

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 led him in recent years towards other areas, including Russian and Czech, to which he brings his trademark sense of dark humour and surreal fantasy. A master of detail, he designs all the costumes for his productions, and occasionally the sets. Named Best Director at the 2016 International Opera Awards, in 2019 he was the recipient of an Opera News Award in recognition of his outstanding international work.

Co-Director of Théâtre national de Toulouse Midi-Pyrénées 2008–2018 and Director of Cargo / Centre Dramatique National des Alpes 1997-2007, theatre highlights include Victor Hugo's *Mille francs de récompense* (also at l'Odéon in Paris and winner of the 2011 French critics Best Director award), Hanokh Levin's *Funérailles d'hiver*, Victor Hugo's *Mangeront-ils?* Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Carlo Gozzi's *Loiseau vert* (winner of the 2015 french critics Best Scenic Elements award and also at the Théâtre de la Porte Saint-Martin Paris), Ionesco's *La cantatrice chauve* and Aristophane's *Les Oiseaux*. January 2021 sees the French premiere of *Harvey* by Mary Chase at MC2 : Grenoble, touring through the spring including Versailles and Lyon.

Current opera projects include *La Cenerentola* (Dutch National Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia Valencia), *Falstaff* (Teatro Real Madrid, La Monnaie/de Munt, Opéra national de Bordeaux, Niki kai Opera Foundation Tokyo), Offenbach's *Le Voyage Dans La Lune* (Opéra Comique) and *Il nozze di Figaro* (Santa Fe Opera). Recent titles include Offenbach's *Barbe bleue* for Opéra de Lyon and Opéra de Marseille, *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Opera Philadelphia and Wiener Staatsoper, *Candide* at The Santa Fe Opera, Donizetti's *Viva la mamma!* (Opéra de Lyon, Grand Théâtre de Genève and Teatro Real Madrid, where it can be seen in June 2021), *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for the Théâtre des Champs Elysées (also on tour to the 2018 Edinburgh International Festival), and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Le Coq d'Or* (La Monnaie/de Munt, Teatro Real Madrid, Opera national de Lorraine - winner of the French Critics Prix de l'Europe Francophone).

Pelly is renowned particularly for his work in French repertoire and also as a specialist in the works of Offenbach, having directed many award-winning titles, including *La belle Hélène*, *La Grande duchesse de Gérolstein*, *Orphée aux Enfers*, *La vie Parisienne*, *Les Contes d'offmann* and *Le Roi Carotte*, winner of the Best Discovered Work category at the 2016 International Opera Awards. Other French titles includes Massenet's *Cendrillon* (Metropolitan Opera, Chicago Lyric Opera, Santa Fe, Royal Opera London, Gran Teatre del Liceu, La Monnaie/de Munt, Opéra de Lille); *Manon* (Royal Opera London, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse) and *Don Quichotte* (La Monnaie/de Munt), as well as Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* (Glyndebourne Festival), Meyerbeer's *Robert le diable* (Royal Opera London), Gounod's *Le médecin malgré lui* (Grand Théâtre de Genève), Chabrier's *L'étoile* (Dutch National

Opera), *Le Roi malgré lui* (Opéra de Lyon, Opéra Comique), Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Theater an der Wien), Poulenc's *Voix Humaine* (Opéra de Lyon) and Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges* and *L'heure espagnole* for the Glyndebourne and Saito Kinen Festivals (revived at Teatro alla Scala Milan in 2015-16).

His staging of Donizetti's *La fille du régiment* (Royal Opera London, Wiener Staatsoper, Metropolitan Opera) receives world-wide acclaim, as do his productions of *L'élisir d'amore* (Opéra national de Paris, Royal Opera house London) and *Don Pasquale* (The Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera, Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, La Monnaie/de Munt, Teatro de la Maestranza Seville). Other Italian repertoire includes Rossini's *Le comte Ory* (Opéra de Lyon and La Scala Milan), Bellini's *I Puritani* (Opéra national de Paris) and Verdi's *La Traviata* (Santa Fe and Teatro Regio Turin).

Other work includes Handel *Giulio Cesare*, Strauss *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Weil *Les sept péchés capitaux*, (Opéra national de Paris), Brecht/Weill's *L'opéra de quat'sous* (Comédie-Française), Prokofiev's *Love for Three Oranges* (De Nationale Opera), Bartok *Duke Bluebeard's Castle* (Opéra de Lyon), Humperdinck *Hänsel und Gretel* (Glyndebourne Festival), Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Saito Kinen Festival, Maggio Musicale) and Mozart's *La finta semplice* (Theater an der Wien).