

# Neil O'Neil

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## Screenwriter, Producer and Director



### Writing and Film Education: -

2015	Scriptwriters Coaching course – Raindance, London
2015	Directors Foundation Certificate – Raindance, London
2014	Winner of best Epic Screenplay – Monaco International Film Festival
2014	London Screenwriters Festival - Oct
2014	Writing for TV and Film – Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) 10 weeks
2013-14	Advanced creative writing – Arts University Bournemouth (AUB) 20 weeks
2013	London Screen writers summit – Truby, Volger, Hauge and Seger
2013	Movie Money – Raindance, London
2012	Digital Film School (distinction) – Open University Milton Keynes (OU)
2009	Writers foundation certificate – Raindance, London
2008-9	Screenwriting course London – BlueCat – Gordy Hoffman
2009	Producer's Foundation Course – Raindance, London
2006	Writer's Lab - London
2006	Filmmakers foundation certificate – Raindance, London
2006	Director's Foundation Course – Raindance, London
2005	Film Screenwriting Course – Raindance, London
2005	Towards publication – Advanced writing – City University, London
2004	Intermediate Fiction writing – City University, London
2002-3	Diploma in Creative Writing – University of East Anglia (UEA)
2002	Film and Screenplay writing – University of East Anglia (UEA)
2001	Introduction to creative writing – University of East Anglia (UEA)

### References:

Elliott Grove – Director, Producer, Founder of Raindance Film Festival  
Michael Lionello Cowan – Director, Producer, CEO Stealth Media Group  
Jeff Naylor – Director, Producer – UK Prime Series – TV (ITV, BBC, Channel4, RTE)  
Mark Rogers – Writer, Script Analyst – Deadly Virtues  
Danny Stack – Writer, Director – Script Analyst for Miramax, Working title, Pathe  
Rosie Cullen – Writer – Theatre (Royal Shakespeare Theatre)  
Tim John – Writer – UK Prime time animation – TV (CBS, BBC, ITV)  
Chris Thomas – Director and trainer, Raindance

### Awards:

I.E. – Best Epic Screenplay – Monaco International Film Festival -2014  
The Magpie – Winner of the Tabula Cup 2014 (West Sussex)  
What if? – 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in John Butler-Walton Trophy 2014 (Dorset)  
Maid in his image – A rockumentary (short) – Winner 'Bournemouth Film Competition' 2013  
Lonely People (short) – Winner 'Music to my video' competition 2013  
5 minute Rockstar (short) – Second 'Bristol Film Competition' 2012

### Affiliations:

Member of Raindance, London  
Member of 'The Writers Guild of Great Britain'  
Member of 'The Film and Video Institute' of Great Britain'  
Member of Bristol Video and Film Club  
Member of Bournemouth Video and Film Club

## **Films in Production:**

I.E. (feature) – Writer, Co-producer – Pre-production (casting and funding)

Just Another Love Story? (short) – Writer, Producer – Post-production

Wake up, or sleep forever (short) – Writer, Producer – Production

Coming Home (short) – Writer, Producer – Pre-Production

Found (short) – writer – Pre-Production

## **Introduction to Neil O'Neil**

My life in entertainment and visual media started in 1975 when I bought a bass guitar and formed a rock band called Ricochet. Our first concert was 02 September 1977 and in 1980 we released a single, followed by a tour of Germany. I ended up staying in Germany for 10 years and formed a new band (Damien) for which we got a record deal, with our first Album reaching 19 in the German Rock charts. These early experiences put me on the road and world of adventure, which is now firmly rooted in the film industry.

Whilst working in Warsaw, Poland (1999) I wrote the treatment for my first film idea (The Shooting Gallery), quickly followed by The Queen Mother. As a song writer with Ricochet and Damien I had many creative ideas but no formal writing skills or experience, so in 2001 I signed up to the University of East Anglia to officially start my writing career. I also started to appear in a number TV productions, including a prime time documentary for Granada TV's South Bank Show.

Over the years I have written a number of scripts/treatments, many are registered with the Writers Guild of America (West and East). I have also extended my education to now include film making as a Producer, Director and more recently an Editor; winning a distinction at the Digital Film School at the Open University.

Last year I was commissioned by Jillian Haslam to write a script for her memoirs (Indian English), a harrowing story of how she, as a white girl, survived the slums and abject poverty of the backstreets of Calcutta to be nominated in 2012 as Asian Woman of the year in the humanitarian category. This script has been finished and a film Production Company has been set-up (**Midas Light Films Limited** – Reg. 8776717) to make this movie. Renowned UK TV Director Jeff Naylor is also working on the project.

In the last few years I have made a number of short films, to learn my trade, some of which have won parochial film competitions. Things have now turned full circle as last month Ricochet was back in the studio recording a new song for the film, which has the working title of I.E. The film has already been picked up by the press (see attached article from The Telegraph).

## **The I.E. Script has been reviewed by industry experts and comments are as follows;**

'This script stands out with a lot of appeal..... plenty of drama, conflict, antagonist, obstacles, objective, and so on - great!' - **Danny Stack**

'...this is clearly a fantastic script. The story is exceptionally interesting with a wonderful protagonist in Jillian - **Mark Rogers**

'The understanding that Mrs. Cleofas really suffered from schizophrenia and was as lonely as the girls is actually incredibly moving.' - **Bluecat script panel**

'There are some touching and affecting moments in the story – particularly during Jillian's speech at the country club..... This is a powerful ending to the film.' - **Phil Shelley – Script doctor, London**

'...the writing is poetic and the scene descriptions are rich and vivid.' – **Blacklist Panel**

'...a brilliant story and one I hope to one day see in a cinema!' - **Script vault**

I also have the following other Script in Progress:

**Last Straw – Feature – Black Comedy drama**

An illicit spam email arrives at the wrong time and pushes a man over the brink when his wife thinks he's having an affair. Unable to convince her otherwise, he inflicts a horrific death on the spammer. The story turns from a black comedy to a dark tale of murder and revenge.

**Are there Dinosaurs in Heaven? – Feature – Religious Murder drama**

A youth from a troubled family befriends a young alternative priest and starts to study theology. He meets two other troubled people in his theology class and between them they unwittingly get the priest murdered. The youth then goes on a quest to seek justice.

**Zero Tolerance – Feature – Social Rebellion thriller**

John Chasty has a personal mission to teach the youth of today respect. He uses direct and effective methods that impress Rosie. They become the new and bloody Bonny and Clyde of social etiquette until they bump up against a drug mafia.

**Epilogue:**

After 13 years of learning the trade of a script writer and the mechanics of the film industry, it is now time to step into the big league.