



THE WAGNER FILES

A film by Ralf Pleger for the Wagner anniversary 2013



Starring Samuel Finzi and Pegah Ferydoni
Documentary (90/52 min.), Graphic Novel & App

In Coproduction with SWR & ARTE
Funded by Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg, MDM & MEDIA

"Absolutely worth to watch!" HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT

"A unique interpretation of what a film can be." NOT A CRITICS REVIEW

"Powerful scenes that combine Wagner's crescendos with epic camerawork." DOX MAGAZINE

"The Wagner Files" is an innovative and dynamic fusion of music documentary, fictional film and animated cartoon. It critically introduces the life and musical creativity of one of the most famous - and arguably most controversial - German composers in a way that has never been done before.

High quality, thought-provoking fictional scenes trace the complex and scandalous relationship between Richard Wagner (Samuel Finzi) and his second wife Cosima (Pegah Ferydoni). The scenes are shot in a modern setting, orchestrated with, and impassioned by, Wagner's music, referring to classical Hollywood melodramas as direct successors of Wagner's "Gesamtkunstwerk".

Each chapter of the documentary is inspired by modern crime drama series. The story lines are examined in a modern investigation room where interviews with world renowned Wagner experts are conducted, including Simone Young (conductor and music director of the Hamburg State Opera), Philippe Jordan (conductor and music director of the Paris Opera), Katharina Wagner (great-grandchild of

Richard Wagner and director of the Bayreuth Festival) and Laurence Dreyfus (Professor of music at Magdalen College, Oxford).

Marking the anniversary of Wagner's 200th birthday in 2013, the film explores the visionary opus and arguable spirit of Richard Wagner, rediscovering the composer anew for a wide and varied audience.

In addition to the film, the Wagner story is a cross media event told through different media: The "Wagner-App" for smartphones and tablet computer will provide additional material such as animations, mini-games, extracts of the film, texts and music which are integrated into the storyline to offer an immersive and sophisticated user-experience. Furthermore, the Kneesebeck Publishing House will release the graphic novel of Richard Wagner in time for Wagner's anniversary in May 2013.