

# James Robinson

Stage Director



**“When Opera Theatre of Saint Louis announced a revival of *Emmeline* for this season, it raised the obvious question of whether the opera would live up to its original reputation. The answer was a resounding yes when it returned on June 13 in an enthralling production by James Robinson.”**

*Opera*

American stage director James Robinson is Artistic Director at the Opera Theatre of St. Louis where he has mounted productions including Blitzstein's *Regina*, the world premieres of Blanchard's opera-in-jazz *Champion* and Jack Perla's *Shalimar the Clown*, Adams' *The Death of Klinghoffer* and Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Elsewhere, Robinson has directed new productions for the Santa Fe Opera (*Vanessa, Dr Sun Yat Sen, Così fan tutte*), Houston Grand Opera (*Giulio Cesare, Nixon in China, Abduction from the Seraglio*), San Francisco Opera (*Dolores Clairborne, Il tritico, L'elisir d'amore*), the Wexford Festival (*Ghosts of Versailles*) and Seattle Opera (*Carmen*). His work has also been seen at Opera Australia, Royal Swedish Opera, Washington National Opera, Canadian Opera Company, New York City Opera and many others. He directed Bernstein's *Mass* for the London Symphony Orchestra with Marin Alsop and Shaffer's *Amadeus* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic at the Hollywood Bowl.

Engagements in the 2018-19 season include *Elektra* (Canadian Opera Company) and *Porgy and Bess* (English National Opera, Dutch National Opera and Metropolitan Opera).

Highlights of the 2017-18 season included *L'elisir d'amore* (Canadian Opera Company); *Giulio Cesare* and *The House without a Christmas Tree*

(Houston Grand Opera). Other recent highlights include the critically acclaimed world première of *Champion* by jazz and film composer Terence Blanchard for the Opera Theatre of St. Louis:

“Stage director James Robinson keeps it relentlessly interesting to watch throughout.” (Denver Post)

“In OTSL artistic director James Robinson's production, with Allan Moyer's simple black sets and projections and video by Greg Emetaz, the action moves fluidly and cinematically between the worlds of Old Emile, lost in anxious dementia, and Young Emile, as he rises in the world of boxing and then falls, the victim of arrogance and too many blows to the head.” (St Louis Today)

Other recent engagements include new productions for Houston Grand Opera (*Lucia di Lammermoor*); San Francisco Opera (*Norma*); and the Canadian Opera Company (*Norma, Elektra* and *Nixon in China*). For the Santa Fe Opera, he has directed new productions of *Capriccio, Così fan tutte* and *The Rake's Progress*, and numerous productions for the New York City Opera (*La bohème, Hansel and Gretel* and *Il viaggio a Reims*).

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