



FRANÇOIS RACINE STAGE DIRECTOR

BIOGRAPHY

"From an aesthetic point of view, François Racine's staging is a gem. The subtle lighting effects, using a colour palette that seems to reflect the characters' very soul, the coherent style and the use of a refined body language (choreography by Etienne Frey) make this a mesmerizing show."

Dido and Aeneas, Theatre Bleue, Switzerland
Denise de Ceuninck, *L'Express*

"Once more, the University of Montréal offers the sound and substance of music theatre presented with taste, cleverness, delicacy and efficiency. Both the set designer Carl Pelletier and the lighting designer Nicolas Descoteaux provided a functional setting that was just right for the excellent director François Racine. To do so much so well with such simple resources is brilliant."

Les Dialogues des Carmelites, University of Montréal
Christophe Huss, *Le Devoir*

Canadian director François Racine is firmly established as one of the most visionary leaders on today's opera scene, engaged by companies throughout North America and beyond.

Named "Best Artist of 2008/9" by **Seattle Opera** for his powerful staging of *Bluebeard's Castle / Erwartung*, Mr. Racine received accolades for *Così fan Tutte* with **Pacific Opera Victoria** and for his innovative interpretation of *Dido and Aeneas* in Chaux de Fonds, Switzerland in 2010.

While a member of the **Canadian Opera Company Ensemble**, Mr. Racine assisted Robert LePage on his productions of *Erwartung* and *Bluebeard's Castle*, and later supervised and restaged performances at Edinburgh, Hong Kong and Melbourne Festivals and later in Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto, Cincinnati, Montreal, Quebec and Seattle.

François Racine has a long association with Pacific Opera Victoria (*Carmen, Madama Butterfly, La Bohème*) as well as the **Canadian Opera Company** (*Un Ballo in Maschera, Carmen, Norma*), and **L'Opera de Montréal** (*Rigoletto, Macbeth, Werther*).

In collaboration with Kent Nagano and **L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal**, Mr. Racine staged concert versions of *Tannhäuser, Norma, La Sonnambula* and *Saint-François d'Assise* (Messiaen) and with Yannick Nezet-Seguín and **Orchestre Métropolitain at Orford Art Centre**, he staged *La Clemenza di Tito*.

François works frequently with young artists, and is a guest professor for the Opera Studio of McGill University, where he directed *Tragedie de Carmen*, and *La Rondine*. In 2005 he was awarded the Prix Opus for Evenement de l'année for his production of Somers' *Louis Riel*. He returned to McGill to direct Handel's *Rinaldo* and *L'Elisir d'amore*. In recent seasons, François has directed *La Tragedie de Carmen* and *Così fan tutte* at Richard Margison's **Highlands Opera Studio**, *Nabucco* at Seattle Opera, and *Rigoletto* for L'Opera de Quebec.

Domoney Artists
MANAGEMENT

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