

Leoncavallo: Pagliacci

author: Thomson Smillie

2026-06

Synopsis

author	Thomson Smillie
readBy	David Timson
inLanguage	english

Pagliacci may be the most completely compelling short opera in the repertory and owes much of its impact to a brilliant story based, it is said, on true life and told through the device of a play-within-a-play. The action is set in Calabria in the deep south of Italy where the jealousies and illicit passions of a troupe of strolling actors precisely intersect with the play they are performing - to both touching and tragic effect. Leoncavallo was his own librettist, and his literary skills, allied to great melodic creativity, guarantee that in its two short acts *Pagliacci* - "Clowns" - delivers an overwhelming emotional experience.

Reader's comments

comment 1:

â€"â€" ()