

Francesco Micheli

The director Francesco Micheli was born in Bergamo. He first studied Modern Literature and then at the Scuola d'Arte Drammatica Paolo Grassi in Milan. He was Artistic Director of the Macerata Opera Festival in Macerata from 2012 to 2017 and has been Artistic Director of the Donizetti Festival in his home town of Bergamo since 2014 till 2024. He won the prestigious Abbiati Prize, the Italian Music Critics' Award, twice for as many of his performance (Bianco Rosso e Verdi and Ange de Nisida).

He directs at the most important opera houses and festivals in Italy (Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Teatro La Fenice in Venice, Arena di Verona, Teatro Massimo di Palermo, Maggio Musicale in Florence) and increasingly throughout Europe: Wien (Semiramide), Nice (Adriana Lecouvreur), Glyndebourne (Alcina), in Bordeaux (Lucia); out of Europe: Tokio (Otello), Philadelphia (Tosca), Beijing (Aida).

For ten years, he has been hosting a column on opera for RAI 1. He has also devoted himself intensively to experimental forms of theater, producing innovative projects between concert and opera: developing his own plays and writing libretti and teaching stage direction in the stage design class at the Accademia di Brera (Academy of Fine Arts) in Milan. He makes his debut at the Bavarian State Opera with the double bill *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. Starting next season, this prestigious institution will launch a multi-year artistic residency programme for Francesco that will include various activities: season productions, training at the Opera Studio, outreach activities, and the creation of new formats that combine opera with other genres (techno music, storytelling, etc.).

He is the author of books on music education (Romeo & Giulietta Lab, ed. Garzanti; *L'Opera è polvere da sparo*, ed. Rizzoli; *La favola del lago dei cigni*, ed. Curci).

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