

Irina Brook

Director

Brook has brought back to the repertoire after thirty years a fresh and cheeky production of Donizetti's Don Pasquale and transformed it into a kind of opera-cartoon which will give you the time of your life

Wilhelm Sinkovicz, Die Presse, Don Pasquale, Wiener Staatsoper

Irina Brook was born in Paris as the daughter of director Peter Brook and actress Natasha Parry; she grew up in England and France. At 16 she moved to New York to take acting lessons with Stella Adler and made her debut in Off-Broadway productions. In Paris, she performed at Bouffes du Nord in Peter Brook's productions of Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* and Molière's *Dom Juan ou Le Festin de pierre*.

After working on numerous productions in London, she presented her first work as a director there in 1996: Kalinoski's *Beast on the Moon*, followed by Nicholas Wright's *Mrs. Klein* and Shakespeare's *All's Well that Ends Well*. In 1998 she created *Une Bête sur la Lune*, a French version of *Beast on the Moon* for Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne. She then embarked on an international tour as well as performances at MC93, Bobigny and Théâtre de l'Oeuvre, Paris for which she won five Molière Awards including Best Director and Best Play. In 2000 she directed Katherine Burger's *Morphic Resonance* at Théâtre de l'Atelier, Paris. For the Festival de Sartrouville she developed a version of Homer's *Odyssey*. This was followed by *Juliette et Roméo* after Shakespeare and Brian Friel's *Dancing at Lughnasa* at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, as well as Tennessee Williams' *The Glass Menagerie* in a co-production with Théâtre de l'Atelier and Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne.

In 2003, she founded Irina's Dream Theatre, based in Paris and tours her productions worldwide. Its productions include Brecht's *Der gute Mensch von Sezuan*, Marivaux's *L'Île des Esclaves*, *Somewhere...La Mancha*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Peter Pan*. Brook's productions of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* and Shakespeare's *The Tempest* premiered at the 2012 Salzburg Festival and toured to the Barbican Centre and Spoleto Festival respectively. Her production *The Island Trilogy (The Island of Slaves, The Tempest!, An Odyssey)* was performed at the Spoleto Festival, Georgian International Festival of Arts, and Teatro dell'Arte, Milan in 2013. In 2014 Brook was appointed Director of the Théâtre National de Nice and in 2021 was nominated as Artist-in-Residence at Teatro Stabile del Veneto for 2022-24.

Brook has also directed numerous operas; debuting with Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* (Nederlandse Reisopera), followed by Tchaikovsky's *Yevgeny Onegin* (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence) and Rossini's *La Cenerentola* (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées/Teatro Comunale di Bologna/Royal Swedish Opera). She has also directed Handel's *Giulio Cesare* (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées), Verdi's *La traviata* (Opéra de Lille/Teatro Comunale di Bologna), Martín y Soler's *Il burbero de buon cuore* (Teatro Real/Liceu), *L'elisir d'amore* (Deutsche Oper), *Roméo et Juliette* (Opéra Nice Côte d'Azur), *Don Pasquale* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Wiener Staatsoper) and *Die Sieben Todsünden & Mahagonny-Songspiel* (Teatro alla Scala). Future seasons include her returns to Teatro alla Scala and the Wiener Staatsoper, also the world premiere of her interdisciplinary installation *The House of Us/Hamlet* in Japan and Italy.

In 2002 Irina Brook was awarded the title of Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture, and in 2016 she was honoured to be elevated to Officier des Arts et des Lettres. In 2017 Brook was distinguished with the Légion d'Honneur.

Awards

1998 Five Molière Awards including Best Director and Best Private Theatre Play for the show Une Bête sur la lune

1999 Mitrani award at the FIPA

2000 Molière for Best Female Newcomer and the SACD prize for emerging talent

2002 Chevalier des les Arts et des Lettres

2013 Air France prize for innovation and French culture overseas

2016 Officier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres

2016 Susan Strasberg prize awarded by the Associazione Arlenika Onlus (Palermo)

2017 Chevalier dans l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur