

Christian Rsth

Director

The witty staging, engaging cast and efficiently evocative designs made a good opera feel like a great one. For Bard's delightful production, the director and set designer Christian Rsth stages "Frau" as an opera about putting on an opera. Stagehands execute scene changes in full view of the audience, and Morosus's single-word mantra, "Ruhe" (quiet), glows like an exit sign above the doors of his orderly home.

The New York Times (Critics Choice), Die Schweigsame Frau, Bard Summerscape

A native of Hamburg, director Christian Rsth's work takes him to many of the world's leading opera houses, throughout Europe, Japan and the USA including the Metropolitan Opera New York, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Wiener Staatsoper, Teatro alla Scala Milan, Opéra national de Paris and the Royal Opera House London. He directs a large and diverse repertoire, ranging from Wagner, Strauss, Janáček, Puccini, Verdi, Donizetti, Mozart, Britten and Bartók to musicals and contemporary creations.

Recent new productions include Strauss *Die Schweigsame Frau* and Korngold's *Das Wunder der Heliane* at the Bard Summerscape Festival 2019/22, *Der Freischütz* and *Macbeth* at the Wiener Staatsoper, *Le Baron Tzigane* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, *L'italiana in Algeri* in Portland and the direction and design of *Kiss Me Kate* for the Haut école de musique de Genève, in collaboration with the Théâtre du Galpon, Geneva. Plans include the world premiere of *Woman with Eyes Closed* by Jennifer Higdon, at Opera Philadelphia and a return to Bard.

In 2021 Christian conceived and directed two unique historical events in Egypt – "The Pharaoh's Golden Parade" - celebrating the journey of 22 royal mummies through the city of Cairo, and the opening ceremony of the antique "Sphinx Road" at Luxor. Both productions involved more than a thousand participants and were broadcast worldwide.

Other opera stagings include Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and the direction and design of *Tristan und Isolde* for The Dallas Opera, Verdi's rarely-performed comic opera *Un Giorno di Regno (King for a Day)* for the Glimmerglass Festival, *Falstaff* at Washington National Opera, *Roméo et Juliette* at Houston Grand Opera, *Fidelio* and *Luisa Miller* at The Dallas Opera, *Die Zauberflöte* at Cairo Opera House and *Carmen* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

Christian enjoys an ongoing collaboration with director Laurent Pelly; he has been associate and revival director for many of his productions, including *Cosí fan tutte*, *Falstaff*, *Barbe bleue*, *Viva la Mamma!*, *Le Coq d'Or*, *Le Roi Carotte*, *Le Comte Ory*, *La fille du régiment*, *Manon*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *La traviata*, *La vie parisienne*, *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein* and *L'elisir d'amore*.

He has also enjoyed collaborations with Robert Carsen and Francesco Zambella. Projects with Carsen include Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* (Opernhaus Zürich, Opéra national du Rhin), as well as *Il trovatore* in Bregenz, *Mitridate* in Brussels, *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Deutsche Oper Berlin/Det Kongelige Teater Copenhagen and *JJR - Citoyen de Genève* in Geneva. Christian was Senior Associate Director for Zambello's complete *Ring* for San Francisco Opera, in co-production with Washington National Opera. Other productions with Zambello include *Billy Budd* (Opéra national de Paris, Royal Opera House, London) *Salome* (Saito Kinen), *West Side Story*, *Of Mice and Men* (Bregenz, Washington, Houston).

Christian R ath obtained a master's degree in Musiktheater-Regie from the Hochschule f ur Musik und Theater in Hamburg. He studied musicology, literature and psychology at the University of Hamburg, and participated in masterclasses on opera directing with Harry Kupfer. In 1995 he was invited to join the Grand Th atre de Gen ve, where he held the position of Staff Director until 2001.