

WILLIAM BORTHWICK

Screenwriter

Hailing from Bristol, England, William starting off at BBC Bristol, where he worked in documentary, before gaining a master's degree in Audio Visual production at London Guildhall. He has since worked across film, TV, commercials and music videos.

In 2006, William, along with his long-time co-writing partner Simon Fantauzzo, established Facefilms. Eighteen years on, Facefilms has produced over 30 music videos for labels like Sony and Universal Music, for artists like Enrique Iglesias and Jennifer Lopez. Several award winning short films, numerous commercials and five features, starting with gritty urban thriller 'City Rats'- starring Danny Dyer, Myanna Buring, Susan Lynch, James Lance and Tamar Hassan.

Comedy "Re-uniting the Rubins" Starring Timothy Spall, Rhona Mitra and Honor Blackman. Estranged, a chilling psychological thriller which he also co-wrote, starring James Cosmo, Amy Manson, James Lance and Nora Jane Noone. The film was co-produced by the team behind The Paranormal Activity and the Insidious film series and sold domestically to Netflix by WME and globally by Good Universe (now Lionsgate). Negative, starring Luke Hemsworth, Katia Winter, Simon Quarterman and Sebastian Roche, and Population Zero, a pseudo-documentary nominated for the Canadian Academy awards.

William and Simon have written and sold numerous other English Language scripts as well as writing for prolific Indian production company Cantiloe Films, whom they wrote State of Siege: Akshrdham (aka Temple Attack), which released in 2021 and recanted the terrifying true story of the 2002 terrorist attack in Gujarat. The film received positive reviews, becoming the network's second most viewed film of all time.

In 2023 his historical drama series Taj: Divided By Blood released in India, and became the network's most successful show ever, breaking new records across the sub-continent. Followed by the second season Taj: Monument of Blood. Charting the incredible true history of the world's most powerful empire for over 300 years, The Mughals. William wrote all 20 episodes and was the showrunner for both seasons. The show was the first East-meets-West digital co-production of its kind.

Aside from writing with Simon, William also writes with actor James Lance. Together they penned supernatural Viking western 'Berserker', currently under option with XYZ and Independent Films. And 'GAME', a gripping true story about a protected war between a game keeper and a family of travellers on his land.

William currently has three other feature scripts optioned, and three TV series awaiting the greenlight. Producing-wise, William is in pre-production for William Brent Bell's next feature 'The Ascent', alongside producer Steven Schneider (Insidious).

Selected credits

production

television:

TAJ: DIVIDED BY BLOOD
(Co-written with Simon Fantauzzo)

film:

STATE OF SIEGE: TEMPLE ATTACK
(Co-written with Simon Fantauzzo)
ESTRANGED

optioned:

BERSERKER
(Co-written with James Lance)

WAGHNAKS
(Co-written with Simon Fantauzzo)

producer / production company

Abhinanyu Singh / Cantiloe Pictures

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William Borthwick / Face Films

Luc Roeg / Independent Films
Phil Hunt / Bankside Films

Abhinanyu Singh / Cantiloe Pictures