



DANTE

INFERNO TO PARADISE



PBS
International

4x54' or 2x120'

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CONTACT

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10 Guest Street
Boston, MA 02135 USA
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DANTE Inferno to Paradise – an unprecedented two-part, four-hour film from acclaimed documentary filmmaker Ric Burns – explores the life, work and legacy of the great 14th century Florentine poet Dante Alighieri, and the incomparable masterpiece he left behind, The Divine Comedy – a stunning poetic account of a life-changing journey through the three realms of the afterlife, Hell, Purgatory and Paradise.

“Dante knew he was writing something very different and very special,” Oxford scholar Elena Lombardi declares in the film. *“The Divine Comedy is one of these books that are made every once in a while in human history.”*

Conceived and co-written by distinguished Italian scholar, Riccardo Bruscaagli, with Ric Burns, the film presents a gripping odyssey into Dante Alighieri’s turbulent life, the faction-torn times he lived in, and the astonishing 14,233-line poem he left behind. Filmed across six years in Italy, England and the United States, DANTE juxtaposes haunting live cinematography from across northern Italy; a dazzling archive of paintings, drawings, manuscripts, and frescos filmed on location; and riveting interviews with a distinguished cohort of scholars, writers, poets, politicians, clergymen, and historians. Woven throughout are dramatic re-enactments filmed for the production in locations across Italy – from Florence to Carrara and Ravenna and beyond – bringing to life scenes from Dante’s life and from The Divine Comedy and the Vita Nova, the masterwork of Dante’s early career – featuring Dante himself, his life-long muse, Beatrice, and a cavalcade of gripping figures whom Dante encounters during his journey through the three realms of the afterlife. The hypnotically beautiful and often deeply moving soundtrack for the film was composed by Burns’ long-time collaborator and veteran Grammy, Emmy, Peabody, and Oscar award-winning film composer, Brian Keane.

WSJ

“A Divine PBS Documentary.”

HUMANITIES
THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

“In the same way that Dante laid bare his technique next to his creations in La Vita Nuova, [Dante: Inferno to Paradise] invites viewers into appreciating the transformative craft of the documentary.”

CREDITS

Production Companies: Steeplechase Films & Dante Productions
Director: Ric Burns
Writer: Riccardo Bruscaagli and Ric Burns
Producers: Leigh Howell and Bonnie Lafave
Executive Producer: Jane Morrow
Senior Creative Consultant: Christine Herring