

# Death in the Seine

( aka: "Dood in de Seine", "Les Morts de la Seine" )

UK : 1989 : dir. Peter Greenaway :

: 44 min

prod: : scr: Peter Greenaway : dir.ph.:

*Denis Verkroese; Lars Crama; Niels Crama; Michel VanDeBerg* .....

Michelle Guerts; Roos Peters; Arie Van Vliet; Hans Verbrugge

| Ref: | Pages | Sources | Stills | Words | Ω | 8 | ∞ | M | ♀ | Copy on VHS | Last Viewed |
|------|-------|---------|--------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|-------------|
| 5978 | 1.5   | 1       | 2      | 418   | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | No          | Unseen      |



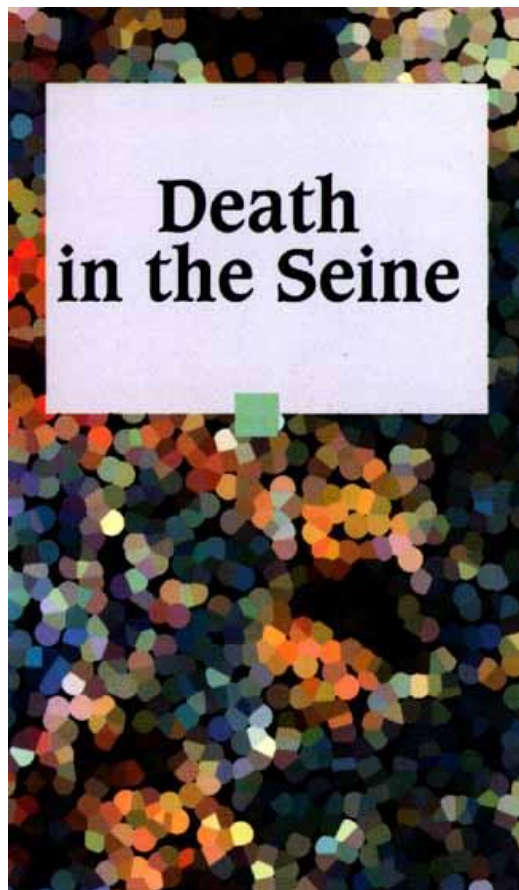
*Greenaway's fascinations with nudity, the grotesque, and enlightenment science have made him a darling of the arthouse film circuit, and his films are very demanding of their audience.* Source: Movieboys website

CVMC video retail/rental website review:

"From director Peter Greenaway comes this documentary focusing on the notes of two morticians who examined over 300 corpses pulled out of the Seine river during a six year period. Six children between the ages of seven and sixteen are amongst the bodies ruminated over. Much more interesting than it sounds.

Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; frequent nudity  
Categories: Boy Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Documentary, Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Special Interests  
Most of the film is in Black & White."

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]



Source: CVMC website

No further information currently available. Not a documentary then, so much as a historical reconstruction in Greenaway's trademark structuralist style. But the subject matter – corpses dredged from the Thames and the Seine were an invaluable source for anatomists, whose dissections were carried out in public – is intrinsically fascinating, and Greenaway's work, if often self-indulgent, is never pedestrian. He has not as yet made any film with a boy in a major role, but they're often amply visible on the sidelines, as in **"THE COOK, THE THIEF, HIS WIFE AND HER LOVER"**, **"PROSPERO'S BOOKS"** and **"THE BABY OF MACON"**. Here too apparently, though it's a macabre way to enjoy the sight of a pretty boy naked. The Movieboys website ages the corpses as follows ~ Denis Verkroese 15, Lars Crama 13, Niels Crama 16 and Michel Van de Berg 7. Perhaps some of the cadavers were of the female sort, but we are not vouchsafed that information.

See subject index under [DEATH / DYING CHILDREN](#), [DIRECTORS](#), [HISTORY](#) and **SHORT FILMS**.