Niall Johnson

Writer

Niall's career as a Writer and Director spans 30 years. After a decade making no-to-low budget movies he came to the industry's notice in 2003 with his spec supernatural thriller script WHITE NOISE, produced by Gold Circle Films and Universal Pictures, starring Michael Keaton, and directed by Geoffrey Sax. It opened in January 2005 at #1 in the UK and #2 in the US. That same year saw the release of Niall's black comedy KEEPING MUM, starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Kristin Scott Thomas, and Patrick Swayze. Niall directed from a script he wrote with Pulitzer Prize-winning American novelist Richard Russo (Nobody's Fool, Empire Falls). "A sophisticated gem" (Hollywood Reporter). "One of the best British film comedies in recent years" (The Times). "Wickedly wonderful entertainment" (The Sun), Niall adapted 2015's true story weepie family drama MUM'S LIST from St John Greene's best-selling memoir. It stars Rafe Spall and Emilia Fox. After its theatrical run it reached #1 on the Amazon DVD/Blu-Ray bestsellers chart on release day. Official Selection at the Dinard Festival of British Film, at Shanghai, at the Heartland Film Festival, USA (where it won the Audience Award), and at the Festival of British Film at D'Ajaccio in Corsica (where it won the main Prize Coup de Couer). "Powerful and beautifully acted" (Mail on Sunday). -"Beautifully well-crafted, staggeringly moving." (Flickreel) "A triumph" (HeyUGuys). Niall's 2017 Western-styled New Zealand historical adventure drama THE STOLEN was co-written with its producer Emily Corcoran, and stars Alice Eve, Jack Davenport, Graham McTavish and Richard O'Brien. It was released in the US by Universal, and enjoyed a successful 16-week theatrical run in New Zealand. "A heart-wrenching, thrilling adventure" (Blazing Minds), "Hard-hitting, engaging, refreshing (Time Out London), "Pick of the week" (Hello Magazine). In 2018, Niall was a Writer on animated drama-documentary hybrid ANOTHER DAY OF LIFE, based on the memoir by Ryszard Kapuscinski, set in the Angolan civil war of the mid-1970s. Winner of the Best Animated Film at both the 2018 European Film Awards and the 2019 Goya Awards, it received its World Premiere at the 2018 Cannes Film Festival (Official Selection Out of Competition) and won Audience Awards at a wide range of festivals including San Sebastian. "A visually striking piece of rare immediacy and power" (Hollywood Reporter). "One of Europe's most awaited animation films" (Variety). "Exhilarating...breath-taking" (Cineuropa). Most recently, Niall co-wrote—with Gary Grant—the hit horror thriller DARKGAME (starring Ed Westwick, produced by Tom George, and directed by Howard J Ford) which reached #2 in the Netflix UK charts on its release in December 2024, and remained in the top 10 for a few months. Across the years, Niall has written for a range of producers and companies in LA, London and Europe—projects ranging from a new adaptation of TREASURE ISLAND…haunted dollhouse supernatural thriller THE DOLLHOUSE MURDERS…true story CHINA BLACK CHAMBER, about an American code breaker in China in WW2…THE STAND-IN, a psychological thriller based on the novel by best-selling author Deborah Moggach…and CALLAS, a biopic of Maria Callas…among many others. Niall latest screenplays include: young-adult thriller ASSASSIN ACADEMY and Rom-Com TEMPUS FUGIT for Tom George, Happy Hour Productions; supernatural drama THE STROMA SESSIONS for Moo Studios, movie-business comedy-drama- CATCH A FALLING STAR for Paul Iacovou and Green Olive Films, and KIKA-MAMA-YAYA a family drama spanning the 1930s-80s, for producer Chantelle de Carvallho. Niall began writing and directing movies in the UK at the end of the 1980s, after graduating from Bristol University. He started with a run of low budget features, including vampire romance DAWN (1991), and wife-swapping comedy drama THE BIG SWAP (theatrically released in the UK in 1998 by Film Four)—which won Critic's Choice at the 1999 Rotterdam Film Festival. "Unmissable" (Daily Star). "One of the year's gems" (Cosmopolitan). "A tour de force" (Seattle Weekly). Niall followed that with traditional haunted house tale THE GHOST OF GREVILLE LODGE (1999, starring Prunella Scales and George Cole), which has become a Halloween/Christmas season favourite on TV channels around the world: "a golden film in an era that has lost its shine" (IMDB). Born and raised in Sutton Coldfield, near Birmingham, England, Niall's passion for movies is a result of a childhood spent producing epic remakes of the likes of PLANET OF THE APES, STAR TREK, DOCTOR WHO and BATMAN with his older brother and a silent Kodak 8mm film camera—the most notable recurring feature of these being his mother's laundry hanging on the washing line in the back-yard!

