SIKLOS  
Duna TV, Hungary

István Zöldi, dir.  
István Szederkenyi, prod.

EARTHBOUND WINEGROWERS  
Duna TV, Hungary

István Zöldi, dir.  
István Szederkenyi, prod.

## **TELEVISION - PROMOTION**

HBO (2000 - Present) - Promotion for *The Gathering Storm*, and shows including *Sex and the City* and *Six Feet Under*; Off-channel musical image for the network

Karen Sands, creative dir.  
Andy Hignite, Lilian Thakuria  
Chrissie Hines, prods. (partial list)

CINEMAX (2000 - Present) - Airtime frequency: +300 daily; Over 100 spots, including complete network image redesign, including all multiplex channels

Robert Priday, creative dir.  
David Roofthoof, Jackie Bussey, Gwen Sarnoff,  
Kathy Jewell, prods. (partial list)

## **VIDEOGAME**

DRAGON AGE II: DESTINY (Trailer) - Digic Films / Electronic Arts / BioWare

## **THEATRE**

FEATURING LORETTA  
Jambalaya Productions

Robert F. Perillo, dir.  
Carrie DeMerice, prod.

SUBURBAN MOTEL  
Jambalaya Productions

Robert F. Perillo, dir.  
Carrie DeMerice, prod.

## **COMMERCIALS (Partial List)**

Coca Cola Armani Sirius XACT Calvin Klein New York Lottery

## **MUSIC COMMISSIONED FOR PERFORMANCE**

*THE PATH OF THE EXTRAORDINARY* – A symphonic poem commissioned by Ambassador Dr. Gábor Horváth, Consul General of the Republic of Hungary, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. Performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra of Yale, Carnegie Hall, October 15, 2006.

## **CONTEMPORARY CLASSICAL COMPOSITIONS (Partial list)**

*TWO ELEGIES FOR STRINGS*

*WAITING FOR GODOT*

*INDIAN SONGS* - For mixed choir

*NOCTURNE FOR PIANO*

*THREE SONGS* - Inspired by Zsolt Gyorei's poems

*IMPRESSIONS* - For four trombones and tuba

*CLARINET TRIO*

*DUO FOR OBOE AND BASOON*

*MEDITATION* - For solo flute

## **EDUCATION**

Béla Bartók Conservatory, Budapest  
Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest  
Westminster College, Fulton, Missouri, USA

Degree in Composition  
Master of Arts and Doctoral Studies, English Literature  
Breakthrough Scholarship

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS OF MR. BALAZS' WORK**

"I had the fortune to work with Adam on *The Secret of Moonacre* as the composer of some of the score and the main piano theme of the movie. His compositions and arrangements were absolutely right on the mark, his music was all beautiful, haunting, magical and emotional. Adam is a young but greatly established professional composer with the very best attitude, easygoing personality and a great sense of humor. I'll definitely work with him again!"—*Gabor Csupo, Director (Bridge to Terabithia, The Secret of Moonacre), Producer (Rugrats, Wild Thornberrys)*

"I've worked with Adam Balazs on two films, the short film *Shock Act* and the feature film, *The Elephant King*. I enjoy collaborating with Adam, and appreciate what his musical imagination brings to the films in terms of creating tone and enhancing story elements. A brilliant composer and musician, Adam also has a keen understanding of cinema. He excels in a variety of genre, from techno dance music to sweeping orchestral scores, and his eclectic talent opens up a film's musical palette. Adam's work

received due acknowledgment this year when *The Elephant King* received a Gold Medal for its score at the Park City Music in Film Festival and a Best Score Award at the Sacramento International Film Festival. I look forward to working with Adam again on my next film project.”—**Seth Grossman, Writer-Director (*The Butterfly Effect 3: Revelations, The Elephant King, Shock Act*)**

“Adam worked long hours, for months for *Shock Act* and *The Elephant King*, bringing a level of professionalism and craftsmanship to the music that elevated the production value of the films, while deepening their meaning. He’s a great guy to work with, a true team player.”—**Emanuel Michael, Producer (*Eagle vs. Shark, The Elephant King, Sonhos De Peixe*)**

“Working with Adam was a blissfully unique experience. Never have I met such a stubborn composer! Being a perfectionist, he will not rest until both you and he are completely satisfied. Dedicated, versatile, talented, original, his understanding of music is second to none. He can read a scene flawlessly, and knows exactly the sounds, tone and instruments needed to achieve the desired effect. Over the years, he’s cleverly honed his craft into something great, slowly composing his way into the history books. He is a soldier for the arts, a genius of present and a pioneer for the future.”—**Rory Kindersley, Writer-Director (*Hot Lunch, Slingers, Butcher’s Hill*)**

“I had the pleasure to work with Adam as the composer of my movie, *California Dreaming*. Adam was given a challenge to score the movie in an exceptionally short period of time due to an early release date, and he performed with talent and grace. It was a pleasure working with him and a pleasure I’d like to repeat on future projects.”—**Patricia Payne, Producer (*California Dreaming*)**

“Adam Balazs scored my movie, *Security*. His original score had to carry long sections of the movie that were dialogue-free. I was particularly happy with the musical solution he came up with for the ending of the movie. He had composed two separate pieces, each of which I liked very much: one for the concluding scene of the movie, and one for the credits. I wanted to use both pieces, but I didn’t see how it would be possible to sequence them—one directly following the other—without it feeling abrupt and awkward. Adam came up with a bridge, which recalled earlier themes, and elegantly tied the two sections together, making for a seamless transition.”—**Mark Edgington, Writer-Director (*Security, Sunburn, Anna in the Sky*)**