

SOPHIE HUNTER

DIRECTOR, FILM-MAKER, VISUAL ARTIST

‘Towering (in every sense)... the director is becoming increasingly acclaimed for her work in opera and classical music’

The Times

Sophie Hunter is an award-winning British artist whose work spans performance, theatre, opera, film and installation, ranging from intimate, site-specific pieces to major operatic stagings. She has directed around the world, collaborating with leading artists, musicians, cultural institutions and festivals across Europe and the United States.

Hunter brings a contemporary sensibility and psychological depth to opera, her productions characterised by a strong visual language and an immersive element. She is currently working with architect Santiago Calatrava on a new production of Poulenc’s *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Previous work includes a double bill of Weill’s *Die sieben Todsünden* and Bartók’s *Bluebeard’s Castle* for Teatro Colón; Britten’s *The Turn of the Screw* for Aldeburgh Music; and Britten’s *Phaedra* for Happy Days Festival, staged as an immersive experience in an Olympic-sized equestrian arena.

Passionate about reflecting contemporary issues through art, Hunter created the environment-focused performance and multimedia installation *Salt of the Earth*, which premiered in Venice in 2024, alongside research and community projects. Iterations were shown in New York for Climate Week and at the United Nations Conference in Nice. Interdisciplinary collaboration is key in Hunter’s work, working with composers, choreographers and visual artists to blur the boundaries between artforms. Cross-arts projects have included *69° South* with Kronos Quartet at Brooklyn Academy of Music; and *Lucretia*, an installation with performance inspired by Britten’s *The Rape of Lucretia*.

Her theatre work includes *The Terrific Electric* at London’s Barbican Centre and *Ghosts* at Access Theatre, New York. She was Associate Director on the award-winning *Enron* (Royal Court, West End, Broadway). Film projects include producing *The End We Start From* with Jodie Comer, for BBC Films and SunnyMarch (2023); a film adaptation of George Orwell’s *1984*, co-directing for New European Ensemble (2021). *Goodnight Nobody*, a television series about children’s author Margaret Wise Brown is in development. She also created a short film, *Ylur*, for Sigur Rós’ album, *Átta*.

Hunter’s artistic development was shaped by her studies at the University of Oxford where she read French and Italian, and later at the Jacques Lecoq school in Paris. Early in her career she acted in television and film, and sang on a French-language album produced by Guy Chambers. Awards and residencies include an Oxford Samuel Beckett Award, a Location One British Artist Fellowship and a Rauschenberg Residency.