

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 is the founder and Artistic Director of Shadwell Opera. He studied music at Cambridge University, where he received a double first-class honours degree, and in the 2015–16 season he was an Emerging Artist Director for Scottish Opera.

In the 2020–21 season he creates new productions of *Don Giovanni* (Nevill Holt Opera), *Giulio Cesare* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland) and *Flight* (Royal Northern College of Music).

Recent highlights include his debut as Revival Director at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (Kasper Holten’s *Don Giovanni*), 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.

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

Other directing credits include *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni* (Teatru Manoel, Malta); *Iolanta* and the *Opera Highlights* tour (Scottish Opera); *The Rape of Lucretia* (Royal Conservatoire of Scotland); *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.

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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