

ITALIAN DREAM

Graham Pitt commented

A minor documentary masterpiece with excellent photography, exquisitely framed compositions, particularly the opening night sequence, beautifully contrasting the light shimmering in the waters and the shadows of the surrounding buildings. All adeptly synchronised to the narrative, which is well delivered, and supported by an excellent choice of music befitting the finale, and likewise the background chants in the Cathedral. My only comment is it seemed a minute or two too long in and flipping between day/night once too often. But this can hardly be a criticism, since the duration is determined by that of Dickens' words, which give the whole piece its foundation.

Lee Prescott commented:

Having judged this before, a reappraisal: Now, a really superior production excellent audience appeal for all audiences. Informative and also entertaining. Overall a very good production. Very pleasing to the eyes. Fits Dickens words well. It reflects much thought. First class cinemaphotography, especially the night scenes. Editing is superior also. Very well assembled with just the right pace, continuity and scenes duration. The sound levels, balance very good. Clear well paced narration. Selected music fits perfectly. Many "breathtaking" shots, especially of the painted pictured ceilings etc. Titles very good too.

Pip Critten commented:

Clearly a great deal of planning had gone into this film which had high production values.

To gather all the shots needed to match the spoken work must have taken a great deal of work and research.

It was well edited, matching visuals to the spoken word with great skill. Just cataloguing all the shots would have been a mammoth task in itself.

I wonder if the original prose, which was expertly narrated with great clarity, could have been edited down to make the film a couple of minutes shorter. I'm sure Charles wouldn't have minded! This is because as good as the shots were, it started to be a little repetitious.

I have seen and judged this film before and was just as impressed the second time around.