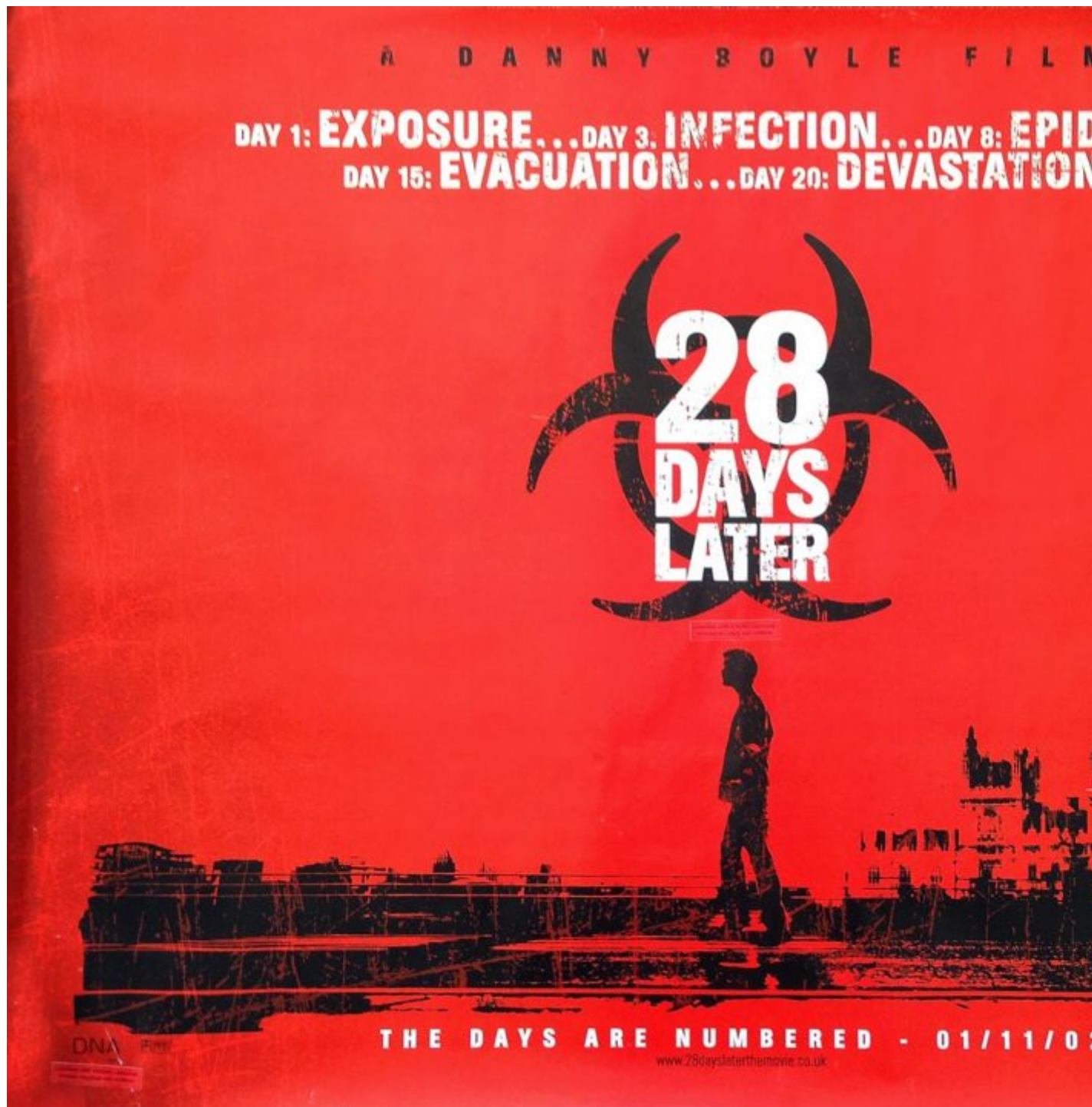




Top Scores #11 â?? John Murphy & 28 Days Later (2002)

Description



This month's Top Score comes courtesy of **Danny Boyle's** post-apocalyptic horror ***28 Days Later***.

Starring then relative unknowns **Cillian Murphy** and **Naomie Harris** as survivors Jim and Selena, the movie follows their desperate attempt to escape the Rage virus epidemic that has transformed the UK population into bloodthirsty zombie-like beings. Marking the first collaboration between Boyle and composer **John Murphy**, the score for *28 Days Later* veers between the haunting and complete edge of your seat listening.

Murphy's prior soundtrack work including Guy Ritchie's **Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels** had featured a lot of existing music. However, for *28 Days* the composer chose to spread his wings and contribute more bespoke pieces, an approach that ultimately paid off. Drawing influences from **Brian Eno** and Canadian experimentalists **Godspeed You! Black Emperor**, both of whom also appear on the soundtrack, the score mixes the ethereal with the immediate in a way that still feels contemporary over 15 years later.

The soundtrack highlight comes at the film's blistering climax in the form of **“In The House In A Heartbeat”**, an unstoppable storm of atmospheric indie rock that elevates the darkness of an already bloody montage before switching to a moment of tenderness between the protagonists. The scene goes from an eye gouging to a romantic kiss in the space of around 30 seconds and the score is able to shift in a way that feels completely congruous, diving down from roaring guitar to gentle keyboard in a heartbeat.

Despite being written for a scene involving rather a lot of bludgeoning, the track has been a popular choice in television and advertising and has been synced in campaigns for **Louis Vuitton** and **Strongbow**, as well as popping up in shows like *Top Gear* and *The Apprentice*.

Born in Liverpool, Murphy got his first major break in 1992 collaborating with **David Hughes** on the soundtrack for **Leon The Pig Farmer**. Later in his career he provided scores for the likes of **Kickass** and **Miami Vice**, before releasing **Anonymous Rejected Filmscore** in 2014 – a canned score from an unnamed film created several years previously that had never made it into the final cut.

Listen to “In The House In A Heartbeat” from 28 Days Later by John Murphy below:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_UFqw3vm0s