

David Robbins

Biography

David Robbins has been immersed in music all his life. The son of Gil Robbins, a member of the folk group "The Highwaymen", David grew up in Greenwich Village, NY, in the midst of many artists and performers that lived and worked there in the 60's and 70's. By virtue of his exploratory instincts and his geographical location, David was introduced at a young age to a wide variety of folk, classical, jazz, rock and ethnic music, and to this day never passes up an opportunity to discover and learn something new from this vast musical world.

After stints as lead guitarist and songwriter in rock bands in the 70's and early 80's, as well as extensive live concert and studio audio engineering, David found his true calling. In the 80's he worked extensively in theater as composer, music performer and sound designer in Los Angeles and New York. He is the music director for the renowned "The Actors Gang" of Los Angeles for which he contributed his talents for dozens of their award winning productions, including "1984", "Embedded", "The Exonerated", "Tartuffe", "Mephisto", "The Good Woman Of Setzuan", and "Carnage: A Comedy". David has won two Dramalogue awards and two Ovation nominations for his efforts in theater.

These experiences have contributed to his ample reservoir of musical styles which he evocatively weaves into his film scores and compositions. This artful diversity can be heard in movies such as "Bob Roberts" where he co-wrote the several parodying folk songs, as well as composing the underscore (for his efforts he won the Georges Delerue Best Music Award for the Impact of Music On Film at the Flanders Film Festival in 1992); in "Twenty Bucks", by using a light orchestra to match the mirthful quality of the story; in "Dead Man Walking" by tempering such serious subjects with the uplifting and timeless spirituality of harmonizing western and eastern music together as one; or in "Savior", a film set in Bosnia, where David traveled to Yugoslavia to use the Belgrade Symphonic Orchestra, a classical choir and several folk musicians and singers from that country to create a powerful and unforgettable score to compliment an equally powerful movie.

David has also had the opportunity to compose several other scores using orchestral, jazz, rock and ethnic/world music. He combined an orchestral score with a mix of traditional American folk instruments including the hammer dulcimer and medicine drums in Dennis Quaid's "Everything That Rises" for TNT. David collaborated for a third time with his brother Tim on the Disney/Touchstone feature, "Cradle Will Rock", which centered around Marc Blitzstein's ground-breaking musical of the same name, and events that transpired in 1930's New York. In addition to writing the score which features violinist Andrew Bird and clarinetist Paquito D'Rivera, David re-created music from Marc Blitzstein's play for several performance scenes filmed for the movie. For the score, he drew upon several musical styles including 30's jazz, klezmer, Spanish, Italian, Hungarian

gypsy and vaudeville to create a "melting pot" of music to evoke the feel of New York in that day, as well as harmonizing with Blitzstein's music.

More recently, David's whimsical score to the dark comedy "How To Kill Your Neighbor's Dog" starring Kenneth Branagh, Robin Wright Penn and Lynn Redgrave, stands in contrast to the mesmerizing sounds of a lone trumpet and a wailing oboe weaving over strings, vibraphone, marimba and piano in the score to "The Prime Gig" starring Ed Harris, Vince Vaughn and Julia Ormond.

David's work was also heard in the PBS documentary "The Day My God Died" which tackles the serious topic of child slavery, and enlisted the talents of violinist Lili Haydn as well as one of India's premiere flute players Ronu Majumdar; in the comedic, animated series "Hopeless Studios", directed by Bob Balaban for IFC; for the searing drama "The Exonerated" which aired repeatedly on Court TV, starring among others, Danny Glover, Susan Sarandon, and Brian Denehy.

David has recently finished work on the feature film "King of California" (2007) starring Michael Douglas and Evan Rachel Wood, which features on screen performances of his original music, and includes probably his most unique musical score to date, as well as a special co-writing collaboration with the singer/songwriter Jolie Holland.

David continues to stay busy writing and developing music for film and theater, as well as nurturing his penchant for rock and roll by writing and occasionally performing in local clubs in Los Angeles, New York and beyond with his and his brother's band Gob Roberts.