

**Bill Smith**  
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Publisher, Producer, Musician, Writer, with experience in radio, tv and writing screenplays

Founder, **Managing Director** and Managing Editor of Brighton's main weekly magazine, **Latest7/Latest Homes** and online: [thelatest.co.uk](http://thelatest.co.uk) and [latesthomes.co.uk](http://latesthomes.co.uk).

Established one of the UK's fastest growing publishing companies, Latest Homes Ltd, publishers of property, lifestyle and listings magazines including Brighton's weekly city magazine, which averages 200 pages every week making it one of Europe's most successful weekly magazines. Read in print by over 100,000 people every week and many more online. It features week on week the best writers in Brighton. Regular columnists have included Julie Burchill and Norman Cook. However when I set it up I wrote a lot of it every week! I still write frequently for the magazine.

Our company also owns **Latest Musicbar** in Brighton previously The Joobleberry Playhouse, one of Brighton's main venues – [thelatest.co.uk/musicbar](http://thelatest.co.uk/musicbar). Amongst the artists who have performed here are The Kooks, Turin Brakes, Liane Carroll, Chris Difford from Squeeze and Amy Winehouse. I programmed most of the gigs when we first acquired it two years ago using my music industry contacts.

We also have a small record company, **Latest Records**: [www.latestrecords.co.uk](http://www.latestrecords.co.uk), and have produced a dozen albums with some success. Eminemmylou has had over 2 million hits on my space mainly in USA and Magdalena Reising has recently headlined at Ronnie Scott's and is well on the way to be one of the UK's leading jazz singers.

My own album about the holocaust and genocide, **Songs For The Betrayed World** has sold thousands of copies and been listened to online by many thousands more and has been extensively used by schools and universities in holocaust research. See [lifeanddeath.org](http://lifeanddeath.org) On this work, I worked with some of the country's leading musicians, such as Herbie Flowers in The Life & Death Orchestra. I composed almost all the tracks and wrote the words for many of the songs. The other writers on the album include Nobel literature prize winner, Elie Wiesel, Yehuda Amichai, the leading Israeli poet of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, leading Polish writers including Tadeusz Borowski and Tadeusz Rozewicz, and some of the greatest UK poets, like Adrian Mitchell and Kevin Carey. I obtained

permissions from all the writers or their families. The work has been performed as a concert and musical at Edinburgh Festival, Brighton Festival, Manchester Town Hall, and at the Fairfield Halls presented by Tony Benn, and has been very well received by audiences as well as critically acclaimed.

Before setting up the latest magazine I set up with others Brighton's independent radio station **Surf 107 now called Juice 107.2FM** which gave a huge boost to Brighton's music scene and also provided quality arts coverage in a way Brighton had never had before. I have also sponsored local community radio station **Radio Reverb**.

Before setting up my publishing company I worked in **television**, working for amongst others, **TVS in Southampton**; for Clark Productions, an independent production company based in London, and for Pavilion Films, based in Brighton. At TVS I wrote scripts for a variety of programmers and for a variety of presenters such as Paul Ross and Fern Britten. At Clarks, who made arts programmers, I was responsible for many of the ideas for programmes and for many of the scripts on all types of arts and popular culture, from Mahler to Morrissey.

In the eighties and nineties I was one of Brighton's leading music and **theatre promoters**, promoting events at all the city's main venues from the 5000 seater Brighton Centre to 2000 seater Dome down to the 200 capacity Richmond. I also produced theatre seasons with SE Arts support at The Pavilion Theatre and some of these shows we also toured across the UK and to Edinburgh including a star-studded world premiere of Patrick Hamilton's *The West Pier* adapted by Alan Prior of Z Cars.

As a **music promoter**, I promoted tours for the cream of British and International acts such as Beats International – featuring Normal Cook, aka Fatboy Slim. In the late eighties 1987 – 1990 I became interested in African music firstly putting on shows by great African musicians like Hugh Masekela . Through contacts I went out to Africa and started working with bands there and bringing them to the UK. One band I managed was The Real Sounds Of Africa who became very successful here headlining gigs at The Festival Hall, Glastonbury, Glasgow's Kelvin Hall and at festivals all over Europe. This led to making an album with Norman Cook for which we got a gold disc and a South Bank special on the band with Melvyn Bragg. I was then asked by Assembly boss, William Burdett-Coutts to tour another African band, Amampondo, and went on to work with Thomas Brooman from Womad amongst others. I promoted concerts for many of the decade's leading artists including Tina

Turner, Eurythmics, Aswad, and The Blues Brothers amongst many others.

I have **consistently written songs** over the years – with and without collaborators - and I receive royalties from PRS for my work which is being performed by more artists every year.

In the seventies I worked as a musician playing in showbands or in cabaret bands mainly as a guitarist / vocalist.

Before then I went to **Oxford University** where I got an **honours degree** in Politics, Philosophy and Economics and before that I went to Taunton School where I got 4 A levels and 7 O levels.

I have always been a **key figure in the cultural life of Brighton**. I started the town's listings magazine, The Punter, in 1984 (the equivalent of The List in Glasgow and Edinburgh), which later developed into a magazine for the region, known as The Latest, and now Latest Homes / Latest 7. I have always **championed new local talent** – promoting the careers of artists who later found national acclaim such as Pete McCarthy, Stomp, The Levellers and Simon Fanshawe.

As a **screenplay writer**, I have written a screenplay based on the life of **Robert Burns** which has received much favourable attention from film producers, directors and Scottish Screen. My father, James Corrance Smith from Glasgow, was a keen Burnsian, always speaking at Burns' Suppers. I inherited this interest in Burns, and have always wanted to make the definitive Burns film.

Despite this long list of names and roles in my life, I am a very modest man, forever championing others work, and bringing artists, musicians and writers together. I would very much like support of what I am trying to achieve with the **screenplay on Tadeusz Borowski, "The Life & Death Orchestra presents...This Way For The Gas, Ladies & Gentlemen"** which is a development of the writing and music I have presented in the last 10 years.