

**LAURENT PELLY**  
**Opera Director**

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French-born Laurent Pelly enjoys a career as one of France's most sought after directors of both theatre and opera. He directs and designs costumes for productions that are detailed, satirical, often surreal, exquisite in taste and wonderfully imaginative in both conception and execution. Whilst he has a particular skill for revealing the serious side of comedy, he is increasingly in demand as a director of more weighty music-dramas, including the operas of Richard Strauss, Debussy and Bartók. He underlines his interpretation of characters through his skilful and inspired costume designs.

Laurent Pelly enjoys a distinguished career in the theatre – in 2007 he was appointed Director of the Théâtre National de Toulouse, having previously been Director of Cargo / Centre Dramatique National des Alpes in Grenoble from 1997-2007. Highlights in Toulouse include *Mille cents francs de récompense* (Victor Hugo), *Le menteur* (Carlo Goldoni) and *Talking Heads* (Alan Bennett), as well as a staged recital of songs by Michel Legrand, featuring Natalie Dessay. Other theatre plans include *Threepenny Opera* for the Comédie Française in 2011.

Current and future new productions include Massenet's *Don Quichotte* at La Monnaie, *Manon* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden (also in Japan in September 2010), Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala and Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, *Mahagonny* and *Tosca* for Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, *Die Zauberflöte* for Théâtre des Champs Elysées, Handel's *Giulio Cesare* for L'Opéra National de Paris, *I Puritani* for L'Opéra National de Paris and Metropolitan Opera and a double-bill of Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* and *L'Heure Espagnol* for Glyndebourne and Saito Kinen Festival.

Recent work includes *La Traviata* at Santa Fe and Teatro Regio Torino (also in Japan in July 2010), Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen* (Saito Kinen Festival and Maggio Musicale Florence), Humperdinck's *Hänsel & Gretel* at Glyndebourne, and a highly-acclaimed production of Donizetti's *La Fille du Regiment* (Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, Metropolitan Opera). Also Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Mozart's *La Finta Semplice* at Theater an der Wien, Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges* (Netherlands Opera), *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Opéra National de Paris and Covent Garden) Strauss's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Weill's *Les Sept Péchés Capitaux* (Opéra de Paris), Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne* and Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine* / Bartok *Bluebeard's Castle* (Opéra National de Lyon), Rameau's *Platée* (Opéra National de Paris, Santa Fe) and Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* (Théâtre du Châtelet, Santa Fe, English National Opera). He works regularly with Santa Fe Opera, where productions include Massenet's *Cendrillon* (2006), *Platée* (2007) and Verdi's *La Traviata* (2009).

Pelly's productions enjoy many and frequent revivals; current plans include *Cendrillon* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, *La Fille du Regiment* at the San Francisco Opera, Opéra National de Paris and in Barcelona, Chabrier's *Le Roi Malgré Lui* for Opéra National de Lyon and L'Opéra Comique, *Hansel and Gretel* in Lyon and a new version of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* for San Francisco Opera and Gran Teatre del Liceu.

He has also enjoyed many conspicuous successes in operetta, especially the works of Offenbach, beginning with *Orphée aux Enfers* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, and continuing with Rameau's *Platée* for L'Opéra National de Paris and Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* at the Théâtre du Châtelet.