

Rafael R. Villalobos
Stage Director



Winner of the 2019 Princess of Girona Foundation Arts and Literature Award and of the 2013 Opera Europa - Camerata Nuova Europäischer Opernregie-Preis, Rafael R. Villalobos is quickly gaining international recognition as one of the most interesting young stage directors to come out of Spain. He was a finalist in the Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells Director Fellowship competition, an artist-in-residence at the Academy of Spain in Rome, nominated for the Best Young Director at the 2016 International Opera Awards in London and a Semi-Finalist in the 9th Ring Award in Graz.

Most recent engagements include *Tosca* for La Monnaie in Brussels, in co-production with Opéra national de Montpellier, scenes from Donizetti's 'Tudor Trilogy' for the Gran Teatre del Liceu as well Handel's *Orlando* the Festival Castell de Peralada. *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Opéra national de Montpellier, *Così fan tutte* at the Teatro de la Maestranza in Seville and Germán Alonso's *Marie* at Teatro Real in Madrid. Elsewhere, he has produced *Acis and Galetea* for the Festival Castell de Peralada, *Dido and Aeneas* for Teatro Real, *Elektra* at the Auditorio Nacional de Música, Madrid, Sciarrino's *Superflumina* at Teatro Massimo, *Hänsel und Gretel* for the Hungarian State Opera, Krenek's *Der Diktator* at Teatro de la Maestranza, Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice* at Teatro Villamarta and a critically acclaimed staged version of Britten's *Noye's Fludde* in Wiesbaden.

Rafael R. Villalobos is particularly interested in exploring the limits of traditional opera and the transversality of contemporary theatre performance, which forms the basis of several of his creations: his own work *A Welcome Guest: micro opera for a single performer*, a loose adaptation of *Dido and Aeneas* by H. Purcell and starring pop singer Pere Jou, *ROMAESAMORALREVES*, based on works by Carderón de la Barca, at Bramante's Tempio in Rome, as well as *Hagiografías*, a solo performance by De La Purísima in collaboration with the Cuarteto Quiroga and Orkestra Mendoza, at the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid.

Future productions include *Tosca* for Gran Teatre del Liceu, Philip Glass's *Orphée*

for Teatro Real in collaboration with Teatros del Canal in Madrid as well as Vicente Martin y Soler's *L'Arbore di Diana* at Theater an der Wien.

Drawn to theatre and music from a very early age, Rafael R. Villalobos studied singing at the Conservatorio Cristóbal de Morales in his hometown, Seville. He holds a BA in Performing Arts from the RESAD [Royal School for Dramatic Arts] in Madrid and a first-class honours MA with distinction in Music as Interdisciplinary Art from the University of Barcelona in conjunction with the ESMUC [Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya]. He also studied at the Central School of Speech and Drama in London and has attended workshops and masterclasses with Vincent Dumestre, Eduardo Arroyo and Mario Gas.

In 2019 Rafael R Villalobos was named artistic director of [DxM], a series of experimental musical theatre projects commissioned by the ICAS in Seville. In the season 2019/2020 he was the artistic coordinator of the Ópera y Juventud youth workshops for Ópera XXI, the Association of Spanish Theatres and Festivals. He teaches at the Menéndez Pelayo International University.

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info@sorekartists.com - www.sorekartists.com