

MARIUSZ TRELIŃSKI

DIRECTOR

‘A benchmark production... a hallucinatory nightmare... Trelinski walks the razor’s edge between the explicit and the implied, and he does it so well that we are soon unsure of what we have seen. Did that wallpaper just move? Is that a vision of Christ or a demon? Is she mad, or are we?’

Financial Times, The Fiery Angel, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence

Director Mariusz Trelinski brings both classical and contemporary aesthetics to opera productions, his background as a film director informing unique cinematic interpretations of the repertoire. He receives frequent invitations from prestigious opera houses across the world and has served as Artistic Director of Polish National Opera since 2008.

Trelinski made his operatic debut in 1996, when he was commissioned by the Warsaw Autumn Festival to direct Elzbieta Sikora’s *Heartsnatcher*, which was subsequently staged at the Pompidou Centre in Paris. He made his breakthrough in 1999 with his production of Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* for Polish National Opera, which was staged around the world, including in Washington, St Petersburg, Valencia and Tel Aviv, marking the start of his international career.

Since then, his productions have been presented across the globe, often with more than one in production at a time. Most recently, he has directed *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Polish National Opera and La Monnaie, *Peter Grimes* at Polish National Opera, *Die Frau ohne Schatten* at Opéra de Lyon, Verdi’s *La forza del destino* for Polish National Opera and Metropolitan Opera, where he previously directed Wagner’s *Tristan and Isolde*, and Hindemith’s *Cardillac* for Polish National Opera and Teatro Real, Madrid. He also directed the Warsaw premiere of Thomas Adès’s *Powder Her Face*, in association with La Monnaie and Halles de Schaerbeek in Brussels.

As an award-winning film director and graduate of Łódź Film School, Trelinski often draws on the style and techniques of classic movies and uses innovative lighting and camera angles. His 2010 production of Verdi’s *La traviata* paid homage to Bob Fosse’s film *All That Jazz* to create a vivid modern interpretation, in a production that consolidated his position as one of the great contemporary opera directors.

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MAESTROARTS

Invoking the poetry and visuals of horror movies, he brought together Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Bartók's *Bluebeard's Castle* in an inventive and complementary double bill for a 2015 co-production between Polish National Opera and Metropolitan Opera. *Iolanta* was also shown as part of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino festival at the Opera di Firenze in April 2016. His 2018 production of Prokofiev's expressionist work *The Fiery Angel* created a sensation at Festival d'Aix and Polish National Opera, conducted by Kazushi Ono and Bassem Akiki. He created a new production of Korngold's *Die tote Stadt* in its centenary year in 2020 at La Monnaie, radically reworking it at short notice in the face of the crisis.

Treliński has enjoyed long-term collaborations, having worked with stage designer Boris Kudlička since his 1999 production of *Madama Butterfly*, and with Fabien Lédé from his 2023 Lyon production of *Frau ohne Schatten*. He has worked with the world's leading conductors, including Daniel Barenboim, Kent Nagano, Lorin Maazel, Simon Rattle, Kazushi Ono, Valery Gergiev and Carlo Rizzi.

Awards

Venice Film Festival Golden Lion Nomination for *Farewell to Autumn* (1990)

Critics Award, Polish Film Festival for *Lagodna* (1995)

Cyprian Kamil Norwid Art Critic Award (2003)

Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta (2013)

Karol Szymanowski Award for *King Roger* (2001)

Paszport Polityki award for 'modern, intelligent opera productions that speak to contemporary audiences' (2001)

Konrad Swinarski Prize for directing *Andrea Chénier* and *La bohème* at the Polish National Opera (2006)

Prix de l'Europe Francophone for *Powder Her Face* (2016)

Best Director, International Opera Awards (2018)

Konrad Swinarski Prize for best director of 2019–20 season for *Halka* at Theater an der Wien and Polish National Opera (2020)