

# Jack Furness

Stage Director



**“Shadwell Opera’s performance of *Albert Herring*, fresh, touching and assured, proved to anyone who may doubt it that opera in the UK has a bright future”**

*Fiona Maddocks, Observer*

British stage director Jack Furness has worked at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Glyndebourne Festival Opera and the Teatru Manoel in Malta. He studied music at Cambridge University, where he received a double first-class honours degree. Whilst at Cambridge, Furness founded the ambitious and innovative Shadwell Opera, of which he is Artistic Director.

In the 2019-20 season Furness makes his debut as Revival Director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Kaspar Holten's *Don Giovanni*). He also creates new productions of *The Rape of Lucretia* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and *Don Giovanni*.

Highlights of the 2018-19 season included his US debut reviving David McVicar's production of *Carmen* for Dallas Opera and a new production of *Così fan tutte* at the Teatru Manoel in Malta, which completed his cycle of the da Ponte operas for the company.

Other directing credits include *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* (Teatru Manoel, Malta); *Iolanta* and the *Opera Highlights* tour (Scottish Opera); *Written on Skin* and *Lessons in Love and Violence* (Melos Sinfonia in St Petersburg); Kurt Weill's *Down in the Valley* and *Der Jasager* (Opera North Youth Company and Scottish Opera Connect Company at the Aberdeen International Youth Theatre Festival); *Amadis de Gaule* (University College Opera); Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* (Wexford Festival); *Eugene Onegin* (Ryedale Festival Opera); *Falstaff* (Opera Integra); *I Found My Horn* (Marlowe Society); two short opera films for Shadwell Opera which were broadcast on Channel 4 and watched by over 400,000 people worldwide and a promotional film for Blackheath

Community Halls Opera. In the 2015-16 season, Furness became an Emerging Artist Director for Scottish Opera.

With Shadwell Opera, Furness has directed *Albert Herring* at Opera Holland Park; *Die Zauberflöte*, which won an RBS Herald Angel Award at the 2009 Edinburgh Fringe Festival; Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse* and a double bill of Schoenberg's *Erwartung* and Mark Anthony Turnage's *Twice through the Heart* at the Hackney Showroom; *Speech Acts* – a double-bill of George Benjamin's *Into the Little Hill* and Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* – at the Courtyard Theatre; *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Jonathan Dove's *Siren Song*; *Così fan tutte*; *In the Penal Colony* at the Arts Theatre, Leicester Square; and *Song* – a double bill of Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen* and Peter Maxwell Davies' *Eight Songs for a Mad King* at Bart's Pathology Museum.

Furness has assisted directors such as Sir David McVicar and Yoshi Oida at companies including the Glyndebourne Festival, Royal Opera House, English National Opera, Opera North and Scottish Opera. He has recently assisted on Laurent Pelly's production of *L'elisir d'amore*, Andrei Serban's production of *Turandot* and a new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* by Robert Carsen, all at the Royal Opera House.

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