

Laurent Pelly

Director, Costume Designer

In La Cenerentola (Dutch National Opera) evil triumphs. Director Laurent Pelly makes Cinderella's dream burst, in a setting that is just as layered as Rossini's music.

nrc.nl, La Cenerentola, Dutch National Opera

French opera and theatre director Laurent Pelly is sought after by the world's most prestigious houses. With a natural affinity for Italian and French repertoire, his creative curiosity has in recent years led him towards other composers, including Russian and Czech. He brings theatrical insight to his work with singers and his concepts often contain surreal invention and a dark sense of humour. A master of detail, he designs the costumes for all his productions, as well as occasionally the sets.

Well-known at opera houses such as Opéra national de Paris, Opéra de Lyon, Royal Opera House, Metropolitan Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Teatro Real, La Monnaie/de Munt and Glyndebourne, he is just as adept in and passionate about theatre. He was Co-Director of Théâtre national de Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées (2008–2018) where creations included Ionesco's *La cantatrice chauve*, Aristophane's *Les oiseaux*, Goldoni's *Loiseau vert* and Hugo's *Mangeront-ils?* as well as Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. In 2021 he brings his sense of comic fantasy to the first French theatrical production of Mary Chase's *Harvey*.

His artistic drive leads him to an ever-expanding opera catalogue. He has long worked with French repertoire such as *Manon*, *Cendrillon*, *Pélleas et Mélisande*, *L'étoile* and *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, as well as Italian works including *La fille du régiment*, *Don Pasquale*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *I Puritani*, *La Cenerentola*, *La traviata* and *Falstaff*. His Russian and Czech catalogue includes Rimsky-Korsakov's *The Golden Cockerel*, Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges* and Janáček's *Cunning Little Vixen*, and future productions include works by Smetana, Tchaikovsky and Wagner. He is also drawn to musical theatre; stagings include Bernstein's *Candide*, Brecht-Weill's *Threepenny Opera* and Weill's *Mahagonny*.

As a renowned Offenbach specialist, Pelly has directed many award-winning titles, including *Barbe-bleue*, *La vie parisienne*, *La belle Hélène*, *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein*, *Orphée aux Enfers* and *Les contes d'Hoffmann*. His production of *Le roi carotte* for Opéra de Lyon won Best Rediscovered Work at the 2016 International Opera Awards.

His 2020/21 season includes *Le voyage dans la lune* (Opéra Comique), *La Cenerentola* (Geneva, Valencia), *Falstaff* (La Monnaie, Opéra national de Bordeaux, Nikikai Opera Foundation Tokyo), *Il nozze di Figaro* (Santa Fe) and the French-language premiere of Mary Chase's *Harvey* (MC2 : Grenoble and on tour, including Lyon and Versailles).

Appointments: Co-Director Pel-Mel Groupe (2017-); Co-Director (with Agathe Mélinand) of Théâtre national de Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées (2008–2018); Director Centre Dramatique National des Alpes (1997–2007); Founding Director Compagnie Le Pelican (1980-1996).

Awards: 2019 Opera News Award; 2017 French Critics Prix de l'Europe Francophone (*Le Coq d'Or*); 2016 Best Director and Best Rediscovered Work (*Le roi carotte*) International Opera Awards; 2016 Spanish Critics Best Director (Premios Líricos Campoamor); 2015 French Critics Best Scenic Elements award (*L'oiseau vert*); 2011 French Critics Best Director and Best Set Design awards (*Mille francs de récompense*); 2009 SACD Best Director.