

# Rodula Gaitanou

Stage Director



" Rodula Gaitanou's thoughtful new production for Opera Holland Park treads a delicate line between heart and horror, keeping its feet even as the story and its protagonists start their dizzy whirl into the climactic final dance-to-the-death... Gaitanou's direction is sensitive and sympathetic, capturing the opera's widescreen spectacle and its intimate awfulness."  
**Alexandra Coghlan, The Arts Desk, 10 June 2019**

London-based stage director **Rodula Gaitanou** was nominated in the Best Director category at the International Opera Awards for her stunning new production of *La Traviata* last summer at Opera Holland Park. In Season 2019/20, she returns to Wexford Festival Opera to direct her new production of *Don Quichotte*, and travels to Germany to direct *Un ballo in Maschera* at Oldenburgisches Staatstheater. At Bergen Opera she directs *La Clemenza di Tito* before traveling to Opera Theatre of St Louis to direct *Carmen* in her American debut.

Last season Rodula directed a widely acclaimed new production of *L'oracolo/La Mala Vita* on a double bill to open Wexford Opera Festival, and she returned to Gothenburg Opera as revival director of *Pagliacci/Cavalleria Rusticana*. Miss Gaitanou directed a new production of *Un Ballo in Maschera* at Opera Holland Park, generating exceptional reviews from critics and colleagues alike.

Previous highlights include new productions of *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Göteborgs Operan, Sweden, *La traviata* at Opera Holland Park, London, *Guillaume Tell* at Victorian Opera, Melbourne, Australia and *Lucia de Lammermoor* at Opera Hedeland, Hedehusene, Denmark.

Originally a violinist, Rodula Gaitanou studied the Mousikoi Orizontes Conservatory in Athens where she was born and continued her studies in Musicology at La Sorbonne University in Paris. She switched to Opera Staging at Université Paris 8 and undertook Physical Theatre studies at the International Theatre School Jacques Lecoq.

After a season as resident director in the Jette Parker Young Artists programme at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Rodula maintains an active relationship at the House. He has worked extensively as

associate and revival director for other major opera houses and festivals in Europe (Britain, Spain, France, Italy, Ireland) as well as establishing a career in Australia.

Some of her recent productions and revivals include *Queen of Spades* for Opera Holland Park, UK; *Pagliacci* for Teatro Nacional São Carlos and Opera Australia; *Cavalleria Rusticana* at Opera Australia; *Vanessa* for Wexford Festival Opera; *La Cenerentola* for Teatro Verdi di Trieste; *Don Pasquale* at Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia; *Tosca* for the Xi'an Concert Hall, China; *Così fan tutte* and *La Cenerentola* for Greek National Opera; *L'isola disabitata* for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden and Hobart Baroque; *Ariane, Alexandre bis, San Giovanni Battista* and *The Cooper* for Guildhall School of Music and Drama; *Riders to the Sea, Savitri* and *The Bartered Bride* for British Youth Opera; *Betrothal in a Monastery* for RCS/Scottish Opera; a new version of *Carmen* at London's King's Head Theatre; *Dichterliebe* in the ROH Linbury Studio; a site-specific performance of *Rusalka* for Opera North; a devised youth opera *Where The Love* for Arcola Theatre; *Suor Angelica* for MOC; *Orfeo* and *Das Lied von der Erde* for Paris 8 Opera.

Rodula was nominated for two Helpmann Awards (Australia 2013) in the "Best Opera Director" and "Best Opera Production" categories for her production of *L'isola disabitata* presented by the Hobart Baroque Festival. Her production of Barber's *Vanessa* was nominated in the Irish Times Theatre Awards in the "Best Opera" category (Ireland 2017).

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**[info@rayfieldallied.com](mailto:info@rayfieldallied.com)**