



brennecke
art



Michał Znaniecki

Director, designer and playwright Michał Znaniecki was born in Warsaw where he attended the Academy of Dramatic Arts, subsequently completing his studies in Brussels, Bologna and Milan.

His directing career began in 1994 with productions in Poland, France, Belgium, Ireland and Italy with Italian and Polish modern playwrights, Shakespeare, Lorca and Marlowe.

His work with actors was concentrated on techniques of improvisation and construction of characters following the method of Thierry Salmon. At that time he was also attracted by the musical world, participating in several music productions like *The Marriage of Gogol* /Mussorgsky, *Les belles soeurs* of Tremblay and others. His first opera to direct was *La Molinara*

(Paisiello), and since then he has worked on more than one hundred operatic productions, bringing him to the main theatres of Warsaw, Poznan, Florence, Como, Cagliari, Bologna, Milan, and Rome among others. He has directed the operas of Verdi, Donizetti, Bizet, Orefice, Haydn, Mozart, Rossini, Halévy, Pergolesi, Moniuszko, Strauss, Berlioz, Monteverdi, Verdi and others. In 1995 he was invited by the Teatro alla Scala in Milan to produce (write, direct, and design) the multilingual project *Autour de Chopin*, a show inspired by the salons of the romantic period. In 1996 this piece inaugurated the new hall of the National Theater in Warsaw.

He is the founder of Ape Teatrale which brings lesser-known works to spaces other than traditional theatres, performing in gardens, squares, churches and streets in the main towns of Poland and Italy. He has collaborated with several festivals in Europe (10 volte Faust-Como (artistic director), Cantiere Internazionale di Montepulciano (Pierino e il lupo\Prokofiev, 1999) , Rossini Opera Festival- Pesaro (Labirinto Leopardi, 1998), Pergolesi Spontni Festival- Iesi (Metastasiana 2002, A Midsummer Night's Dream 2003), Opera Wexford Festival (Straszny dwor\ Moniuszko, 1999, The Threepenny Opera\Weill, 1999, Die Drei Pintos \ Mahler-Weber, 2003), Luglio Musicale Trapanese (Macbeth, 2001, Simon Boccanegra, 2002, Rigoletto, 2003, Un ballo in maschera, 2005), Zdarzenia teatralne, Tczew (Romeo @ Giulietta, 2001) and the most important drama schools in Italy, Poland and Austria. As a teacher he follows several didactic projects and stages with students and groups interested in theatrical education and multi-culture exchanges, collaborating with LIMENTEATRO of Turin. Since 2005 Michał Znaniecki has also been the Artistic Director of Association CON-TEATRO.

Last years' productions: *Bella dormiente nel bosco*\Respighi (Teatro Comunale di Bologna), *El retablo de Maese Pedro*\De Falla (Lugo Festival, Teatro Comunale Bologna, Teatro Verdi Sassari), *L'isola Disabitata* \Haydn (Teatro Verdi Trieste), *Mose in Egitto* (Teatro Verdi Sassari),



Mandragora \Szymanowski (Festival delle Nazioni), L'Ape Musicale\Da Ponte (Teatro Pergolesi Jesi), Ascanio in Alba\Mozart (T. Comunale Bologna), Man and Boy: Dada\Nyman (Piccolo Teatro Regio Torino), Histoire du Soldat\Stravinsky (Teatro Verdi Sassari), Esther\Praszczałek (Opera Wroclawska), Hagith \ Szymanowski (Opera Wroclaw), Don Giovanni\ Mozart (Teatro Grande Brescia, Opera Massy, Paris, Teatro Sociale Como, Teatro Ponchielli Cremona), Così fan Tutte \ Mozart (Opera Wroclawska), Così fan Tutte\ Mozart (Luglio Musicale Trapanese).

In 2007 he produced the Alfano's Cyrano de Bergerac with Plácido Domingo and Sondra Radvanovski in Valencia. After that he produced Rigoletto in Wroclaw Opera House and Trapani, Bluebirds Castle of Bartók in Bilbao, an open-air Elisir d'amore of Donizetti for the Water Festival. His production of the musical Jekyll & Hyde in Chorzów received the Golden Mask Award as The Best Show of the Year.

The beginning of 2008 was dedicated to Mozart's Così fan Tutte in Bilbao Opera House in Spain ABAO.

As the new Artistic Director of the Polish National Opera he produced Lucia di Lammermoor in Warsaw, L'italiana in Algeri in Łódź, Samson et Dalila in Bologna and open-air Otello of Verdi in Wroclaw.

In 2009 he produced L'Elisir 'amore, Don Giovanni, Lucrezia Borgia, Samson et Dalila and the musical The Producers (the new Golden Mask award as The Best Director). Since 1st of July 2012, Michał Znaniecki has been the new General Manager of Teatr Wielki Opera Poznań in Poland, collaborating with the Israeli Opera (Ernani), Teatro Argentino de La Plata, ABAO Bilbao, Opera Kraków, Teatro Sódre de Montevideo (Oniegin), Teatro Verdi di Pisa (Candide) and Teatro La Maestranza de Sevilla and Teatro Real de Madrid (EL diario de un desaparecido, Janacek).

Since 2008 the most important part of his work is in South America. He cooperated with Teatro Argentino de La Plata, Teatro Colón/Buenos Aires, Teatro Solís/Montevideo, Opera in Manaus (Brazil) and many other places. His last production was Hagith by Karol Szymanowski in Teatro Colón. This opening night started the cooperation with Teatro Colón and the next productions are being planned now.

His Evgenij Oniegin (ABAO, Bilbao) received an Award Premios Liricos Teatro Campoamor as the Best New Production of the Year 2011 in Spain.

The Polish Minister of Culture has awarded Michał Znaniecki with a Gloria Artis silver medal. This year he celebrates the 20 year anniversary of his artistic work.

Last Update: October 2012