



# 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 Carmélites, University of Montréal*  
Christophe Huss, Le Devoir

Canadian director Francois 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.

Francois 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 *Tannhauser, Norma, La Sonnambula* and *Saint-François d'Assise* (Messiaen) and with Yannick Nezet-Seguin and **Orchestre Metropolitain at Orford Art Centre**, he staged *La Clemenza di Tito*.

Francois 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'annee for his production of Somers' *Louis Riel*. He returns to McGill to direct Handel's *Rinaldo*, and writes and directs "La recreation de Mozart" for Jeunesses Musicales in December, 2012. This summer, students at Richard Margison's **Highlands Opera Studio** were directed in "La Tragedie de Carmen", and Francois was Acting Coach for singers at **Centre d'Arts d'Orford**.

Mr. Racine works closely with **Atelier Lyrique de L'Opera de Montréal**, where he has directed productions of *Così fan Tutte, Dido and Aeneas* and *Amelia Goes to the Ball*. In 2012, Francois directed *La Traviata* and *Pagliacci* for Montreal's Opera Immediat.

As Opera Acting Professor at L'Universite de Montreal, Francois directed Debussy's *Pelleas et Melisande* in 2012 and returned this season for Poulenc's *Dialogues des Carmélites*.

*Domoney Artists*  
MANAGEMENT

Kathy J Domoney, Director  
23 Northview Ave Toronto ON M1N1V9  
416.892.4382 [kathy@domoneyartists.com](mailto:kathy@domoneyartists.com)  
[www.domoneyartists.com](http://www.domoneyartists.com)