

# JOSÉ J. HERRING

## BIOGRAPHY



A classically trained artist, José is a composer who utilizes his knowledge and experience in classical music, urban, contemporary rock and jazz, to bring a diverse palette of hybrid musical scores to each of his film and Television projects.

Born in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, José's earliest recollection of a budding interest in music began with his grandfather, who played traditional Puerto Rican folk songs on the guitar, while two-year-old José sat on his lap.

But it was not until his family relocated to Tucson, Arizona, where at the age of 9, he began studying the clarinet. His professional career as a player commenced while in high school, going beyond the usual classical concerts to performances at local jazz clubs—he once had the opportunity to perform with the legendary Stan Kenton—and the Long Beach (California) Jazz Festival.

José's outstanding music studies and performance led to a full scholarship at the University of Arizona, where he formed several jazz and classical ensembles. His studies there were cut short when he was accepted and given yet another scholarship to attend The Juilliard School, the highest ranked music conservatory in the world. His studies at Juilliard led to both a bachelor and masters degree in clarinet, with emphasis on composition.

While at Juilliard, José regularly performed with the Newport Beach Woodwind Quintet and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Two very special performances included a concert appearance with the late Jean-Pierre Rampal and a solo performance before the Queen of Spain.

During his years at Juilliard, José began film scoring for what subsequently became award-winning short films at New York University and Columbia University, in addition to working for a music production studio during the summer, writing music for commercials and corporate promotions.

*“It was while I was playing Mahler’s Ninth that the inspiration struck. I wanted to write music, but not just any music, music for film.”*

*“The next day, I had flyers printed, took the subway to the NYU Film School, slipped past a security guard and posted them on bulletin boards. I admitted to never having written for film, but offered a special incentive—I would write for free.”*

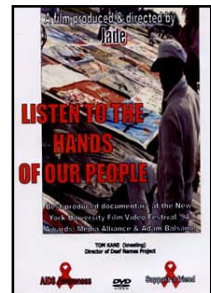
*“My first scoring assignment for film came one week later. I never had to write for free again.”*

Upon graduation, José pursued his professional career in film scoring, writing music for “guerrilla-style” filmmakers in New York, many of whom could not even afford video tape with time code! These opportunities allowed José to score films in the manner of the masters during the golden age of film scoring—using a stopwatch, a flatbed Stienbeck and a counter that measured film in feet and inches. Developing feature film scores on an extremely limited budget without compromising quality, allowed José to emerge from this foundation with a very personal philosophy.

*“Music equals emotion in film. Putting the right music at the right place with the right emotion in the right amount creates indescribable electricity in a film. It’s this electricity that I seek in all the films I score, and I won’t rest until that*



José relocated to Los Angeles to expand upon his film scoring experiences, and was immediately recognized as one of the industries fast track composers. His first motion picture in Los Angeles was *Crossfire* (Gary Lipsky, director), and he knew he had arrived—the videotape contained time code! Following closely, José scored *Extramarital* (Yael Roscol, director) starring Jeff Fahey and Traci Lords; *Developing* (Marya Cohn, director) starring Natalie Portman, a film that has received numerous international awards; and, *No Tomorrow*, starring Pam Grier, Jeff Fahey and Gary Busey.



Projects that followed included the award-winning *No Time for Tears* for National Geographic Television, a story about Viet Nam as told by the women who served in the military, and *Listen To The Hands of Our People*, a moving documentary about the hearing impaired inflicted with the AIDS virus. Most recently, José scored Mauro Borelli’s *Box of Shadows*.



With each project being vastly different and demanding a fresh musical approach, José applies a wide range of musical forces from full orchestras to smaller instrumental ensembles, world percussion to synthesizers and digital samples, and includes hybrids of both acoustic and electronic sounds. With each project, more and more members of the industry learn of the work of this fine composer, and José will continue to be lauded with the highest of recognitions.

*“Feeling and passion are the ultimate end of music in film. I find that the great scores lift the quality of the picture through its artistry. Music engulfs and surrounds an audience, bringing them into the setting of the film to give them the feel and passion of the film, which is the reason they come to watch a film in the first place.*

*“To feel, to feel, to feel...is the end. To impart feeling is what music does in film. To create a high quality, great sounding score, full of feeling and passion...this is what I do best.”*

José, his wife and their son, are residents of Sherman Oaks, California.



