

James Bonas

Director

Hats off to James Bonas for the flair and energy of his staging, which radiated visual imagination

Andrew Clark, Opera, April 2019

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 with interests varying from classical theatre and contemporary opera to innovation in the use of video design and animation.

Recent work includes a double bill of *Gianni Schichhi / Les Mamelles de Tirésias* for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, *L'Heure Espagnole* for the Opéra National de Lyon featuring projections by animator Grégoire Pont, a staging of Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* for the BBC Proms at the Drill Hall in Lincoln, *Hänsel & Gretel* for Bergen National Opera, a production of *Westside Story* for Future Stages in collaboration with RNCM, *The Tempest* for RADA, Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* for the Opéra National de Lyon and *Tales of Hoffmann* for English Touring Opera.

Upcoming work includes Chabrier's *L'étoile* with Lisbon's Teatro Nacional de Sao Carlos, *Into the Woods* for RADA, bringing a new ballet of *The Crucible* for Scottish Ballet by choreographer Helen Pickett and composer Peter Salem to open the Edinburgh International Festival 2019, a new opera titled *The Silent City* for Matera in Italy - the European Capital of Culture for 2019 - as well as pieces with the BBC Proms, San Francisco Symphony, and the Royal Opera of Oman.

Previous work includes *Ariodante* and *Giove in Argo* for the London Handel Festival, 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 *Wonder.land* at the National Theatre in London and the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, *The Death of Klinghoffer* (ENO and the Metropolitan Opera), *A Dog's Heart* (Complicité) and *Benvenuto Cellini* for ENO, *Hänsel und Gretel* for Glyndebourne. Seattle Opera 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.
www.jamesbonas.com