

## Britannicus

*Timberlake Wertenbaker*  
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**Timberlake Wertenbaker : Britannicus** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Britannicus:

Impetuous Nero has lost all restraint:bored with being loved, he wants to be feared.Agrippina, widow of Emperor Claudius, has paved the way for her son Nero to succeed to the throne ahead of his step-brother Britannicus. But as his

taste for power grows, Nero begins to slip from his mother's control. Britannicus's life is threatened and Rome moves ever closer to the edge. Jean Racine's classic play *Britannicus* is a chilling study of the emergence of a monster. Timberlake Wertenbaker's translation premiered at Wilton's Music Hall, London, in October 2011.

About the Author Timberlake Wertenbaker's plays include *New Anatomies* (ICA, London, 1982), *Abel's Sister* (Royal Court Theatre Upstairs, 1984), *The Grace of Mary Traverse* (Royal Court), which won the Plays and Players Most Promising Playwright Award in 1985, *Our Country's Good* (Royal Court and Broadway), winner of the Laurence Olivier Play of the Year Award in 1988 and the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best New Foreign Play in 1991, *The Love of the Nightingale* (RSC's Other Place), which won the 1989 Eileen Anderson Central TV Drama Award, *Three Birds Alighting on a Field* (Royal Court), which won the Susan Smith Blackburn Award, Writers' Guild Award and London Critics' Circle Award in 1992, *The Break of Day* (Out of Joint production, Royal Court and tour, 1995), *After Darwin* (Hampstead Theatre, 1998), *The Ash Girl* (Birmingham Rep, 2000), *Credible Witness* (Royal Court, 2001), *Galileo's Daughter* (Theatre Royal, Bath, 2004), *Arden City* (NT Connections, 2008) and *The Line* (Arcola Theatre, 2009). She has written the screenplay of *The Children*, based on the novel by Edith Wharton, and a BBC2 film entitled *Do Not Disturb*. Translations and adaptations include Marivaux's *La Dispute*, Jean Anouilh's *Leocadia*, Maurice Maeterlinck's *Pelleas and Melisande* for BBC Radio, Ariane Mnouchkine's *Mephisto*, adapted for the RSC in 1986, Sophocles's *The Theban Plays* (RSC, 1991), Euripides' *Hecuba* (ACT, San Francisco, 1995; BBC Radio 3, 2001) and *Hippolytus* (Riverside Studios, 2009), Eduardo de Filippo's *Filumena* (Peter Hall Company at the Piccadilly Theatre, 1998), Pirandello's *Come tu mi vuoi*, Gabriela Preissova's *Jenufa* (Arcola Theatre, 2008) and Racine's *Britannicus* (Wilton's Music Hall, 2011).