

biography



DAVID ALDEN – STAGE DIRECTOR

David Alden was born in New York City and studied at the University of Pennsylvania. One of the leading directors of opera on both sides of the Atlantic, he has recently received the Bavarian Theatre Prize for Individual Artistic Achievement, marking his particular association with the Bavarian State Opera, where his productions include Monteverdi's *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Handel's *Rinaldo*, *Rodelinda* and *Ariodante*, Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame*, Berg's *Lulu*, Cavalli's *La Calisto*, Verdi's *La forza del destino* and Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*.

In Britain, David Alden has directed for the regional companies, including Berg's *Wozzeck* and Verdi's *Rigoletto* for Scottish Opera; *Poppea*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* and Strauss' *Elektra* for Welsh National Opera. For English National Opera, his productions include Tchaikovsky's *Mazeppa*, Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* and *Un ballo in maschera*, Handel's *Ariodante*, Berlioz' *La Damnation de Faust*, Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* and Janáček's *Jenufa*. He also directed a new production of Thomas Ades' *Powder her Face* for the Aldeburgh Festival. Elsewhere in Europe, he has directed Gounod's *Faust* and Johann Strauss' *Der Zigeunerbaron* for the Vienna Volksoper; Dallapiccola's *Il prigioniero* and Zemlinsky's *Der Zwerg* for the Netherlands Opera; Handel's *Tamerlano* and *Alcina* for the Komische Oper Berlin; Mozart's *Don Giovanni* in Cologne; Schrecker's *Der Schatzgräber* for his debut in Frankfurt; *Ariodante* for the Vlaamse Opera in Antwerp; and *Parsifal* in Graz. With the New Israeli Opera, he has directed Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, Mozart's *Idomeneo*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, *Faust*, Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd*, *Kat'a Kabanová*, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and the world premiere of Gil Shohat's *Alpha and Omega*.

His productions in the USA include *Rodelinda* for San Francisco Opera; *La Traviata*, *Wozzeck*, Janáček's *Věc Makropoulos*, Weill's *Aufstieg und Fall der Stadt Mahagonny* and Verdi's *Macbeth* for the Lyric Opera of Chicago; *Wozzeck* and Beethoven's *Fidelio* at the Metropolitan New York; *Werther*, *Don Giovanni*, *Macbeth*, *Ariodante* and Janáček's *Kat'a Kabanová* and *Jenufa* for Houston Grand Opera; *Kat'a Kabanová* for Dallas Opera; Britten's *The Turn of the Screw* and the American premiere of Matthus' *Judith* at Santa Fe Opera; *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and the American premiere of Szymanowski's *King Roger* at Long Beach Opera; Susa's *Transformations* and Cavalli's *Giasone* at Spoleto USA; and the world premiere of Bolcom's *Casino Paradise* at the American Music Theatre Festival. Together with his brother Christopher Alden, he also directed semi-staged versions of the three Mozart / Da Ponte operas with Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Film and television projects include a version of Schubert's *Die Winterreise* with Ian Bostridge and Julius Drake, Weill's *Die Sieben Todsünden* and a documentary on Verdi for BBC Television. He also directed a world concert tour for the Pet Shop Boys.

In 2005/6 season his projects included *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* for the Royal Danish Opera, Copenhagen, and *Orlando* and several major revivals in Munich. In 2006/7 season his projects included *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* for Welsh National Opera, *Salome* for Lithuanian Opera and a new production of *Jenufa* for English National Opera (which was awarded the prestigious Olivier Award) and Washington National Opera. David recently had a huge success at ENO with his new production of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Other major new productions in 2008 include *Il Turco in Italia* for Deutsche Staatsoper, Berlin, *Radamisto* for Santa Fe Opera and *La Calisto* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. In 2009 David will direct Cavalli's *Ercole l'amante* for De Nederlandse Opera, debut at Barcelona's Teatro Liceo with his production of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* followed by a return to ENO for a new production of *Peter Grimes*.

David Alden is represented by Intermusica in Europe

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