

# Not a critics review

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## The Wagner Files – director Ralf Pleger

🕒 August 25, 2013 📁 Film

The Wagner Files – director Ralf Pleger – Film Production Gebrueder Beetz:

A movie which at first glance appears to be a documentary but is actually a unique interpretation of what a film can be – a multi-platform theme, incorporating a time-line which gives it its factual nature; experts in the field providing their take which gives it the credentials it needs to stand as a piece worth referring to and a narrative theatrical style story, involving an exaggerated nature and a romantic tone required to understand the theme of this movie which is about the composer Richard Wagner and the love of his life Cosima. The movie allows us to travel into a different time, but not get lost in a factual recount of a man's life like so many documentaries do, since it does not depict an era but rather a mood, using modern-day props and not that of the actual 19th century era. The scenes are not built around the architecture of the time, nor is the story re-told with the appropriate historical backdrop, as it uses 1950's telephones and modern day theatrical stages for example, to re-create the story. It allows us to watch without having to be forced to listen to a 'factual' truth, as its fictional interpretation of the reality of the situation allows for a clearer story, with an entertaining aspect all making it that much more easier to ingest. As the content in this composers life seems harmless enough on the surface, we have to accept that this great musician was not a man of great moral authority and had views on Jews which seem to make the 20th century anti-semitic movement appear as a pre-cursor to this. A man who obviously lived out his emotion through his musical scores and who had a relationship which is what rendered him iconic before he even died, is not a man we should admire, but rather a life to study and analyze. How do you love the music of such a great composer when the personal views are not in accordance with what is right? Why did a man who travelled so much and had many hardships not feel sympathetic to those less fortunate? Who fed this horrific side of his? Was it a general sentiment at the time? As views are often formed by our environment, we must wonder, was this man kept enclosed and held back by the great love of his life, preventing him from seeing the truth of the society he lived in? So much still needs to be understood, as it was obvious that though he was great at composing a mood he lacked a maturity that would allow him to judge in a respectable and lawful manner.

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