

## James Bonas

### Director

*This double bill oozed inspiration from start to finish... Hats off to James Bonas for the flair and energy of his staging, which radiated visual imagination.*

Andrew Clark, Opera, April 2019

British director James Bonas' work encompasses a large and varied repertoire, spanning classical theatre and opera through to contemporary works and the use of innovative technology, as well as multi-disciplinary projects in alternative spaces. Having gained a first-class honours degree from Oxford in psychology and philosophy and performed as a classical pianist, James Bonas trained as an actor at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, prior to developing his career as a director.

Current highlights include Jonathon Dove's *Flight* for RCS Glasgow, Carl Orff's *Der Mond* with L'Opéra National de Lyon (featuring projections by animator Grégoire Pont), Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* with Lisbon's Teatro Nacional de São Carlos and a collaboration with Damon Albarn as Artistic Consultant on the creation of a new multi-disciplinary piece – *Le Vol du Boli* – at the Théâtre du Châtelet. James directed a new narrative ballet - *The Crucible* - for Scottish Ballet, in collaboration with choreographer Helen Pickett and composer Peter Salem, which opened the 2019 Edinburgh International Festival - reviewed as "bewitchingly good" by The Times and the winner of several awards. 2019 also saw a critically-acclaimed staging of *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz with Nicholas Collon and Aurora orchestra at the BBC Proms, with further projects in planning.

Further successes include Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and *L'Heure Espagnol* for L'Opéra National de Lyon, both of which can be seen in Lyon this season; *L'Enfant* enjoys world-wide revival including the Royal Opera of Oman, Opéra de Limoges, San Francisco Symphony and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Other recent titles include the world premiere of a new community opera *Silent City* for Matera in Italy (European Capital of Culture 2019), Chabrier's *L'étoile* with Lisbon's Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, *Into the Woods* for RADA, a double bill of *Gianni Schicchi* / *Les Mamelles de Tirésias* for the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 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, *Westside Story* for Future Stages in collaboration with RNCM, *The Tempest* for RADA and *Tales of Hoffmann* for English Touring Opera.

Previous work includes *Ariodante* and *Giove in Argo* for the London Handel Festival, Jessica Swale's play *Blue Stockings* for Babcock Theatre Utah, 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 regularly worked alongside directors including Rufus Norris, Terry Gilliam, Tom Morris and Simon McBurney in projects such as *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.