



Neil Argo (*Wild America*, *Skeleton Coast Safari*, episodes of *Melrose Place*, *Burke's Law*, *Macgyver*, etc.) has scored a new theatrical release called *P.J.* Based on a 1984 play by Mark McQuown, the film stars John Heard, Vincent Pastore, Robert Piccardo, and Hallie Kate Eisenberg, and is about a man named P.J. who witnesses a horrific accident and subsequently retreats into himself. He is brought to a hospital where the resident psychiatrist (Heard) tried to get through to him with the help of P.J.'s bitter girlfriend; meanwhile the doctor is facing his own inner demons. The film embraces Argo's reflective and thoughtful score, which won a Bronze medal for "Best Impact of Music in a Feature Film" at this year's Park City Film Music Festival. A soundtrack release should be hopefully forthcoming; in the meantime samples of this and other scores are available on the composer's web site and are well worth having a listen to. Argo's music is quietly intimate, emphasizing acoustic guitar which is often heard solo in the body of the film. His main theme is introduced in the Main Title, a compelling and uplifting melody for strings over piano, which is developed out more fully in the nearly 5-minute End Title suite, which progresses into a warm and quite lovely piano and saxophone piece, very nicely textured and arranged. It's a very pretty melody, nicely carried along and gives the film a full sense of emotive poignancy. The motif is fragmented and recurs amidst the body of the film, as in the thoughtful "How Did He Know?" There are also a variety of solo acoustic guitar pieces and several short jazzy "hip" string bass motifs laced throughout the score to enhance brief moments of P.J.'s recovery. A melancholy motif associated with the New York skyline, which has meaning for P.J., is provided through tender winds and strings; the character of Claire also has her own very despondent theme for layered strings with a hint of woodwinds. "Save Me," in particular, provides a fervent musical cry for help in its pleasing high strings. But gradually the score's fragments come together and the cues take on a more confident melodic progression, culminating in the very pleasing "Montage Wrap" and "Conclusion," which resolves the story, and the score, and the fairly downhearted mood of both, into and light and airy musical denouement of recovery and reassurance.

www.neilargo.com

www.pjthemovie.com