

Michael Montes is a Peruvian-American composer of music for films, album projects and all other media. He was born in Houston, Texas, the son of American nurse Anne Pryor and Peruvian doctor Mario Montes who came to the United States in the early fifties. The family eventually settled in idyllic Eden, NY.

He began piano studies at age seven, quit in rage and frustration with his teacher's methods, returned feverishly at age thirteen and later dropped out of medical school in order to pursue composition as his life's work.

As a child his first film music experience occurred while watching the Jules Verne classic *Mysterious Island*. Years later he discovered that Bernard Herrmann had composed the score.

Later on Pink Floyd became an influence, specifically their innovative production techniques and use of hallucinatory textures.

While studying at Bard College he joined the chamber choir that specialized in the works of Renaissance composer Josquin des Prez.

After school he steeped himself in the worlds of Brian Eno, tape loops and musique concrète while working with modern dance troupe *Floorplay*.

Moving to New York City he began an extended period of composing in every possible genre for thousands of television commercials while collecting multiple Clio and AICP awards. Several of his pieces are included in the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art.

He was brought in to work with Aimee Mann's band 'Til Tuesday as keyboardist for their studio album *Everything's Different Now* and subsequent tour.

He created the Zoar project, a series of dark atmospheric albums. The debut album *Cassandra* was released on the Philip Glass label Point Music.

He began a collaboration with noted filmmaker Bill Morrison scoring his films *Ghost Trip*, *Trinity* and *Her Violet Kiss*.

He conceived and produced cellist Erik Friedlander's breakthrough solo album *Maldoror*.

Allan Kozinn of The New York Times called his *String Quartet No. 2* "an experiment in intensity... a forceful wave of sound."

He has been the composer of choice for The TED Conference, The Nobel Prize Summit, The World Science Festival and The AICP Show. His TedTalks opening title music has enjoyed billions of views.

Subsequently he has composed scores for numerous films including Joan Stein's Oscar® nominated *One Day Crossing*, Alexander Olch's *The Windmill Movie*, Michael Tully's *Don't Leave Home* and Sophia Takal's *Always Shine*.

His latest personal albums are *Persona Ficta* and *When the World Was Now*.

He lives in New York City with his son Mario.

MICHAEL MONTES SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Her Violet Kiss - Short film Directed by Bill Morrison. A clandestine affair plays out among scenes of revelry. 2021 Telluride, MoMA, The Louvre, Clermont-Ferrand.

Scenes From an Empty Church - Directed by Onur Tükel. Starring **Kevin Corrigan, Max Casella** and **Thomas Jay Ryan**. In a locked-down NYC two priests open their church doors to those seeking salvation during the most isolating of times. Chattanooga Film Festival 2021. MPI Media Group.

The Oil War - Documentary Directed by David Schisgall. Iconoclastic historian Andrew Bacevich delivers an anti-colonial critique of US foreign policy in the Middle East informed by his long career in the Army. While other historians analyze changing presidential administrations, Bacevich sees one long Oil War. NYC DOCS 2020.

Into the Dark: New Year, New You - Directed by Sophia Takal. Starring **Suki Waterhouse, Carly Chaikin, Kirby Howell-Baptiste** and **Melissa Bergland**. A group of friends from high school reconnect for a special New Year's Eve girls night but as they begin to rehash old memories many of the gripes they've been harboring manifest in murderous ways. Hulu/Blumhouse.

Don't Leave Home - Directed by Michael Tully. Starring **Anna Margaret Hollyman, Helena Beren** and **Lalor Roddy**. An American artist's obsession with a disturbing urban legend leads her to an investigation of the story's origins at the crumbling estate of a reclusive painter in Ireland. SXSW 2018. Good Deed Entertainment.

Brigsby Bear - (Additional Music) - Directed by Dave McCary. Starring **Claire Danes, Greg Kinnear, Kyle Mooney** and **Mark Hamill**. Brigsby Bear Adventures is a children's TV show produced for an audience of one: James. When the show abruptly ends, James's life changes forever, and he sets out to finish the story himself. Sundance 2017. Sony Pictures Classics.

Always Shine - Directed by Sophia Takal. Starring **Mackenzie Davis** and **Caitlin Fitzgerald**. Best friends Anna and Beth take a weekend trip to Big Sur, hopeful to re-establish a bond broken by years of competition and jealousy. Tribeca Film Festival 2016. Oscilloscope, Sony International.

Applesauce - Directed by Onur Tükel. Starring **Trieste Kelly Dunn, Max Casella, Jennifer Prediger** and **Dylan Baker**. Two married couples become increasingly agitated with each other as they find out things about each other's past, while one of them is receiving disturbing packages from an unknown source. Tribeca Film Festival 2015. MPI Media Group.

King Georges - Directed by Erika Frankel. Documentary about Philadelphia restaurateur Georges Perrier and the closing of his iconic restaurant, Le Bec-Fin. Full Frame 2015. Sundance Selects.

Wild Canaries - Directed by Lawrence Michael Levine. A Brooklyn couple suspects foul play when their rent controlled neighbor suddenly drops dead. Starring **Jason Ritter, Alia Shawkat, Sophia Takal** and **Lawrence Levine**. SXSW 2014. Sundance Selects.

Ping Pong Summer - Directed by Michael Tully. A family vacation during the summer of 1985 changes everything for a teenage boy obsessed with ping pong. Starring **Susan Sarandon, John Hannah** and **Amy Sedaris**. Sundance 2014. Gravitas Ventures. Millennium Entertainment.

Septien - Directed by Michael Tully. Starring **Robert Longstreet, Michael Tully** and **Onur Tükel**. A reclusive sports hustler returns home to his family farm after years of absence to reunite with his two eccentric, unhinged and emotionally damaged brothers. Sundance 2011. IFC Films.

The Windmill Movie - Directed by Alexander Olch. The story of filmmaker Richard P. Rogers and his dogged attempt to document his own life. Featuring **Wallace Shawn**. Film Desk, HBO 2009.

Gold Rush - Documentary Directed by Jeffrey Friedman and Rob Epstein for The History Channel. Part of the **Emmy Award** winning documentary series *Ten Days That Unexpectedly Changed America*.

America Brown - Directed by Paul Black. Starring **Natasha Lyonne** and **Ryan Kwanten**. A Texas high school quarterback journeys to New York to confront his demons. Tribeca FF 2004. TLA Releasing.

One Day Crossing - Directed by Joan Stein. Starring **Erika Marozsán**. Budapest 1944. A young Jewish mother poses as a Christian to protect her son from the Hungarian fascists. **Academy Award® Nomination for Best Live Action Short 2001**.