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

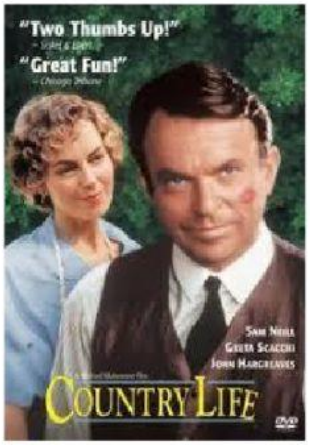
Though Neill was notably absent from the 1997 _____ *The Lost World: Jurassic Park*, the second sequel in the series, 2001's *Jurassic Park III*, found the stalwart actor once again _____ ornery dinosaurs on a tropical island and living to tell the tale. A turn as Victor Komarovsky in the made-for-TV 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*.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.



LIVEWORKSHEETS