



## Moffatt Oxenbould AM Director

*Idomeneo* Houston Grand Opera  
"The gods were surely smiling on Houston Grand Opera's production of *Idomeneo*... a propitious alignment of mortals made this an evening to remember ... Emphasizing Enlightenment values, Oxenbould proved that traditional stagings can hold their own and then some against the vogue of trendy productions".

Marcia J. Citron  
Opera News USA 2005

*Madama Butterfly*, OA Sydney  
"The new OA production, gravely beautiful and elegant, puts its faith completely in the humanity of the characters and the power of the music. It is absolutely convincing in concept and almost totally successful in execution".

Deborah Jones  
The Australian 1997

*Il Trittico*, OA Sydney  
"It was a successful and satisfying presentation of the three pieces (production by Moffatt Oxenbould, designs by Desmond Digby) – conventional, faithful to the composer's intentions and so effective".

Andrew Porter  
London Financial Times 1973

Moffatt Oxenbould's contribution to the development of opera in Australia and Opera Australia (OA) spans a period of more than forty years.

Having retired from the position of Artistic Director of Opera Australia at the end of 1999, he has continued an active role as an Opera Director and Broadcaster. He has remounted a number of his highly regarded productions for Opera Australia, State Opera of South Australia, West Australian Opera and Opera Queensland. In January 2005 he directed *Idomeneo* at the Houston Grand Opera. In 2006 his production of *La Clemenza di Tito* was revived for Opera Australia in Sydney. In 2007 he revived *Madama Butterfly* for Opera Queensland and his production of *Il trittico* was part of Opera Australia's Sydney winter season. In 2007 his production of *Madama Butterfly* was presented by Pittsburgh Opera and in 2008 was seen in Montreal, Melbourne and Sydney. He has received considerable recognition and praise for his series of opera programmes for ABC FM Radio on Sunday nights.

Born in Sydney, Moffatt became Stage Manager with the Elizabethan Trust Opera Company after graduating from the Production Course at NIDA in 1962. In 1965 he was appointed stage manager for the now historic Sutherland/Williamson Grand Opera Company Australian tour.

At the conclusion of that tour, he took up a stage management position at London's Sadler's Wells Opera and returned to Australia in 1967 to rejoin the Elizabethan Trust Opera Company. In 1969 he was appointed as the Co-ordinator of Planning; working closely with three Musical Directors of The Australian Opera - Carlo Felice Cillario, Sir Edward Downes and Richard Bonyngue.

In 1973 Moffatt became Personal Assistant to the then General Manager, John Winther, and was appointed Artistic Administrator in 1974. In July 1984 he was appointed Artistic Director of OA responsible for the direction and planning of all of the company's artistic programmes. Moffatt has also directed a number of works for the company: Puccini's *Turandot* (1970), *Il trittico* (1973), *Madama Butterfly* (1997), *La bohème* (1999), Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia* (1971), Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* (1977), Rossini's *Semiramide* (1983), Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* based on the production of the late Göran Järvefelt (1991) and a new production of *Idomeneo* (1994). He has several times rehearsed Järvefelt's production of *The Magic Flute* and devised the 1997 OzOpera production of this opera that was presented in non-proscenium arch venues in several states, and also with students of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Opera School. In 2000 he directed a new production of *Simon Boccanegra* for OA in the Olympic Arts Festival.

Moffatt Oxenbould's Manager Worldwide is Graham Pushee: [graham@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto: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

In 1989 he curated an exhibition for the Art Gallery of New South Wales on the career of Dame Joan Sutherland, which travelled to Brisbane and Adelaide. His memoir – *Timing is Everything* – was published by ABC Books in 2005.

Moffatt Oxenbould was awarded an AM for his services to Opera in 1985 and was the recipient of the Inaugural Dame Joan Hammond Award, also in recognition of his important contribution to opera. He won several Melbourne Green Room Awards, including best production and direction, for his production of *Madama Butterfly*, and in 1999 he received a special Green Room Award for his contribution to opera. In 2001, to honour his dedication to developing the talents of young Australian artists, Opera Australia named its Young Artists Development Program - The Moffatt Oxenbould Young Artist Program. He has served as Chairman of the NIDA Board of Studies, a member of the NIDA Board and a member of the Major Performing Arts Board of the Australia Council.

*Moffatt Oxenbould's Manager Worldwide is Graham Pushee: [graham@artsmanagement.com.au](mailto: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*