

SYDNEY'S LARGEST CIRCULATING MUSIC PUBLICATIONS

On the Street

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BACKSTAGE NEWS

with Simon Wooldridge

THE MYSTERIOUS ART OF COMPOSITION REVEALED!

COMPOSITION is a bugbear for many musicians, seen by many as something as innate as style or feel, it's often ignored in music education. While many schools will spend many hours helping you work up chops, technique and theory, many slacken off when it comes time to learn about the last part of the equation - placement of these various skills in that viable and attractive package we call a song. Art Phillips of Art Phillips Music & Productions is running a music composition seminar workshop to rectify this problem. Phillips maintains that composition is one of the most rewarding aspects of the industry, the perfect combination of technical skill and creative release.

Phillips is eminently qualified to construct such a course: a composer in the most literal sense of the word, he's worked on scores for a myriad of television and film projects. Credits include writing for US soap spectacular *Santa Barbara* - imagine having to time your work around all those meaningful looks (he was actually awarded Emmy's for *Best Original Music Score In A Drama Series* in '87 and '88 - fans will know this was the show's heyday). Since arriving in Australia he's worked on Australian series *Neighbours* and *Paradise Beach*. Film credits include the music score to *Signal One*, *Fatal Bond*, and *Sher Mountain Mystery* (an AFI nomination in 1990). Phillips has also worked as a musical director, guitarist and producer for **Demis Roussos**, **Barry Manilow**, **Ricky May** and **Minnie Riperton** among others. Before moving into composition he worked as an LA-based session guitarist and arranger on television soundtracks such as *Lavern & Shirley*, *Family Ties*, *Happy Days*, *The Midnight Special*, *Solid Gold* and *The Tonight Show*. All this plus work on albums by the likes of **Smokey Robinson**, **Teena Marie**, the **Carpenters** and **Bill Cosby**. Obviously he's been involved with some true greats.

In a single six hour workshop, Phillips will take students through various stages of composition, all the problems that a composer will come across while working in the various areas of this creative form. Songwriting, music to film, television, corporate or industrial films, advertising campaigns or soundtracks to video games are all explored through the course of the workshop, with examples of music in all these mediums giving students the opportunity to experience hands-on songwriting, scoring to image for film and television, and writing music to a storyboard brief.

Phillips is also planning further workshops in a wide range of subjects - a rhythm section workshop, guitar workshop and clinic, and workshops entitled *Music As A Career Choice*, *Music For The Screen (Film & Television Scoring)*, *MIDI Recording Techniques*, *Music Production & Arrangers Workshop*, *Creative Improvisation Workshop*.

The seminar workshop will be held at the Sutherland Entertainment Centre Saturday April 30 between 10am and 4pm. The cost of the seminar is \$125 or \$95 for those with a student concession. For further information on this or other workshops contact Art Phillips Music & Productions on 540 1238, or fax on 540 4954.