

## Laurent Pelly

Director, Costume Designer

*'Dig out your glad rags, pack up a picnic and beg, borrow or steal a ticket to Glyndebourne's latest offering, a Poulenc double bill that will first turn you into an emotional wreck then have you laughing all the way home. There's not a foot put wrong.... In both operas it's the clarity and effectiveness of the creative team's ideas that stand out. That and their brilliant execution'*

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The Times, Poulenc *La Voix Humaine* / *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Glyndebourne Festival 2022

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 London, 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 (2008–18) 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 brought his sense of comic fantasy to the first French theatrical production of Mary Chase's *Harvey*, which continued to tour in 2022–23, featuring acclaimed French actor Jacques Gamblin. This season sees the premiere of his latest theatrical venture – Goldoni's *L'Impresario de Smyrne* (*Scènes de la vie d'opéra*).

New opera productions in 2023–24 include *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at Teatro Real Madrid and *Le Chauve Souris* (in the original French) for Opéra de Lille. His most recent work includes *Il Turco in Italia* at Teatro Real Madrid, *Eugene Onegin* at La Monnaie de Munt and Royal Danish Opera, *La périchole* at Théâtre des Champs Élysées, *Lakmé* at Opéra Comique, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in Lille and Poulenc *La voix humaine/Les mamelles de Tirésias* for the Glyndebourne Festival (winner of Best New Production at the International Awards 2022), as well as *La Cenerentola* (Amsterdam, Geneva, Valencia, Los Angeles), *Falstaff* (Teatro Real, La Monnaie de Munt, Niki Kai Opera Foundation Tokyo) and *Il nozze di Figaro* (Santa Fe, Matsumoto Festival Japan).

His artistic drive leads him to an ever-expanding opera catalogue. He has long worked with French repertoire such as *Manon*, *Cendrillon*, *Pelleas et Mélisande*, *Létoile* and *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, as well as Italian works including *La fille du régiment*, *Don Pasquale*, *Lelixir 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 plans 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*, *Les contes d'Hoffmann* and most recently *Le voyage dans la lune* with the Maîtrise Populaire de L'Opéra Comique, co-produced with Greek National Opera and the Volksoper Vienna. His production of *Le roi carotte* for Opéra de Lyon won Best Rediscovered Work at the 2016 International Opera Awards.

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**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:** 2022 Best New Production *La voix humaine/Les mamelles de Tirésias* International Opera Awards; 2022 Grand Prix du Plaisir du Théâtre; 2022 Best Director Premios Opéra XXI; 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.