

A black and white, close-up portrait of Richard Wagner. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. His hair is dark and slightly wavy, and he has a full, dark beard and mustache. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows on the right side of his face.

Wagner In Venice

A Film by
Daniel Graham

Director's Statement

WAGNER IN VENICE will excavate the mind of the most controversial, and perhaps most brilliant, composer of all time to conjecture how a fictional, unfinished work Wagner wrote in his final days could have changed our perception of the man and his work and of the very nature of art.

Using biographical writings as a point of departure, *Wagner in Venice* is a freely interpreted account of Wagner's last five months in Venice that uses imagination to glimpse into the unknown.

Drawing upon Wagner's life and work as inspiration, *Wagner in Venice* will be a loving homage to the composer, created and executed in the manner of the Master's own music drama. A cosmic love story restrained by some very Earthbound problems, *Wagner in Venice* will nonetheless be a fantastical celebration of Richard Wagner's music which will feature prominently throughout - all set against the eternal Gothic splendor that is Venice.

Ultimately, the goal of *Wagner in Venice* is to introduce his music to a new audience as well as deepen the appreciation of it by existing fans of Wagner. The movie's music score, possibly modernist and electronic in style, will co-exist with Wagner's actual music, such as *Tristan und Isolde* and *The Ring Cycle*, so as to illuminate the eternal qualities of Richard Wagner, both classical and contemporary in nature.