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2021-2022	EMERGENCY EXIT	FETISOFF ILLUSION LTD	dialogue polish and rewrites on European tv series
2022	THE SCENES		Spec pyschological drama pilot co written with Melissa Reynolds
2021	UNTITLED SPACE PROJECT	NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL	Pilot in development

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2019-202	SHIMMERS	NETLIX	Sci fi series in development

FEATURE FILM

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2021 to present	SONS OF NEPTUNE	Eclipse Films	Feature in development Niall also attached to direct
2019	BLACK WATER LANE	Ensemble Films	rewrite on feature with Geoff Sax attached to direct
2019	BONJOUR ROSSINI	Nikaia Films SL	Polish on feature Producer Bay Okan
2018 to present	BORDER GUIDE	FILM INK	feature rewrite
2018	ANOTHER DAY OF LIFE	KANAKI FILMS	Feature rewrite. Winner European Film Awards Best Animation feature
2017-present	SONS OF NEPTUNE	Eclipse Films	Feature in development.
2017	SIDE KICKED	London Town Films	Romantic comedy feature in development
2016-17	THE STOLEN (Co-Writer / Director)	Cork Films / Goldcrest	Co written with Emily Corcoran In post production Shot in NZ
2015-16	MUM'S LIST (Writer / Director)	Acres And Acres Prods.	Adaptation of best-selling book, in post Starring Rafe Spall and Emilia Fox
2015-Present	EMPTY WORLD	CANYON CREEK FILMS	Writing a feature in development Prod. Simon Brooks
2014-15	STIFFS	Bedlan Productions	Feature in development based on the novel Six feet Under
2014	SCRUM LIKE IT HOT		Rewrite Prod. Francie Von Schonfeld
2014	ANDROID (Co-Writer / Director)	Magnet Pics / Divisadero Pics / Infinite Studios, Singapore	Sci-fi thriller Co-written with Matt O'Reilly, and attached to direct in 2016 Prod. Hal Sadoff
2014	PARALLEL LINES		Romantic comedy in development

2013-14	TREASURE ISLAND	Ecosse Films	Adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's novel, to shoot in Australia
2012	THE ALEXANDER KING CHRONICLES	Ecosse Films	Edwardian supernatural thriller
2012	THE CALLED	Tall Man Films	Supernatural thriller in development, attached to direct Prod. Tim Dennison
2011	THE WILLIAM RICHARDS	Magnet Pictures	Comedy-drama feature
2011	CALLAS	De Angelis Productions, Italy	Bio-pic
2011	ENDAL	Canyon Creek Films	Single film script based on true story Prod. Simon Brooks
2010	THE ONE I LOVE	Progress Pictures / Future Films	Triangular love story
2010	BLIND SPOT (Attached to Direct)	Magnet Pictures, LA	Contemporary noir thriller set in New York Wr. Vince Keenan
2008	THE STAND-IN		Psychological thriller based on Deborah Moggach's novel Prod. Marc Samuelson
2005	WHITE NOISE	Produced by Gold Circle Films	Supernatural thriller Dir. Geoff Sax Starring Michael Keaton
2005	KEEPING MUM (Co-Writer / Director)	Summit Entertainment	Black comedy Co-Written with Richard Russo Starring Rowan Atkinson, Maggie Smith, Kristin Scott Thomas and Patrick Swayze
2004	THE NIGHT COUNTRY		Adaptation of Stuart O'Nan's novel Prod. Nick Wechsler
2003	BEFORE	Universal Pictures	Supernatural reincarnation thriller Prod. Hal Lieberman
2002	ANGEL FACE	Haystack Productions	Teen romantic comedy Prods. Debbie Balderstone and Xavier Marchand
2001	THE GATECRASHER		Romantic comedy about a wannabe filmmaker at Cannes Prod. Ivan MacTaggart

2001	TELL		Feature based on the story of William Tell Prod. Julia Palau
2000	DEATH KNELL	Renown Pictures / Dandelion Distribution	Adaptation of Nicholas Wilde's family murder mystery Prod. Noel Cronin
1999	THE GHOST OF GREVILLE LODGE (Writer / Director)	Renown Pictures	Starring George Cole and Prunella Scales
1998	THE BIG SWAP (Writer / Producer / Director)	Moonlit Pictures / Mayfair Entertainment / Film.Four	Comedy drama feature theatrically released in Europe Gold Award at 1998 Flagstaff Film Festival in Arizona Critic's Choice at 1999 Rotterdam Film Festival
1991	DAWN (Writer / Producer / Director)	Shooting Gallery Productions	Vampire romance

TELEVISION

DATE	PRODUCTION (ROLE)	COMPANY	PROJECT DETAILS
2019	SHIMMERS	Netflix Asia	reworking pilot for thriller series set in Thailand