



Francisco Negrin Director

Over the past 20 years, Francisco Negrin's innovative work has earned him considerable public success and international acclaim. Many of his opera productions have now been revived many times and several have been filmed for television (*Una Cosa Rara*, *Venus*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, two different *Giulio Cesare* and *Norma*). His earlier production of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* for the Australian Opera, has been released on DVD and CD and has won five separate Australian Green Room Awards, including that for Best Director and Best Production. The newer *Cesare*, also released on DVD by Harmonia Mundi and the Royal Danish Opera won the Reumert award and *Orlando* at the Royal Opera House was nominated for two Laurence Olivier Awards, including best production of the year.

Born in 1963, Francisco Negrin studied Cinematography before moving into opera, initially as an assistant director. His experience has taken him to most of Europe and America's major stages and festivals, as well as to Australia's major opera companies. Francisco Negrin's first production was his own version of Debussy's *The Fall of the House of Usher* for the London International Opera Festival in 1989, a co production with the National Opera in Lisbon.

Highlights of his earliest work include Haydn's *Orlando Paladino* at Garsington and the première of Mozart-Griffith's *The Jewel Box* for Opera North, the latter was the first opera production ever performed at Glyndebourne by an outside company. Francisco Negrin's early repertoire further included *La Traviata* at Opera North, Janacek's *The Diary of One Who Dissappeared* at the Purcell Room, *Così fan Tutte* (Seattle), *Don Carlo* (Melbourne), a double bill of Ravel's *L'Heure Espagnole*/ Gounod's *La Colombe* as well as Purcell's *King Arthur* (London's Guildhall), Martín y Soler's *Una Cosa Rara* (Drottningholm Festival) and Massenet's *Werther* (Nice). A collaboration with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and Edinburgh International Festival in 1993 resulted in an award-winning world-premiere production of James MacMillan's *Visitatio Sepulchri* and the chamber piece *Tourist Variations*.

A collaboration with the Grand Théâtre de Genève starting in 1997 was to produce some of Negrin's finest work to date – Othmar Schoek's *Venus*, Mozart's *Mitridate*, Bellini's *Norma* and latterly Ginastera's *Beatrix Cenci*, all earning him considerable audience and critical success. In the successive seasons, his European work included a site specific epic production of Phillip Glass' *Orphée* for the Royal Danish Opera, *Norma* for the Liceu in Barcelona, *Arabella* for Opera North and a highly successful move into the romantic repertoire with Weber's *Der Freischutz* as a coproduction by the Theatre des Champs-Elysees in Paris and the Opera de Lausanne.

Francisco Negrin's production of Handel's *Partenope* in 1997 for Glimmerglass and New York City Operas made a huge impact on American audiences and critics. He was immediately reinvited to New York City Opera for Handel's *Rinaldo*, his Australian Opera production of *Giulio Cesare* was revived by Los Angeles Opera and his Geneva *Mitridate* was featured as part of the 2001 Santa Fe Festival. A new production of *Giulio Cesare* for the Royal Danish Opera moved audiences to camping outside the theatre for tickets. That was followed by Beethoven's *Fidelio* for De Vlaamse Opera as well as his debut at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, with Handel's *Partenope*.

Francisco Negrin has been Artistic Director for contemporary dance and music group Walker Dance /Park Music with whom he created, among others, the dance piece / video installation on the roof of the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London titled *Two Stations*.

Francisco Negrin's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au

March 2010

Not to be altered or reprinted without permission – this biography is for website use only

Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466

ArtsManagement

Francisco Negrin's more recent productions include a ground breaking *Don Giovanni* for Glimmerglass, his Royal Opera House Covent Garden début with Handel's *Orlando*, his return to De Vlaamse Opera with *Arabella*, to the Santa Fe Festival with a hit production of Handel's *Agrippina* and to Copenhagen with the world premiere of Poul Ruder's *Kafka's Trial*. A second production of Philip Glass' *Orphée* was a chance for a very spectacular use of The Linbury theatre at the Royal Opera. Francisco Negrin had his debut in Germany with J.C. Bach's *Temistocle* in Leipzig which was then presented also in Toulouse, and conceived a new version of his earlier *Mitridate*, site specifically for the Alhambra in Granada,

Before closing the 06-07 season in Barcelona with a further revival of *Norma*, which was transmitted live on a giant screen to over 3000 spectators on the beach, *La Clemenza di Tito* had opened the season at the Liceo and was then seen in Leipzig where Francisco also innovated with a daring production of *The Merry Widow* just before reviving his *Orlando* at Covent Garden and in the following season at the new opera house in Valencia where he also staged a very popular and innovative version of the Zarzuela *La Corte de Faraón*, with the Almodovar actress Rossy de Palma.

2008 and 09 saw a totally new *Partenope* in Copenhagen and *I Puritani* for Amsterdam, Geneva and Athens both released on DVD, as well as *Alceste* for Santa Fe, and have been followed in 2010 by *Una Cosa Rara* for Valencia and Valladolid, *Il Arbore di Diana* for Barcelona and Madrid (also to be released on DVD) and *Macbeth* in Strasbourg which will later go to Monte Carlo.

Upcoming projects include *Rinaldo* in Chicago, *The Cunning Little Vixen* in Copenhagen and *Werther* in San Francisco.

Francisco Negrin has always shown a keen interest in teaching and has devised an innovative series of master classes for singers at the Opera Academy in Copenhagen, while also pursuing his interest in other media, preparing a feature film and editing several shorts and music videos.

Francisco Negrin's Manager in Australasia is Graham Pushee: graham@artsmanagement.com.au

March 2010

Not to be altered or reprinted without permission – this biography is for website use only

Telephone (+61 2) 9211 9422 Facsimile (+61 2) 9211 9466