

Jack Furness

Stage Director



“... this is an overwhelmingly convincing staging of a genuine music drama, and it will surely come to be seen as one of Garsington’s most notable milestones.”

Martin Kettle, The Guardian

★★★★

British stage director **Jack Furness** is the inaugural Boiler Room Producer at Welsh National Opera, and works regularly with leading houses throughout the UK and Europe. He studied music at Cambridge University, where he founded Shadwell Opera, of which he was Artistic Director until 2025. His work has been described by the Guardian as ‘overwhelmingly convincing’ and ‘witty and engaging’, and by the Telegraph as ‘magnificent’.

This season, as well as taking up his post as Boiler Room Producer at Welsh National Opera, he directs the National Opera Studio’s residence at WNO, and returns to the London Handel festival for a revival of **Aci by the River**, of which his previous direction was described by the Times as full of ‘wit, passion and elegance’.

Recent directing credits include **The Importance of Being Earnest** (Garsington Opera), **Der Fliegende Holländer** (Welsh National Opera), **Turandot** (Royal Opera and Ballet), **Hamlet** (Buxton International Festival), **Hansel and Gretel** (Royal Academy of Music), **The Queen of Spades** (Garsington Opera), **Candide** (Scottish Opera); **Aci, Galatea e Polifemo** (London Handel Festival), **Faust** (Irish National Opera), **The Snow Maiden** (Royal Northern College of Music), **Rusalka** (Garsington Opera, Edinburgh International Festival), **Don Giovanni** (Nevill Holt Opera), **Gianni Schicchi** (Copenhagen Opera Festival), and **Dido and Aeneas** (Royal Academy of Music)

For Shadwell Opera he directed and produced a string of critically-acclaimed works over a 15 year period. Alongside conductor Finnegan Downie Dear, Shadwell commissioned a new opera from Isabella Gellis, **The Devil’s Den** which he

directed in partnership with Opera North at the Howard Assembly Rooms. Other Shadwell productions include Oliver Knussen’s **Where the Wild Things Are** (Alexandra Palace Theatre and Mariinsky Concert Hall, St Petersburg); **Albert Herring** (Opera Holland Park); **Die Zauberflöte**, which won a 2009 RBS Herald Angel Award (Edinburgh Fringe Festival); **Così fan tutte, A Midsummer Night’s Dream**, Jonathan Dove’s **Siren Song**, and **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).

Valid for use in 2026/27 season
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