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# JOSÉ J. HERRING

COMPOSER CONDUCTOR

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Los Angeles

## MOTION PICTURES

BOX OF SHADOWS  
Fotocomics Productions

SNUFF (Feature Documentary)  
Americana Films

CARNIES  
T.R. Productions

DEAD END CITY  
Paratrooper Movieworx

THE AUDIENCE STRIKES BACK  
Thorco Films

DJINN  
Giant Flick Films

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH  
Cafe Productions

ONCE UPON A TIME IN CUBA  
York Entertainment

THE SINGING FOREST  
A.J. Productions / Hollywood Independents

SOUL TALKIN'  
York Entertainment

GUNG FU: THE NEW DRAGON  
Café Productions

NO TOMORROW (Additional Music)  
No Limit Films / PM Entertainment Group

EXTRAMARITAL  
HBO / Universal Home Entertainment

MOVIN' TO MONTANA  
Bradstreet Productions

Mauro Borrelli, dir.  
Ed Polgardy, Scott Rudolph, prods.

Liam Owen, dir.  
Michael Z. Gordon, prod.

Brian Corder, dir.  
John Corder, Chris Staviski, prods.

Jeff Varga, dir.  
Rick Spalla, exec. prod.

Patrick Beacham, dir.  
Paul Gentry, prod.

Shahin Sean Solimon, dir./exec. prod.

Graeme Whifler, dir.  
Michael J. Brody, Jeff Kirshbaum, prods.

Detdrich McClure, dir./prod.

Jorge Ameer, dir./prod.

Prentice Penny, dir.  
Angela Northington, prod.

Robert Napton, dir.  
Jeff Kirshbaum, exec. prod./prod.  
Katrín Gangl, prod.

Master P, dir.  
Bobby Bigelow, Robert Panaro, exec. prods.  
Joseph Merhi, Richard Pepin, prods.

Yael Russcol, dir.  
Shelley Browning, Juliet Green, Alan Siegel, exec. prods.  
Joseph Merhi, Richard Pepin

Rodolfo Riva-Palacio Alatríste, dir.  
David Bradstreet, prod.

STRIPPERS  
Hollywood Independents

Jorge Ameer, dir./exec. prod  
John Greenlaw, exec. prod.  
Rochelle Jefferson, Marianne Marx, prods.

DESPERATION HIGHWAY (aka TAINTED)  
Aon Films

Matthew Ross, dir./prod.  
Richard Freifield, exec. prod.

CROSSFIRE  
Cinequanon

Gary S. Lipsky, Joe Zimmerman, co-dirs.  
Gary S. Lipsky, Mark Anthony Little,  
Meredith Lyn Nevins, prods.

LETHAL JUSTICE  
Cassian's Kids Productions

J.D. Matonti, dir./prod.  
John Gabriel Matonti, exec. prod.  
Gary S. Lipsky, prod.

HEAVY BLOW  
RJ Films / Columbia University  
*Teddy Award, Best Feature Film, Berlin International Film Festival*

Hoang A. Duong, dir./exec. prod.  
Richard Miller, prod.

DEVELOPING  
Marya Cohn Productions

Marya Cohn, dir./prod.

### **MOTION PICTURES – DOCUMENTARY**

NO TIME FOR TEARS: VIET NAM—THE WOMEN WHO SERVED  
West End Films / Women Make Movies, Inc.

Elizabeth Bouiss, dir.  
Mitch Wood, prod.

LISTEN TO THE HANDS OF OUR PEOPLE  
Deaf Vision Film / Jade Film and Entertainment

Ann Marie J. Bryan, dir./prod.

THOSE WHO ALSO SERVED: THE CIVILIAN MEN  
OF WAKE ISLAND  
Aviator Pictures

William F. Kauffman, prod.

### **THEATRICAL PRESENTATION – MUSIC DIRECTOR**

*DRACULA*, Creative Voices Theatre Company (New York)

### **LIVE PERFORMANCES – GUEST CONDUCTOR**

Houston Symphony      Vancouver Symphony      Louisville Symphony      Grand Rapids Symphony

### **LIVE PERFORMANCES – ARTIST**

Evian Festival, with Jean Pierre-Rampal and Pierre Pilot  
Museum of Modern Art, *Summer Garden Series*  
National Public Radio, Solo Performance Broadcast  
Lincoln Center, Numerous solo performances  
Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, featured Clarinetist  
Norfolk Chamber Music Festival, performance with the Tokyo String Quartet

### **RECORDING COLLABORATIONS – ARTIST**

Toni Braxton, *Out of Mind*; Carl Martin and Babyface, producers  
*America*, George Martin and Jerry Beckley, producers  
*Carl Martin*, Carl Martin, producer  
*Museum of Modern Art Summer Garden Series*, RCA RECORDS  
LA Face Records  
Universal Records

## **EDUCATION AND ADVANCED PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

The Juilliard School, Yale School of Music – Master and Bachelor of Arts, Music  
University of Arizona, School of Music  
ASCAP Film Scoring Workshop

Additional studies in the folk music of East & West Africa, Ireland, North & South America, India, Bali and Japan

Studied under the tutelage of Leonard Bernstein, Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, Yo-Yo Ma and Wynton Marsalis