

Damiano Michieletto – Biography

Within only a short space of time **Damiano Michieletto** has emerged on the international scene as one of the most interesting representatives of the younger generation of Italian directors. He studied opera and theatre production at the Paolo Grassi School of Dramatic Art in Milan and also graduated in modern literature at the university in Venice, his home town. His critically acclaimed production of Jaromír Weinberger's *Švanda the Bagpiper* at the 2003 Wexford Festival won an *Irish Times* / ESB Theatre Award. His other opera productions include *L'italiana in Algeri* at the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza, *La gazza ladra* in a co-production for the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro and the opera houses in Bologna and Verona (the production won the 2008 Premio Franco Abbiati), *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Il corsaro*, *Luisa Miller* and *Poliuto* in Zurich, *Roméo et Juliette* and a Mozart/Da Ponte cycle at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, *La scala di seta* at the Rossini Opera Festival and at La Scala, Milan, *Il barbiere di Siviglia* at the Grand Théâtre de Genève, *Madama Butterfly* in Turin, *L'elisir d'amore* in Valencia, Graz and Madrid, Martinů's *The Greek Passion* in Palermo, *Così fan tutte* at the New National Theatre in Tokyo, *Il tritico* at the Theater an der Wien and the Royal Opera in Copenhagen, *Un ballo in maschera* at La Scala, *Idomeneo* at the Theater an der Wien and *The Rake's Progress* at the Leipzig Opera and the Teatro La Fenice.

He made his Salzburg Festival debut with *La bohème* in 2012 and returned for *Falstaff* in 2013 and for *La cenerentola* in 2014. Engagements in the 2014/15 season included *Il viaggio a Reims* at the Netherlands Opera in Amsterdam, *Guillaume Tell* at London's Royal Opera House and revivals of his productions of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* and *Così fan tutte* at the Paris Opéra and the Liceu in Barcelona respectively. Among his 2015/2016 engagements: new productions of Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* at Venice La Fenice, *Cavalleria rusticana* / *Pagliacci* at London ROH Covent Garden (Olivier Award 2016), Rossini's *Otello* in Wien, the revival of Puccini's *Trittico*, staged at the Rome Opera, the debut at the Komische Oper Berlin with Massenet's *Cendrillon* and the return at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro with a new production of *La Donna del Lago*. In the Fall of 2016 he worked on two new productions: Saint-Saëns' *Samson et Dalila* at the Paris Opera and Perocco's *Aquagranda* at La Fenice in Venice (Abbiati Award 2017).

In 2017 he directed *Falstaff* at La Scala in Milan, *Viaggio a Reims* at the Kongelige Teater in Copenhagen, *Die Zauberflöte* in Florence, *Idomeneo* at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino and in Pistoia, new productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam and of Berlioz's *Damnation de Faust* for the season opening of the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome (Abbiati Award 2018). During 2018 he debuts at the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow with *Il viaggio a Reims* and he directs four new productions: Lehár's *Die Lustige Witwe* in Venice, Britten's *The Midsummer night's dream* at the Theater an der Wien, Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* in Paris, Verdi's *Macbeth* in Venice (season opening).

Among the 2019 engagements: new productions of Schreker's *Der Ferne Klang* in Frankfurt

and Händel's *Alcina* at the Salzburg Festival (Pentecost and Summer Festival), revivals of *La scala di seta* at the Royal Opera House Muscat, *Don Pasquale* in Paris and London, *Die Lustige Witwe* in Rome, *Il viaggio a Reims* in Melbourne and Sidney, *Luisa Miller* and *Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci* in Barcelona.

In 2020 Michieletto will return at Milan's La Scala with two new productions : Strauss's *Salome* and the dyptich Schönberg's *Erwartung* / Nono's *Intolleranza 1960*; he will also direct a new production of Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier* at La Monnaie in Brussels.

Besides his busy schedule as an opera stage director, Damiano Michieletto is also actively involved in drama theatre, one other important element of his artistic career. He has staged a highly original and much appreciated version of *Il Ventaglio (The Fan)* by Goldoni, followed by a pungent and engaging production of *The Inspector General* by Gogol at the Teatro Stabile del Veneto; *Divinas palabras* by Ramón María del Valle-Inclán for the Piccolo Teatro of Milan, an essential and visionary piece of Twentieth century Spanish theatre; and a new production of *The Threepenny Opera* by Bertold Brecht and Kurt Weill at the Piccolo Teatro in Milan.