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Author(s)	Douglas Edwards
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Death in Venice

(Thomas Mann, Nobel Prize-1929)

11:00 a.m. Free

20a

Italy. 1971. Color. Panavision. 130 minutes.

Producer/Director: Luchino Visconti

Screenwriters: Luchino Visconti, Nicola Basalucco

Cinematographer: Pasquale de Santis

Editor: Ruggero Mastroiani

Music: Gustav Mahler

Principal cast: Dirk Bogarde, Silvana Mangano, Bjorn Andresen, Masha Predit, Romolo Valli, Mark Burns

Production company and source: Warner Bros. Pictures, 4000 Warner Blvd., Burbank, CA 91522

● Luchino Visconti's adaptation of the classic Thomas Mann novella was a tremendous personal triumph, and the culmination of a life-long ambition for the director. As yet one of the few recognizable masterpieces of the 1970s, the film features two unforgettable performances: Dirk Bogarde as the tortured Von Aschenbach; and Venice itself in all its splendor and corruption. Bogarde's Von Aschenbach is almost the exact creature of Mann's original—the artist, who has spent his entire life in a rigorous, exacting, vainly intellectual quest for the essence of beauty, only to find it casually, carelessly residing in the face and form of the young boy, Tadzio, who becomes his obsession. Visconti's Venice, dank and spoiled behind its elegant facades, becomes the baroque stage for Von Aschenbach's final encounter with himself, and functions as the symbol of his realization that the seeds of corruption and ugliness lie within all beauty. —*Douglas W. Edwards*

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