

Barrie Kosky

Director



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

The New York Times

Barrie Kosky is one of the most internationally renowned theatre and opera directors of our time. From 2012 to 2022, he was the celebrated artistic director and chief director of the Komische Oper Berlin. During this time, through his eclectic and radical programming of opera, operetta, and musical, he shaped a wide range of highly successful productions. Under his leadership, the Komische Oper Berlin received broad public recognition as well as international awards. His production of *The Magic Flute* has already been seen by almost one million people worldwide in over 45 cities across the globe.

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*, *Die Bassarids*, *West Side Story*, *Semele*, *Fiddler On The Roof*, *La Cage Aux Folles*, *Castor et Pollux*, *Pelléas et Mélisandre*, *Chicago*, *Candide*, *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* and *Lady Macbeth von Mzensk*. His productions of jazz operettas from the Weimar Republic have garnered international acclaim and continue to be performed as part of the Komische Oper Berlin’s repertoire.

Some of Barrie Kosky’s most iconic opera productions include those for Bayerische Staatsoper (*Die Schweigsame Frau*, *Agrippina*, *The Fiery Angel*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *Die Fledermaus*), the Salzburg Festival (*Orphée aux Enfers*, *Kát’a Kabanová*, *Hotel Metamorphosis*, *Il Viaggio a Reims*), Glyndebourne Festival Opera (*Saul*, *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*), Bayreuther Festspiele (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Festival d’ Aix-en-Provence (*Falstaff*, *Coq d’Or*, *Songs and Fragments*, *Die Frau ohne Schatten*), Wiener Staatsoper (the complete Da Ponte cycle), Opera Zürich (*La Fanciulla del West*, *Die Gezeichneten*, *Macbeth*, *Boris Gudonov*, *The Merry Widow* and *Manon Lescaut*), Opéra National de Paris (*Prinz Igor* and *Les Brigands*), Dutch National Opera (*Armide*, *Tosca*, *Turandot* and *Il Trittico*), Berliner Ensemble (*The Threepenny Opera*, *K. - Ein talmudisches Tingeltangel rund um Kafkas "Prozess"*) and Royal Opera House Covent Garden (*The Nose*, *Agrippina*, *Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried*).

He has also presented his productions at many international opera houses including Oper Frankfurt, the Los Angeles Opera, Teatro Real Madrid, Gran Teatre del Liceu Barcelona, the Norwegian National Opera & Ballet, the Royal Danish Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera and the Opéra National du Rhin.

Barrie Kosky’s new production of *The Threepenny Opera* for the Berliner Ensemble has been seen in Rome, Adelaide, Amsterdam, New York, Shanghai und Edinburgh.

Barrie Kosky’s awards include The Laurence Olivier Award for Best Opera Production for *Castor et 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 2026, he received the Oper! Award as Best Director and for the Best Production, *Hotel Metamorphosis*.

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.

Future new productions include the next instalment of his full Ring cycle, *Götterdämmerung*, at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Staatsoper Wien, *Red Fox. Or, When Bathing in the Waterfall*, *Memory is of No Consequence* at the Dutch National Opera and *Porgy & Bess* at Komische Oper Berlin. In July 2027, he will stage a new musical adaptation of *Yentl the Yeshiva Boy* as part of the Bard Music Festival.

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