

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

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 a career as a director with interests varying from classical theatre and contemporary opera to innovation in the use of video design and animation.

Highlights of the current season include new productions of Carl Orff's *Der Mond* with L'Opéra National de Lyon (featuring projections by animator Grégoire Pont) and Rossini's *Le Comte Ory* with Lisbon's Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, as well as numerous revivals of *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* with L'Opéra National de Lyon, the Royal Opera of Oman, Opéra de Limoges, San Francisco Symphony and Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra. Other projects included the world premiere of a new community opera *Silent City* for Matera in Italy (European Capital of Culture 2019) and a critically-acclaimed staging of *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz with Aurora orchestra at the BBC Proms.

Recent work includes direction of 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 and was reviewed as "bewitchingly good" by The Times. Further successes include Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and *L'Heure Espagnol* for L'Opéra National de Lyon, Chabrier's *Létoile* with Lisbon's Teatro Nacional de São Carlos, *Into the Woods* for RADA, a double bill of *Gianni Schichhi / 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 has 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.