

Barrie Kosky

Stage Director



"...a showman through and through, who operates with a young idealist's belief in the power of theater and a brazen disregard for divisions between so-called high and low art..."

New York Times

Barrie Kosky is one of the most internationally acclaimed theatre and opera directors of our time. From 2012-22 he was Intendant of the Komische Oper Berlin where his eclectic and radical programming of opera, operetta and musicals garnered the house many international awards and public recognition. His production of *The Magic Flute* has been seen in over 45 international cities by nearly a million people worldwide.

Other major productions at the Komische Oper Berlin include *The Monteverdi Trilogy*, which featured Monteverdi's three major operas played over 12 hours in one day, *Eugene Onegin*, *Moses und Aron*, *Rusalka*, *Rigoletto*, *La Bohème*, *Le Grand Macabre*, *The Bassarids*, *West Side Story*, *Semele*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Pelleas et Melisandre*, *Chicago*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Candide*, *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* and *Akhnaten*.

His productions of the jazz operettas of the Weimar have republic received international acclaim and are still running in repertoire at the Komische Oper Berlin. Some of Barrie's most iconic opera productions include those for Bayerische Staatsoper (*Die Schweigsame Frau*, *Agrippina*, *The Fiery Angel*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Die Fledermaus*), the Salzburg Festival (*Orphée aux Enfers*, *Kat'a Kabanovna*, *Hotel Metamorphosis*.), Glyndebourne Festival Opera (*Saul*, *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*), Bayreuther Festspiele (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Festival d'Aix en Provence (*Falstaff*, *Coq d'Or*), Wiener Staatsoper (The complete Da Ponte cycle), Opera Zürich (*La Fanciulla del West*, *Die Gezeichneten*, *Macbeth*, *Boris Gudonov* and *The Merry Widow*), Opéra National de Paris (*Prince Igor* and *Les Brigands*), Dutch National Opera (*Armide*, *Tosca*, *Turandot* and *Il Trittico*) and Royal Opera House Covent Garden (*The Nose*, *Agrippina*, *Das Rheingold*).

He has also presented his productions at many international opera houses including Oper Frankfurt, the Los Angeles Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Gran Liceu Barcelona, the Norwegian Opera, the Royal Danish Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera and the Opéra National du Rhin. Barrie's new production of the *The Threepenny Opera* for the Berliner Ensemble has been seen in New York City, Rome, Adelaide, Amsterdam and the Edinburgh International Festival.

Barrie's awards include The Laurence Olivier Award for Best Opera Production for *Castor and Pollux* (2011), Best Director at the International Opera Awards (2014 and 2023), Best Director for Opernwelt (2016), Best Production for Opernwelt for *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (2017), the 2015 Gold Medal from the Berlin Theatre Club and the 2016 Royal Philharmonic Society Award for *Saul*. In 2020 he was the recipient of the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award in recognition of his unique and influential contribution to the Australian Arts Award.

In 2022 Barrie received the Verdienstorden des Landes Berlin and in 2024 he received the Bundesverdienstkreuz, the highest civilian honour of German government for his extraordinary contribution to the artistic life of Germany. 2024 also saw Barrie's announcement as the recipient of that year's Antonin Dvorak Prize, one of the Czech Republic's highest honours, which recognises Barrie's exceptional contribution to popularising Czech classical music in the Czech Republic and abroad.

Barrie Kosky has very strong artistic relationships with some of the leading opera conductors of our time, including Vladimir Jurowski, Sir Antonio Pappano, Jakub Hrůša, Lorenzo Viotti, Robin Ticciati and manuelle Haim.

Future new productions include the next instalment of his full Ring cycle, *Siegfried* at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, *Christmas Eve* at Bayerische Staatsoper, Munich, *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* for Komische Oper and a new Talmudic Music Show based on Kafka's *The Trial* for Berliner Ensemble. Barrie will also return to the Salzburg and Aix Festivals in Summer 2026 with new productions.

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