

# Alison Chitty

Designer



“Stylishly designed by Alison Chitty and directed by Stephen Langridge, the entire show reeks of lavish production values”  
*Anthony Holden, The Observer*

Alison Chitty trained at St Martin’s School of Art and Central School of Art and Design. She won an Arts Council bursary to the Victoria Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent, where she became resident designer for seven years and designed over 40 productions. In 1979 she returned to London to work at the Hampstead Theatre, Riverside Studios, Royal Shakespeare Company and the West End.

She was resident designer at the National Theatre for 8 years. Her work there has included **A Month in the Country**, **Don Juan**, **Much Ado About Nothing**, **Venice Preserv’d** (British Drama Award), **Antigone**, **Remembrance Of Things Past** (Olivier award for Best Costume Design), and **Fool For Love**, which transferred to the West End. She received Olivier Award nominations for **She Stoops to Conquer** and **Martine**. She designed Sir Peter Hall’s productions of **Antony and Cleopatra**, the late Shakespeares and **The Bacchae**. Other work with Sir Peter Hall includes **Orpheus Descending** (Haymarket and Broadway) and **The Rose Tattoo** (Playhouse).

Alison Chitty has designed numerous opera productions in the UK and worldwide, including **The Marriage Of Figaro** for Opera North; **New Year** for Houston Grand Opera and Glyndebourne Festival; **Gawain**, **The Bartered Bride**, **Billy Budd** (winner Olivier Award Best Opera Production 1995) and **Arianna** for Royal Opera House Covent Garden; **Falstaff** for Goteborg Opera; **Jenufa** for Dallas Opera; **Cavalleria Rusticana / I Pagliacci** at the Royal Albert Hall; **Billy Budd** in Geneva; **Blond Eckbert**, **Modern Painters** and **Dialogue Des Carmelites** for Santa Fe Opera; **Khovanshchina** (winner Olivier Award Best Opera Production 1994), **Così fan tutte** and **La Vestale** for English National Opera; **Billy Budd** in Paris, Dallas, Houston and Los Angeles; **Die Meistersinger** in Copenhagen; **Turandot** for Opera de Paris; **Der Fliegende Hollander** and **Giulio Cesare** in Bordeaux; **L’Heure Espagnole** and **L’Enfant et les Sortilèges** for Stichting Opera Zuid; **Tristan und Isolde** in Chicago and Seattle; **Otello** for Bayerische Staatsoper Munich; **Aida** in Geneva; **The Last Supper** for Staatsoper Berlin and Glyndebourne on Tour; Birtwistle **The Io Passion** for the Aldeburgh, Almeida and Bregenz festivals; and Birtwistle **The Minotaur** which premiered at the Royal Opera House in 2008.

Her production designs include several Mike Leigh films, including **Life Is Sweet**, **Naked** and **Secrets And Lies**, winner of the *Palm d’Or* at Cannes and Academy Award Nominee for Best Picture. Other directors she has worked with include Martin Duncan, Peter Gill, Edward Hall, Stephen

Langridge, Stephen Pimlott and Francesca Zambello. She designed **Turn of the Screw** for BBC Television.

Alison Chitty has advised on the design and construction of theatre buildings in Stoke-on-Trent, Delhi and Johannesburg. Most recently she was Concept Theatre Designer for Sir Peter Hall’s new Rose Theatre in Kingston and was Associate Designer at Chichester Festival Theatre 2003 – 2005 where her productions included **Merchant of Venice**, **King Lear**, **The Seagull** and **The Master and Margarita**.

She is a frequent lecturer and advisor in theatre design, and was director of the internationally renowned Motley Theatre Design School.

Recent new productions include **Nabucco** for Teatro alla Scala Milan and Royal Opera House Covent Garden, **Theodora** for the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, **Parsifal** and a revival of Birtwistle’s **The Minotaur** for the Royal Opera House, the premiere of Birtwistle’s **The Cure** with a revival of **The Corridor** for the Aldeburgh Festival and Royal Opera House which then toured to the Holland Festival, **Pirates of Penzance** with director Mike Leigh for English National Opera, **Two Thousands Years** by Mike Leigh at the National Theatre, **Voysey Inheritance** (Olivier Award for Best Costume Design) also for the National Theatre, **Days of Wine and Roses** at the Donmar Warehouse, **Rigoletto** for Teatro la Fenice Venice, **Betrothal in a Monastery** in Toulouse and Paris, **Ecstasy** at the Hampstead Theatre and West End, **La Forza del Destino** for Opera Holland Park, **Hippolite et Aricie** for Nationale Reisopera Holland, Birtwistle’s **The Corridor** for Bregenz and Aldeburgh and **A Midsummer Marriage** for Chicago Lyric Opera.

Current productions include a **Ring cycle** at Göteborg Opera, directed by Stephen Langridge.

She was awarded an OBE in 2004, received the Young Vic Award in 2008, was made a Royal Designer for Industry in 2009 by the Royal Society of Arts and received an Honorary Fellowship from the University of the Arts London in 2013. .

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