

Michiel Dijkema

Stage Director / Set Designer



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Biography

“Masterfully convincing and imaginative staging [...] the premiere audience was practically standing on the chairs out of enthusiasm and jubilation”

Peter Bilsing, Der Opernfreund

Dutch stage director and set designer Michiel Dijkema is acclaimed for his dynamic interpretations and innovative designs in opera. He trained as a classical pianist at the Conservatory of Amsterdam and the Utrecht School of Arts under Danièle Dechenne, Alexander Warenberg, and Alwin Bär. He later pursued opera stage direction at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” Berlin, where he also deepened his expertise in song interpretation under Thom Bollen and Wolfram Rieger.

Dijkema has directed and designed numerous acclaimed productions across Europe, including *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Dutch National Touring Opera), *Carmen* (Eisenach, Meiningen), *Orfeo ed Euridice* (Dutch National Touring Opera), *L'Orfeo* (Stockholm), *Pierrot Lunaire* (Rotterdam), *Die Fledermaus* (Eisenach, Moscow, Tallinn), *Der Vampyr* (Amsterdam), *Il Turco in Italia* (Leipzig), *Die Zauberflöte* (Gelsenkirchen), *La Cenerentola* (Tallinn, Dutch National Touring Opera), *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Wiesbaden, Antibes), *Tosca* (Leipzig), *Hamlet* (Zagreb), *L'Opera Seria* (Hannover), and *The Bartered Bride* (Wiesbaden), among many others.

Dijkema's artistic achievements have been recognized with several international awards, including the European Opera-directing Prize, the Peter-Konwitschny Nachwuchsregiepreis for *Carmen*, and the Estonian Teatrikunst Muusikalavastuste Award for *La Cenerentola*. His set design for *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* earned the Berlin Wizard-Award. In 2022, his production of *Der fliegende Holländer* at the WAGNER22 festival in Leipzig was nominated for the International Opera Awards, and his *Lohengrin* for the Estonian National Opera received a 2024 Estonian Music Prize nomination.

An educator and mentor, Dijkema has collaborated with the ArtEZ Academy of Music opera class, the Dutch National Opera Academy, and taught at the Hochschule für Musik “Hanns Eisler” in Berlin, and contributed to a multidisciplinary program at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre in Tallinn.

02 / 2005-2024

Awards & nominations

2024

Nomination · Estonian Music Prize

Lohengrin · Estnische Nationaloper Tallinn

2022

Nomination · International Opera Awards

Der fliegende Holländer as part of the WAGNER22 festival, Oper Leipzig

2011

Wizard Award Berlin

Set design for Il Barbiere di Siviglia · Staatstheater Wiesbaden

2007

Eesti Teatrikunst Muusikalavastuste Award

La Cenerentola · Estnische Nationaloper Tallinn

2005

1st Peter-Konwitschny-Nachwuchsregiepreis

Concept for Carmen · Landestheater Eisenach / Meininger Theater

2005

2nd European Opera-directing Prize

Camerata Nuova / Opera Europa



Experience

2005-2024

Freelance opera director & set designer

Productions in Amsterdam, Tallinn, Stockholm, Linz, Reykjavík, Enschede, Rotterdam, Eisenach, Meiningen, Gelsenkirchen, Zagreb, Bozen, Vienna, Moscow, Hannover, Wiesbaden, Darmstadt, Koblenz, Magdeburg, Dresden and Leipzig

2022-2023

Guest lecturer

Dutch National Opera Academy · Haydn and Křenek · Conservatorium van Amsterdam / Koninklijk Conservatorium Den Haag

2020-2022

Répétiteur for role preparation

Role preparation including Der fliegende Holländer, Die Walküre, Turandot, Götterdämmerung and Tristan und Isolde

2021-2022

Guest lecturer in opera

Hochschule Macromedia Leipzig · Mode meets Kostüm · Fundamentals of theatre design

2019

Guest lecturer in contemporary opera

Estnische Akademie für Musik und Theater Tallinn · Opera as Imagination and Realization

2017-2018

Visiting professor in opera

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin · Stage work with singing and directing students

