

LELAND

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Composer

Benjamin Kwasi Burrell

Benjamin Kwasi Burrell is a 2024 Ivor Novello Award nominee, honoured for his outstanding original score for the Douglas Road Productions / ITV six-part drama series **THREE LITTLE BIRDS**. This series, written by Sir Lenny Henry, brings to life the experiences of Henry's mother as part of the Windrush generation arriving in Britain from Jamaica. Benjamin's score is a masterful blend of jazz, swing, reggae, Jamaican folk music, and orchestral elements, enriching the series with profound emotional and cultural resonance.

As a multi-talented composer, orchestrator, arranger, and musical director, Benjamin brings a wealth of experience from the jazz world and a distinguished theatrical background. Benjamin's musical prowess is evident in his compositions and arrangements, showcased prominently in productions such as Shelagh Delaney's **A TASTE OF HONEY** at the National Theatre in London, the acclaimed play **SMALL ISLAND**, adapted from Andrea Levy's novel, and his collaboration with director Sam Mendes for the National Theatre / Neal Street Productions play **THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE**.

Benjamin recently completed the score for the forthcoming **Lightbox (Man On Wire, Searching For Sugar Man)** feature documentary on the extraordinary life of free-climber Thomas Bubendorfer. He is currently working on the score for a forthcoming six-part BBC drama series created by the award-winning writer, Janice Okoh.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Mikes House [short film] (2021)
Directed by Jack Ryder

Saving Connor [short film] (2021)
Directed by Jack Ryder

Shortcut (2020)
Directed by Alessio Liguori

Shiney [short film] (2020)
Directed by Paul Holbrook

Inheritance [short film] (2019)
Directed by Gabriella Blumberg

Lipstick [short film] (2018)
Directed by Sydney Van Gelder

TV

Three Little Birds (2023)
Directed by Darcia Martin, Charles McDougall, Yero Timi-Biu
Douglas Road Productions / Tiger Aspect Productions / ITV

Guerilla (2017) [additional music]
Directed by John Ridley
ABC Signature / Fifty Fathoms Productions

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THEATRE

The Motive & The Cue (2023) [Composer]
Directed by Sam Mendes
National Theatre / Neal Street Productions

Small Island (2019- 2022) [Composer / Musical Director]
Directed by Rufus Norris
National Theatre

Get Up, Stand Up (2021) [Co-Musical Director]
The Lyric Theatre

Coventry Moves (2021) [Composer / Musical Director]
Coventry City of Culture

Dick Whittington (2020) [Musical Director / Arranger / Additional Composer]
Directed by Ned Bennett
National Theatre

A Taste Of Honey (2019) [Composer / Musical Director]
Directed by Bijan Sheibani
The Lowry

Lady Day (2017) [Assistant Music Director]
Directed by Lonny Price
Wyndham's Theatre

One Love (2017) [Assistant Musical Director]
Directed by Kwame Kwei-Armah
Birmingham Rep

Memphis The Musical (2015) [assistant musical director]
Shaftesbury Theatre

A Clockwork Orange (2011) [assistant musical director]
Directed by Dawn Reid
Theatre Royal Stratford East

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Musical Director Recognition Award @ Black British Theatre Awards (2019)