

James Bonas

Director

Director James Bonas has chosen to frame the piece in a fifties setting, including the checkered suit of conductor Stephen Higgins, the Witch Ingunn Kilen's huge hair and red American diner outfit... The set design and costumes were unconventional and creative. The idea of changing the witch's house to "Rosina's candy" - with a fifties style portrait of the witch - was a stroke of genius.

Hordaland, Hansel and Gretel, Bergen National Opera

Having gained a first class honours degree from Oxford in psychology and philosophy and performed as a classical pianist, James trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, prior to developing a career as a director in theatres and opera houses around the world. Interests vary from classical theatre and contemporary opera to innovation in the use of video design and animation working with 59 Productions and Finn Ross amongst others. Recent work has taken James from the Metropolitan Opera to Los Angeles Opera, from the Hong Kong International Festival to Teatro Real Madrid, and from the Spoleto Festival in Charleston to the National Theatres in London and Seoul.

The 2016-17 Season saw a new production of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* for Opéra de Lyon, in an innovative production conceived around animator Grégoire Pont's projections, to be revived in Lisbon in December 2017. Other recent projects include *The Tempest* with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art. Highlights of the 2017-18 Season include a touring version of *Hänsel und Gretel* with the Bergen National Opera and an outreach production of Bernstein's *West Side Story* to be performed in London and Manchester, in collaboration with the Aurora Orchestra and the Royal Northern College of Music.

Recent productions include a critically-acclaimed *The Tales of Hoffmann* for English Touring Opera, *Ariodante* and *Giove in Argo* for the London Handel Festival, as associate to Rufus Norris *Wonder.land* for the National Theatre in London and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Jessica Swale's play *Blue Stockings* for Babcock Theatre Utah, Ravel's *L'heure espagnole / L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and the UK premiere of Jonathan Dove's *Seven Angels* for the Royal College of Music and *The Mikado* and *Hänsel and Gretel* for Co-Opera Company.

As associate director James has regularly worked alongside directors including Rufus Norris, Terry Gilliam, Tom Morris and Simon McBurney in projects including *The Death of Klinghoffer* (ENO and the Metropolitan Opera), *A Dog's Heart* (Complicité) and *Benvenuto Cellini* for ENO, *Hänsel und Gretel* for Glyndebourne and Teatro Real Madrid and Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Bristol Old Vic and world tour. Other work includes the world premiere of Damon Albarn's first opera *Dr Dee* for Manchester International Festival and ENO, *The Damnation of Faust*, *The Magic Flute*, *Tosca* and *La Clemenza di Tito* for ENO, *Pinocchio* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for Opera North and Minnesota Opera, *Don Carlos* and *Roméo et Juliette* for LA Opera and *Carmen Jones* for the Royal Festival Hall.

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