

AGATHE MÉLINAND

LIBRETTIST/DRAMATURG

‘Agathe Mélinand has reshaped and cut some of the longer sections, proving that – without any need for any “dusting off” of the texts – when the burlesque, the hero-comedy and the absurd are handled with so much skill the spectators still laugh at the original texts’

Stéphane Lelièvre, Olyrix, Barbe bleue, Opéra de Lyon

French dramaturg, librettist and director Agathe Mélinand works across opera and theatre, combining literary insight with a flair for inventive adaptation. Renowned for her reworkings of opera libretti – particularly the works of Offenbach in collaboration with Laurent Pelly – she has worked on productions for leading European opera houses, while her translations and adaptations of plays and musicals have brought classic works to new audiences. Alongside her creative career, she has held artistic leadership roles at major French theatres, including Théâtre national de Toulouse and Centre Dramatique National des Alpes, Grenoble.

Recent theatre work includes the translation and adaptation of Goldoni’s *L’Impresario de Smyrne*, and the French-language premiere of her new translation of *Harvey* by Mary Chase, both directed by Laurent Pelly. Other projects include the writing and realisation of *Le Petit Livre d’Anna Magdalena Bach* (MC2 : Grenoble, Caen, Paris), inspired by the film *Chronique d’Anna Magdalena Bach* and based on the *Notenbüchlein für Anna Magdalena Bach*, as well as the translation, adaptation, writing and realisation of works such as *Monsieur le 6*, *Tennessee Williams – Short Stories*, *Histoire de Babar le Petit Elephant*, *Erik Satie – Mémoires d’un Amnésique* and an adaptation of Marcel Proust – *Enfance et Adolescence de Jean Santeuil*. Other work includes the translation of Carlo Goldoni’s *Le menteur*, Carlo Gozzi’s *L’Oiseau vert* and Aristophane’s *Les Oiseaux*.

In the opera house, Agathe Mélinand has produced new dialogues and adaptations of numerous libretti. Recent projects include the translation of the dialogues for *Gypsy* by Jule Styne/Stephen Sondheim for a staging directed by Laurent Pelly for Paris Philharmonie, which toured during 2025–26, and an adaptation of Offenbach’s *Robinson Crusoe* for Théâtre des Champs Élysées. Other recent work includes an adaption of *Le Chauve Souris* in the original French for Opéra de Lille, *Lakmé* for Opéra Comique, *La périchole* for Théâtre des Champs Élysées, an adaptation of

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MAESTRO_{ARTS}

Offenbach's *Le voyage dans la Lune* for Opéra Comique (co-production with Greek National Opera and Volksoper Vienna) and Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédict* for Glyndebourne Festival. Also for Glyndebourne Festival, she wrote additional texts (derived from Goethe's *Faust*) for Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust*, directed by Richard Jones.

Renowned for her work on Offenbach, together with Pelly she has created new adaptations of numerous titles including *Robinson Crusoe* for TCE, *Le roi carotte* for Opéra de Lyon – winner of the Best Rediscovered Work category at the International Opera Awards – and *Barbe bleue* for Opéra de Lyon and Opéra de Marseille. Other adaptations include *La vie parisienne* (Lyon), *Les contes d'Hoffmann* (Lausanne, San Francisco, Barcelona, Lyon, and Deutsche Oper Berlin), *La périchole* (Théâtre des Champs Élysées), *La grande-duchesse de Gérolstein* (Théâtre du Châtelet and Grand Théâtre de Genève), *Orphée aux enfers* (Geneva and Lyon), and *La belle Hélène* (Théâtre du Châtelet, ENO and Santa Fe). Other Offenbach projects include a concert and recording with Sir Mark Elder, Opera Rara and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment of *Fantasio*, winner of the CD (Complete Opera) category at the 2015 International Opera Awards.

Her long-time collaboration with Pelly also includes new dialogues and adaptations of Donizetti's *La fille du régiment* (co-production Royal Opera London, Metropolitan Opera, New York, Wiener Staatsoper and in revival throughout the world including San Francisco, Madrid, Barcelona, Paris and Chicago), as well as Chabrier's *L'étoile* for Dutch National Opera and *Le roi malgré lui* for Opéra de Lyon and Opéra Comique.