

## FRANCISCO NEGRIN. Opera, show and event creator/director.

Born in 1963, Francisco Negrin studied Cinematography before moving into opera. His experience has taken him to most of Europe's, America's and Australia's major opera companies and festivals. He has established a reputation as one of the most thought-provoking and genuinely "musical" opera directors of his generation and then has very successfully pursued a parallel career as one of the world's leading creative directors of massive shows and events.

From his historic re-staging of Debussy's fragment, *The Fall of the House of Usher* in London and his two hit productions of Handel's *Giulio Cesare* seen at Sydney Opera, at Los Angeles' Dorothy Chandler Pavilion and at the Royal Opera in Copenhagen, to a 1 kilometer-wide spectacular for the Dubai World cup or the opening ceremony of the Panamerican Games in Lima, he has exhibited a sureness of touch and artistic individuality that has won him spectacular accolades wherever he works.

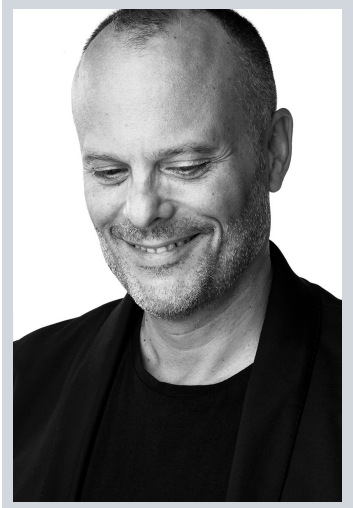
His work is distinguished by faithfulness to the culture or piece he is presenting, refracted through a thoroughly modern but elegant sensibility that adapts to the matter at hand rather than impose on it, and a strongly visual and kinetic approach often described by the press as "cinematic". He is admired by his collaborators as a director who deeply understands the material and truly collaborates to achieve better dramaturgy. His always thoughtful but accessible work has especially had an impact on changing audiences' perception of "difficult" or unknown pieces or subjects.

His always thoughtful but accessible work has especially had an impact on changing audiences' perception of "difficult" or unknown pieces or subjects and new writing. In particular, he directed the world premieres of Poul Ruders' *The Trial*, and Hans Abrahamsen's *The Snow Queen in Copenhagen* and James Macmillan's *Tourist Variations* and *Visitatio Sepulchri* at the Edinburgh Festival.

Negrin has a special skill for directing site-specific events and using dance, new technologies and different media in truly dramatic ways. For example, his second production of Philip Glass' *Orphée* was a chance for a very spectacular use of the Linbury theatre at the Royal Opera and his *Mitridate* was staged for the Alhambra in Granada. His *The Cunning Little Vixen* in Copenhagen was the first opera production to take place in a fully video mapped moving three-dimensional space. *The Snow Queen* was the first opera production to use LED pixel mapping in its story telling.

**Francisco Negrin has directed over 70 major opera productions**, including the already mentioned ones and among others a ground breaking *Don Giovanni* (for Glimmerglass and New York City Opera) and *Beatrice Cenci* for Geneva, at De Vlaamse Opera *Fidelio* and *Arabella*, at the Santa Fe Festival a hit production of Handel's *Agrippina* and also *Alceste*, *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Liceo in Barcelona and Leipzig, *The Merry Widow* in Leipzig. Debut in Italy was *Leonore* in Bologna, and in Germany J.C. Bach's *Temistocle* in Leipzig, which has also been seen in Toulouse. Other productions include Martin y Soler's *Una Cosa Rara* (second production) for Valencia, Valladolid and Murcia, *L'Arbore di Diana* for Barcelona, Montpellier and Madrid, *Macbeth* in Strasbourg and Monte Carlo, *Werther* in San Francisco and Chicago, *I Puritani* in Geneva, *Salome* in Valencia, and an all new *Rinaldo* in Chicago, plus *Il Trovatore* at the Sferisterio in Macerata. Also, Massenet's *Thaïs* for the opera in Bonn, and Mozart's *Idomeneo* for the Aalto Musik Theater in Essen.

