Kasper Holten

Director

Kasper Holten is known internationally for his innovative stage productions. His recent works include *Carmen* on the floating stage in Bregenz, *The Turn of the Screw* at Teatro alla Scala and his staging of Szymanowski’*s* *Król Roger* at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. *Król Roger* was applauded by the critics receiving five-star reviews including *The Observer* which noted “This production of *Król Roger*, a premiere at the Royal Opera House, is bold, clear and purposeful, a triumph”. Other productions during his tenure as Opera Director at Covent Garden include *Eugene Onegin,* *Don* *Giovanni* and Wagner’s comic opera *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

Across Europe, Kasper Holten has staged *Lohengrin* for Deutsche Oper Berlin and a string of productions for Theater an der Wien including *Jakob Lenz*, *Goya, Le nozze di Figaro* and *Die Besessenen.* He also directed *Die tote Stadt* for Finnish National Opera and made his debut at Wiener Staatsoper with *Idomeneo.* His unanimously acclaimed production of Cavalli’s *L’Ormindo* was staged at Shakespeare’s Globe in the newly opened Sam Wanamaker Playhouse in 2014, and as part of the Aarhus 2017 European Capital of Culture celebrations he staged a new opera at Den Jyske Opera based on the Danish film by Susanne Brier, *Brødre*. This season Holten stages *Duke Bluebeard’s Castle* for the Hungarian State Opera on the 100th anniversary of the work’s first performance.

As Artistic Director of the Royal Danish Opera from 2000 to 2011 Holten directed productions ranging from Ligeti’s *Le grand macabre* to Lerner & Loewe’s *My Fair Lady*. His landmark staging of Wagner’s *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, known as *The Copenhagen Ring,* won a Gramophone Award following its DVD release on Decca. He left a lasting legacy there through instigating and overseeing the company’s move to the new Copenhagen opera house.

Holten's theatre work includes *Iphigenia* at the Royal Danish Playhouse, *A Clockwork* *Orange* for the Royal Dramatic Theatre in Stockholm, and Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Hamlet*.

Branching out into the world of film, in 2010 Kasper Holten directed a ground-breaking motion picture *JUAN*, a contemporary adaptation of Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* sung in a modern English translation and filmed on location in Budapest. In addition, his productions of *Eugene Onegin* for The Royal Opera, *Tannhäuser* for Royal Danish Opera and *Die tote Stadt* for Finnish National Opera have been released on DVD.

A native of Copenhagen, Kasper Holten studied theatre and music at the University of Copenhagen before working as an assistant to directors John Cox, David Pountney and Harry Kupfer. He was Artistic Director of Aarhus Sommeropera Festival 1997-2000, and has served as a member of both the Danish Music Council and the Danish Radio and TV Council. He is an Associate Professor at Copenhagen Business School.