

Max Webster

Director



"Dazzlingly original... sophisticated dramatic invention... an outstanding evening from a fine team, reinventing a great opera"

The Telegraph

Max Webster is a Tony and Olivier Award-nominated director working internationally across theatre and opera. Renowned for his imaginative approach to storytelling, visual flair and ability to draw compelling performances from actors and singers, his work encompasses new writing, reimagined classics, opera and live music.

Max has established a major international theatre career, with productions in the West End, on Broadway and at many of the UK's leading theatres. His landmark production of *Life of Pi* transferred from Sheffield Crucible to the West End and Broadway, winning five Olivier Awards and three Tony Awards and subsequently playing across Europe, North America and Asia. Max was nominated for the Tony Award for Best Direction of a Play for the Broadway production.

Recent theatre highlights include *The Importance of Being Earnest* for the National Theatre and West End starring Stephen Fry; *Macbeth*, starring David Tennant and Cush Jumbo, at the Donmar Warehouse and in the West End; *Titus Andronicus* for the Royal Shakespeare Company and Hampstead Theatre; *The Real Thing* at the Old Vic; and *Henry V*, starring Kit Harington, at the Donmar Warehouse. His work has also been seen at Shakespeare's Globe, Regent's Park Open Air Theatre, the Royal Exchange Manchester and internationally in Japan, the United States and beyond.

Opera has been a strand of Max's work since the beginning of his career and is now an increasing focus of his international work. Recent opera includes Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* at The Grange Festival, while in 2027 he makes his Glyndebourne Festival debut with a new production of Rossini's *La*

Cenerentola. Previous productions include *La bohème* for Göteborg Opera, *The Merry Widow* for English National Opera and an Opera Highlights tour for Scottish Opera.

Max began his career in opera, working as a staff director at leading European houses including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, English National Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Opéra de Lyon and Dutch National Opera. His extensive subsequent experience in theatre – encompassing intimate drama, Shakespeare, new writing and large-scale visual storytelling – informs an approach to opera rooted in character, theatrical immediacy and the relationship between music and dramatic narrative.

Max studied English at Cambridge before training at L'École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq in Paris. He subsequently worked as a long-term associate to Simon McBurney at Complicité and has held positions including Baylis Director and Associate Director at the Old Vic and Associate Director at the Donmar Warehouse.

Valid for use until 1 September 2027
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