

AGATHE MÉLINAND
Librettist / Dramaturg

The Tower Building
11 York Road
London
SE1 7NX

T +44 (0)20 7902 0520
F +44 (0)20 7902 0530

info@vanwalsum.com
www.vanwalsum.com

Agathe Mélinand enjoys a successful career as director, dramaturg and librettist, in both opera and the theatre. She is currently co-director of the Théâtre National de Toulouse. From 1997-2007 she was Deputy Artistic Director and Director of Communication of the Centre Dramatique National des Alpes (CDNA) in Grenoble and prior to that (1989–1994) co-director of theater company Le Pélican. Highlights of the 2008/09 season in Toulouse have included Carlo Goldini's *Le Menteur*, for which she wrote a new translation from the original Italian, and the creation of a staged recital of songs by Michel Legrand, featuring Natalie Dessay.

Agathe regularly works in the opera house as both librettist and dramaturg and has been responsible for production of new dialogues from the original language in French, Italian and English. Recent work has included the writing of new dialogues for Laurent Pelly's acclaimed production of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment* (co-production Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera New York, Vienna State Opera), and new versions of Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne* (Opéra de Lyon) and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* (Lausanne Opera). She produced a new adaptation of the dialogues for the Théâtre du Châtelet's highly-successful production of *La Belle Hélène*, as well as a new translation of these for the Santa Fe Opera company. In addition she has written a new version of Chabrier's *Le Roi Malgré Lui* for Opéra de Lyon (which has enjoyed recent revivals in Lyon and at l'Opéra Comique in Paris). She also established a new version of the *Chanteur de Mexico*'s libretto for the Théâtre du Châtelet. Other adaptations include *La Périchole* (Marseille Opera), *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein* for the Minkowski-Pelly production at the Théâtre du Châtelet, *Orphée aux Enfers* (Geneva Opera and Opéra de Lyon) and an Offenbach triple bill, also for Opéra de Lyon.

Other productions on which Agathe has worked as dramaturg (usually in collaboration with Laurent Pelly) include Rameau *Platée*, Strauss *Ariane auf Naxos*, Donizetti *L'Elisir d'Amore* and a double bill of Ravel *L'Heure Espagnol* / Puccini *Gianni Schicchi* for the L'Opéra National de Paris; Rameau *Les Boréades* (Lyon and Zurich); Humperdinck *Hänsel & Gretel* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera and Mozart *La Finta Semplice* for Theater an der Wien.

Forthcoming plans include Handel *Giulio Cesare* for L'Opéra National de Paris and Massenet *Manon*, a co-production between the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera New York, Teatro alla Scala Milan and Toulouse Opera, as well as revivals of *Fille du Regiment* in San Francisco and Barcelona.

Agathe began her career as a comedienne, but moved to the other side of the stage in 1986, when she became press attaché and programming assistant at the *Printemps du théâtre à Paris*, directed by Stéphane Lissner. She subsequently formed her own press services company *10bis*, providing freelance press services to organisations and cinema producers such as Christiane Pascal, John Mac Naughton, Jean-Philippe Toussaint. In addition, she has organised several retrospectives on the history of the 7th art, including *Mozart à L'écran*, *Littérature et cinéma on 150 films*, *Brigitte Bardot-Images d'un Mythe*.