



# DANTE

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## INFERNO TO PARADISE



**PBS**  
International

4x54' or 2x120'

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### CONTACT

PBS International  
10 Guest Street  
Boston, MA 02135 USA  
pbsinternational.org

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 Bruscagli, 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.

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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

**Directors:** Ric Burns

**Writer:** Riccardo Bruscagli and Ric Burns

**Producers:** Leigh Howell and Bonnie Lafave

**Executive Producer:** Jane Morrow