



Adapted from Thomas Mann's 1912 novella, *Death in Venice* was Benjamin Britten's last opera, the composer insisting on its completion while delaying badly needed heart surgery. The starkly simple narrative of a famous but failing novelist travelling to Venice to seek inspiration only to find unhealthy infatuation and deadly cholera, is given a chamber-like precision and clarity through Britten's score, becoming a haunting drama filled with musical symbols, disquieting mystery and richly evocative atmospheres of Venice and its strange characters. Willy Decker's Teatro Real production was described as 'one of his most brilliant stage works... a remarkable technical feat.' (bachtrack.com)

**BENJAMIN BRITTEN**  
(1913–1976)

# DEATH IN VENICE

Opera in two acts (1973)

Libretto by Myfanwy Piper (1911–1997)

Based on *Der Tod in Venedig* by Thomas Mann (1875–1955)

|   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Gustav von Aschenbach                   | John Daszak           |
| Traveller / Elderly Fop / Old Gondolier | Leigh Melrose         |
| Hotel Manager / Hotel Barber            | Tomasz Borczyk        |
| Leader of the Players                   | Anthony Roth Costanzo |
| Voice of Dionysus                       | Duncan Rock           |
| Tadzio                                  |                       |
| Voice of Apollo                         |                       |
| English Clerk / Venice Guide            |                       |

Teatro Real Chorus and Orchestra Chorus Master Andrés Máspero  
Conductor Alejo Pérez

Stage Director Willy Decker  
Set Designer Wolfgang Gussmann  
Costume Designers Wolfgang Gussmann and Susana Mendoza  
Lighting Designer Hans Toelstede  
Dramaturge Klaus Bertisch  
Choreographer Athol Farmer  
Film Director François Roussillon

Filmed on 17 and 19 December 2014 at the Teatro Real, Madrid, Spain

A co-production by the Teatro Real and François Roussillon et Associés with the participation of France Télévisions and NHK with the support of the Centre national du cinéma et de l'image animée.

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Total playing time: 152 minutes · NTSC 16:9 · Dolby ac3 2.0 and DTS 5.0 · Region: 0 (Worldwide) · DVD 9  
Language: English · Subtitles: English, French, German, Japanese, Korean

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