The period from 2015 to 22 included: Handel's *Alcina*, created for the opera in Oslo, which was then restaged at The Royal Danish Opera in Copenhagen.



Verdi's rare *Jerusalem* opened in Bonn in a sold-out run of performances and was then remounted in Bilbao. A revival of the Macerata *Il Trovatore* and a new production of the piece for the opera in Monte Carlo, Madrid, Copenhagen and Los Angeles (as well as live on screens in cities and towns all over Spain). A revival of *Salome* in Bilbao. And the world premiere production of Hans Abrahamsen's *The Snow Queen* in Copenhagen.

2022 will feature a large-scale new production of *Nabucco* at Oper in Steinbruch in Austria. Other future shows include *Salome* in Houston and *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* in Leipzig.

Many of Negrin's opera productions have been filmed for television (Both productions of *Una Cosa Rara*, *Venus*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *l'Arbore di Diana*, *Una Cosa rara*, the two different *Giulio Cesare*, *I Puritani*, and *Norma*). *Partenope* from Copenhagen and *Norma* as well as *l'Arbore di Diana* from the Liceo, the two different *Giulio Cesare*, *I Puritani* from Amsterdam and *Il Trovatore* from Macerata are also available on DVD and *I Puritani* on BluRay.

*Giulio Cesare* for the Australian Opera won five separate Australian Green Room Awards, including that for Best Director and Best Production. The newer *Cesare* for the Royal Danish Opera won the Årets Reumert award and moved audiences to camping outside the theatre for tickets. *Partenope* was nominated for the same award and *Orlando* at the Royal Opera House was nominated for two Laurence Olivier Awards

### **In other media**

Francisco Negrin has directed the largest **ice show** ever: *OperaPop* at the Roman Arena in Verona, Italy, in September 2014. A new version of the show, *Shadows and Light* opened in Verona in October 2015. These shows featured pop stars Anastacia, Pharrell Williams and Ellie Goulding. Francisco has gone on to create *A New Day* for Holiday on Ice.

The two shows of the 2017 *Dubai World Cup* at the Meydan hippodrome were a chance for Francisco Negrin to stage a show in a space 1 kilometer wide, with 87 drones and a 100-meter-wide LED screen

In the UAE, Negrin also directed the inauguration of the *UAE Union museum* and was creative supervisor for the *Mother of the Nation* show in Abu Dhabi and co-director of two monumental water based shows for the national day of the UAE 2020 and 2021

In 2017 Francisco wrote and directed one of the biggest **stadium shows** ever: the opening of the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan. Over 6000 performers participated.

In 2019 Francisco wrote and directed the opening ceremony of the *Panamerican games* in Lima, Peru, as well as being the creative supervisor and co-author of the closing and of the para ceremonies as well.

In 2020 directed the closing show of Paris **Fashion** Week (Autumn Winter) for *Louis Vuitton*, with original music by Woodkid and Bryce Dressner and costumes by Milena Canonero

Negrin has been working on show dramaturgy for several other site-specific projects and other large **commercial events**. This has included creating concepts and directing for Balich Worldwide Shows, OK GO, Mika, Decca/Universal records, Volkswagen, Adele, Audi among others.

In the medium of **traditional theatre**, Francisco directed a semi-staged

performance of *Live Acts on Stage*, a play by Australian author Michael Gow at the Chelsea Centre Theatre with Kika Markham and Sharon Maugham.

In **dance**, Francisco has been a member of the board of contemporary dance group Walker Dance, led by choreographer and dancer Fin Walker and composer Ben Park who now have the company Walker Park. With them he has directed site specific performances such as *Two Stations* for the London Great Outdoors festival and generally experimented with the integration of Music Theatre and Dance.

Francisco Negrin has also devised an innovative series of **master classes** for singers at the Opera Academy in Copenhagen.