

FRANK VAN LAECKE



SELECTED CREDITS

HAMLET (2019, Angers Nantes Opera and Opéra de Rennes)

CARMEN (2015, Zomeropera)

LA TRAVIATA (2014, Opera Zuid)

TOSCA (2008, Zomeropera)

KETNETPOP (2008)
Artistic Director

BIOGRAPHY

Frank Van Laecke has built a rich international career both as an author and as a director. He has received numerous awards both at home and abroad for his work in the theatre, including a nomination for the coveted Lawrence Olivier Award. Most recently, Frank directed a collaboration between Angers Nantes Opera and the Opéra de Rennes for the 2019 production of 'Hamlet' which received much critical acclaim.

"Frank Van Laecke builds an effective staging... reconnects with burlesque and Shakespearian tradition of comedy in the tragic." – Olyrix

"Beautiful work for a very successful show." - ResMusica

"The contrasts of the climates, the clarity and the intensity of the situations radiate all the more in the staging of Frank Van Laecke" – Classique News

Frank has directed many operas in theatres, stadiums and outdoor arenas, including La Bohème, La Traviata, Nabucco, Aida, Carmen, I Pagliacci, Cavaleria Rusticana, Don Pasquale, Die Entführung aus dem Serail, Faust, Tosca, Manon Lescaut and Madame Butterfly, which was hailed as best Dutch Opera production of 2012.

After working as a writer on a number of successful TV series for Flemish television, Van Laecke took his first professional steps, under Linda Lepomme, as director for the Musical Department of the Royal Ballet of Flanders. Since then he has directed plays, operas and musicals for both theater and television.

From 1997 to 1999, Van Laecke served as Artistic Director of the Brussels-based production company 'Music Hall' and in 1998 he directed Peter Schaffer's 'Equus' for the Koninklijke Nederlandse Schouwburg (Royal Dutch Theatre) in Antwerp.

In 2003, Van Laecke created the musical The Prince of Africa, with music by Dirk Brossé. English actor David Suchet (best known for his television portrayal of Agatha Christie's great Belgian detective Hercule Poirot) was the show's narrator. That fall, he premiered his symphonic Christmas story Santa, which was produced the following year at the Beacon Theatre in New York. Together with Paul Berkenman and Dirk Brossé, he wrote the musical Sacco & Vanzetti.

He directed the musicals Hollywood by Night, Je Anne, Jesus Christ Superstar, Jubilee 15, She Loves Me (four Flemish Musical Awards nominations), the European premiere of

Jekyll & Hyde, Annie, Oliver! (nomination best director), Yours Anne, Rembrandt (four nominations, winning two), The Sound of Music, My Fair Lady, Camelot, The King and I, Anatevka (nomination best director), Tell Me on a Sunday and Domino (prize of the audience 2012).

On September 15, 2001, Antwerp saw the premiere of *Kuifje en de Zonnetempel* (Tintin and the Temple of the Sun), a spectacular adventure musical that Van Laecke wrote in collaboration with composer Dirk Brossé and lyricist Seth Gaaikema and directed for the Antwerp production company Tabas & Co in collaboration with Moulinsart. The French theater magazine *Téléoustique* hailed Tintin, *Le Temple du Soleil* (the French-language version of the show adapted by Didier Van Cauwelaert) as the best French-language theatrical event of 2002. *Kuifje* earned eight nominations at the Flemish Musical Awards 2007, and Van Laecke won Best Director.

Van Laecke also directed *Dracula de Musical* for Music Hall (nominated for 10 Flemish Musical Awards of which it won four, including best direction). In October 2008, Van Laecke's award-winning musical collaboration with Allard Blom and Dirk Brossé, *Daens* (Studio 100), based on the Oscar-nominated Belgian film about the priest Adolf Daens, who fought for workers' rights in the textile industry, premiered in Antwerp. *Daens* was embraced by both press and public and received a monumental 13 Flemish Musical Awards nominations, winning eight including another "Best Director 2009" award for Van Laecke.

The musical *Ben X*, based on a book by Nic Balthazar (a MVV production) took "musical" to another level. Rave reviews were the result for this wayward production about a boy suffering from autism.

In 2006 Van Laecke directed Vanessa Van Durmes in her autobiographical monologue *Kijk mama, ik dans* (Look Mummy, I'm Dancing) in a co-production between Van Durmes's company Swan Lake, the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris, and La Rose des Vents in Villeneuve d'Ascq. In 2007 the French version, *Regarde mamam, je danse*, opened at the Théâtre de la Ville in Paris. The production still tours to great critical and public acclaim with performances in Australia, France, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

In the fall of 2010, Van Laecke directed *Aida* for NTGent. In February 2011 Van Laecke directed Terence McNally's *Masterclass* with Pia Douwes as Maria Callas. This production not only earned unanimous praise from reviewers but was also nominated for the prestigious Nederlandse Toneel Publieksprijs (Dutch Audience Drama Award) and was selected for the Nederlands Theater Festival.

Also in 2010, Van Laecke directed with Alain Platel the international sensation *Gardenia*, which premiered at the Avignon Festival. This unforgettable collaboration with the internationally acclaimed Belgian company Les Ballets C de la B won international praise after it opened at the Avignon festival and toured internationally for the next two years. In 2012 it was nominated in Britain for the prestigious Lawrence Olivier Award.

In 2013 Frank directed *The Wizard of Oz* in Belgium and *Baantjer* in The Netherlands. He also directed *Peter Grimes* in Germany, which received fantastic reviews.

Frank collaborated with Alain Platel to direct *En avant, marche!* which toured Europe from June 2015 to July 2016.

CREDITS

Hamlet

Aida

Agamemnon

Anatevka

Annie

Baantjer in het theater!

Bedroom Farce

Ben X

Camelot

Carmen

Cavalleria Rusticana & I Pagliacci

Confidenties van een

Seriemoordenaar

Daens de Musical

Das Land des Lachelns

Die Entführung aus dem Serail

Die Fledermaus

Domino

Don Pasquale

Dracula

Equus

Elektra

Faust

Fiddler on the Roof

Gardenia

Hollywood by Night

Im weisen Rossl

In 't Witte Paard

Je Anne

Jekyll & Hyde

Jesus Christ Superstar

Jouw hand in mijn hand

Jubilee 15

Kijk mama, ik dans

Kuifje

La Boheme

La Traviata

La Traviata (Alden Biesen)

Madame Butterfly

Manon Lescaut

Maria de Buenos Aires

My Fair Lady

Nabucco

Ne Lieuw mee Tanden

Oliver!

Peter Grimes

Picasso, striptease van een genie

Pirates Pirates! (circus)

Rembrandt – The Musical

Sacco & Vanzetti

Santa

Semper Vivat

She Loves Me

Smiley

Tell me on a Sunday

Tintin – The Temple of the Sun

The King and I

The Prince of Africa

The Sound of Music

The Wizard of Oz

Tosca

West Side Story

Yours Anne

Santa's Last Christmas

FILM CREDITS

14-18 Spektakel Musical (2014)

Director
Studio 100

Firmin (2007)

Writer
Firmin's Boks Office, VT4

TV CREDITS

Ketnetpop (2008)

Artistic Director
VRT, Ketnet

Musical daens (2008)

Director/Writer (play)
Studio 100

Booh! (2008)

Writer
VTM

F.C. De Kampioenen (1996)

Writer (21 episodes)
TV1-Sector Amusement

Oost-Vlaanderen, een schat van een provincie (documentary) (1993)

Director (with Michel De Sutter)

Surprise Weekend (1991)

Writer (play)
BRT