

Agathe Mélinand

Librettist/Dramaturg

'Agathe Mélinand has not completely rewritten the text; rather reshaped and cut some of the longer sections, thus proving that without any need for any "dusting off" of the texts, the spectators still laugh at the original texts when the burlesque, the hero-comedy and the absurd are handled with so much skill'

Stéphane Lelièvre, Olyrix, Barbe bleue, Opéra de Lyon

Agathe Mélinand enjoys a career as director, dramaturg and librettist in opera and theatre. She is Co-Director of Pel-Mel Groupe, was Co-Director with Laurent Pelly of Théâtre national de Toulouse 2008–18, Deputy Artistic Director and Director of Communication of the Centre Dramatique National des Alpes in Grenoble 1997–2007, and Co-Director of theatre company Le Pélican 1989–1994.

Her most recent work in the theatre, *Le Petit Livre d'Anna Magdalena Bach* – inspired by the film *Chronique d'Anna Magdalena Bach* (Jean-Marie Straub Straub and Danièle Huillet) and based around the *Notenbüchlein für Anna Magdalena Bach* – premiered at MC2 : Grenoble in January 2020 and was seen in revival during 2022–23. Autumn 2021 saw the French-language premiere of her new translation of *Harvey* by Mary Chase at TNP-Villurbaine (Lyon), directed by Laurent Pelly. This season sees the premiere of their latest theatrical venture – Goldoni's *L'Impresario de Smyrne*, translated and adapted by Agathe. Other theatrical highlights include translations of Carlo Goldoni's *Le menteur*, Carlo Gozzi's *L'Oiseau vert* (also seen at the Théâtre de la Porte-Saint-Martin in Paris) and Aristophane's *Les Oiseaux*. Also the translation, adaptation, writing and realisation of works such as *Monsieur le 6*, *Tennessee Williams – Short Stories*, *Histoire de Babar le Petit Elephant*, *Erik Satie – Mémoires d'un Amnésique* and an adaptation of Marcel Proust – *Enfance et Adolescence de Jean Santeuil*.

In the opera house Agathe Mélinand has produced new dialogues and adaptations of numerous libretti. Projects in 2023 include an adaption of *Le Chauve Souris* in the original French for Opéra de Lille with director Laurent Pelly. Other recent work together includes *Lakmé* for Opéra Comique, *La périchole* for the Théâtre des Champs Élysées, an adaptation of Offenbach's *Le voyage dans la Lune* for Opéra Comique (a co-production with Greek National Opera and the Volksoper Vienna) and Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédicte* for the Glyndebourne Festival. Also for the Glyndebourne Festival, Agathe wrote additional texts (derived from Goethe's *Faust*) for Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust* directed by Richard Jones.

Renowned for her work on Offenbach, together with Pelly she has created new adaptations of numerous titles including *Le roi carotte* for Opéra de Lyon – winner of the Best Rediscovered Work category at the 2016 International Opera Awards – and *Barbe bleue* for Opéra de Lyon and Opéra de Marseille. Also *La vie parisienne* (Lyon), *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (Lausanne, San Francisco, Barcelona, Lyon, and Deutsche Oper Berlin), *La périchole* (Théâtre des Champs Élysées), *La grande-duchesse de Gérolstein* (Théâtre du Châtelet and Grand Théâtre de Genève), *Orphée aux enfers* (Geneva and Lyon), and *La belle Hélène* (Théâtre du Châtelet, ENO and Santa Fe). Other Offenbach projects include a concert and recording with Sir Mark Elder, Opera Rara and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment of *Fantasio*, winner of the CD (Complete Opera) category at the 2015 International Opera Awards.

Her long-time collaboration with Pelly also includes new dialogues and adaptations of Donizetti's *La fille du régiment* (co-production Royal Opera London, Metropolitan Opera, New York, Wiener Staatsoper and in revival throughout the world including San Francisco, Madrid, Barcelona, Paris and Chicago), as well as Chabrier's *L'étoile* for Dutch National Opera and *Le roi malgré lui* for Opéra de Lyon and Opéra Comique.