

SAM NEILL BIOGRAPHY



Fill in the gaps with the words given

attended between career famous kind made picked stage success thereafter

One of the most _____ film personalities to hail from the South Pacific, New Zealand-bred actor Sam Neill possesses the _____ of reassuring handsomeness and soft-spoken strength that have _____ him an ideal leading man. Born Nigel Neill to a military family in Omagh, Northern Ireland, Neill relocated to New Zealand in 1953 at the age of six. There he _____ up the nickname that would become his _____ name, and _____ both the University of Canterbury and the University of Victoria before beginning his acting _____. Neill labored as a director/editor/screenwriter for the New Zealand National Film Unit for several years; he made his first movie in 1975 and scored his first significant film _____ four years later as the romantic lead opposite Judy Davis in director Gillian Armstrong's *My Brilliant Career*. Shortly _____, Neill was brought to England under the sponsorship of star James Mason (who undoubtedly recognized the marked similarity _____ his acting style and Neill's).

included including kept starred were won

The actor's subsequent movie work _____ two memorable collaborations with actress Meryl Streep and director Fred Schepisi: *Plenty* (1985) and *A Cry in the Dark* (1988). Neill's British TV credits _____ highlighted by his starring role in the unorthodox espionage drama *Reilly: Ace of Spies* (1983), for which he _____ the British television BAFTA Best Actor award. He also began working on American films during the '80s, _____ the 1981 *Omen* sequel *The Final Conflict* (in which he demonstrated a considerable breadth of range as Satan's son Damien) and the 1987 TV miniseries *Amerika*. Neill also _____ busy with projects down under, with perhaps his most memorable film being *Dead Calm* (1989), a masterfully crafted thriller that _____ the actor as Nicole Kidman's husband.



blockbuster by cast honored international played throughout

Neill truly came to _____ prominence during the '90s (as evidenced by his guest spot as a cat burglar on an episode of *The Simpsons*). He experienced a bumper-crop year in 1993, portraying the raptor-fearing Dr. Alan Grant in Steven Spielberg's _____ *Jurassic Park*, before returning to New Zealand to portray Holly Hunter's taciturn, unexpectedly violent husband in *The Piano* (1993). He was also _____ with the *Order of the British Empire* that same year. Neill continued to work on a wealth of diverse international projects _____ the rest of the decade, notably John Duigan's *Sirens* (1994), which cast him as a '30s bohemian artist; the Australian satire *Children of the Revolution* (1996), reuniting him with Judy Davis; *Revengers' Comedies* (1997), which _____ him as a suicidal businessman; the acclaimed miniseries *Merlin* (1998), in which he _____ the titular wizard; Robert Redford's *The Horse Whisperer* (1998), as the husband of Kristin Scott Thomas (the two had previously co-starred in *Revengers' Comedies*); and *Bicentennial Man* (1999), which featured the actor as the head of a family who purchases an uncannily human robot played _____ Robin Williams.

alternate convicts course fleeing projects sequel while

Though Neill was notably absent from the 1997 _____ *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, the second sequel in the series, 2001's *Jurassic Park III*, found the stalwart actor once again _____ ornery dinosaurs on a tropical island and living to tell the tale. A turn as Victor Komarovsky in the made-for-TV remake of *Doctor Zhivago* quickly followed, and over the _____ of the next decade Neill would _____ frequently between television (*Triangle*, *Merlin's Apprentice*) and film (*Wimbledon*, *Daybreakers*), _____ still managing to land the occasional meaty role in _____ like *The Tudors* (2007) and *Dean Spanley* (2008). In 2011, Neill brought an impressive air of menace to the ecological thriller *The Hunter* with his turn as an outwardly benevolent Aussie with a dark secret, and the following year he returned to television as a federal agent on the trail of _____ who mysteriously vanished without a trace in *Alcatraz*.

In addition to acting and managing a New Zealand winery, Neill directed an acclaimed 1995 documentary about the New Zealand film industry, *Cinema of Unease: A Personal Journey by Sam Neill*. ~ [Hal Erickson](#), [Rovi](#).

Mark these sentences as T (True) or F (False).

- ☐ 1. Sam Neil was born in Auckland.
- ☐ 2. He got his nickname while living in Northern Ireland
- ☐ 3. He started acting while still at university.
- ☐ 4. He worked as a director, editor and screenwriter in New Zealand.
- ☐ 5. He had his first success in 1979.
- ☐ 6. He co-starred with Meryl Streep.
- ☐ 7. He worked in British films and on American television.
- ☐ 8. He was directed by Steven Spielberg.
- ☐ 9. He was granted two awards.
- ☐ 10. He worked with Kristin Scott Thomas three times.
- ☐ 11. *Bicentennial Man* is about a robot.
- ☐ 12. He was in the whole *Jurassic Park* saga.
- ☐ 13. In *The Hunter*, he plays the role of an Australian.
- ☐ 14. In 2012 he acted in a film set in Alcatraz.