2003-2005

Assistant director · revival director · director

Niederländische Reiseoper Enschede · Stage direction for extensive tours

2004-2005

Stage coaching

Resident Artists Programme / Opernstudio · Niederländische Reiseoper Enschede

2004-2006

Stage direction of the opera class

Hochschule der Künste ArtEZ Enschede · Collaboration with Niederländische Reiseoper and Theater Concordia

2001-2004

Teacher

German, music and art history at schools and secondary schools in Amsterdam

Experience

1999-2000

Co-founder & director

Offenbach Musiktheater Berlin · Projects at
Saalbau Neukölln

1993-1998

Co-founder · artistic director · director

Tijdelijk Ensemble Amsterdam · Spoken-theatre
productions in Amsterdam and Haarlem

1993-1998

Piano teacher

Private pupils aged four to 91

1990-2000

Freelance pianist

Solo piano, chamber music and song
accompaniment · Concerts in Haarlem, Utrecht,
Amsterdam, Den Haag and Berlin



04 / 1998-2024

Direction & set design

2024

La traviata

Giuseppe Verdi

Theater Mönchengladbach

2024

Il viaggio a Reims

Gioachino Rossini

Theater Aachen

2023

Lohengrin

Richard Wagner

Estnische Nationaloper Tallinn

2023

Madama Butterfly

Giacomo Puccini

Isländische Oper Reykjavík

2022

Arianna a Naxos / L'isola disabitata

Joseph Haydn

Dutch National Opera Academy

Amsterdam / Den Haag

2022

What Price Confidence

Ernst Křenek

Dutch National Opera Academy

Amsterdam / Den Haag

2020

Die Liebe zu den drei Orangen

Sergej Prokofjew

Theater Koblenz

2020

Turandot

Giacomo Puccini

Theater Magdeburg

2019

Schwanda, der Dudelsackpfeifer

Jaromír Weinberger

Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

2019

Der fliegende Holländer

Richard Wagner

Oper Leipzig

Direction & set design

2019

Faust

Louis Spohr

Theater Koblenz

2017

Die Entführung aus dem Serail

Mozart

Semperoper Dresden

2018

Vom Ende der Unschuld

Stephan Peiffer · world premiere

Internationale Maifestspiele Wiesbaden /
Camerata Nuova

2016

Die Herzogin von Chicago

Emmerich Kálmán

Theater Koblenz

2018

Il mondo della luna

Joseph Haydn

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

2015

Die lustige Witwe

Franz Lehár

Landestheater Linz

2017

Rusalka

Antonín Dvořák

Oper Leipzig

2015

Nahod Simon

Isidora Žebeljan · world premiere

Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

2017

Hoffmanns Erzählungen

Jacques Offenbach

Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

2015

Salome

Richard Strauss

Oper Wuppertal

Direction & set design

2015

Pariser Leben

Jacques Offenbach

Volksoper Wien

2013

Die verkaufte Braut

Bedřich Smetana

Staatstheater Wiesbaden

2014

Faust

Charles Gounod

Oper Leipzig / Teatro Comunale Bolzano

2012

Cavalleria Rusticana & Pagliacci

Mascagni / Leoncavallo

Staatstheater Darmstadt

2014

Ein Sommernachtstraum

Benjamin Britten

Staatsoper Hannover

2012

L'Opera Seria

Florian Leopold Gassmann

Staatsoper Hannover

2013

Orpheus in der Unterwelt

Jacques Offenbach

Theater Kiel

2011

Hamlet

Ambroise Thomas

Kroatische Nationaloper Zagreb

2013

Der fliegende Holländer

Richard Wagner

Staatstheater Wiesbaden

2011

Tosca

Giacomo Puccini

Oper Leipzig

Direction & set design

2011

Die Großherzogin von Gerolstein

Jacques Offenbach

Staatsoperette Dresden

2009

Die Zauberflöte

Mozart

Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

2011

Il Barbiere di Siviglia

Gioachino Rossini

Staatstheater Wiesbaden / Anthéa Théâtre
d'Antibes

2009

Il Turco in Italia

Gioachino Rossini

Oper Leipzig

2010

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss

Estonische Nationaloper Tallinn

2009

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss

Novaya Opera Moskau

2010

Hänsel und Gretel

Engelbert Humperdinck

Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen

2008

La Périchole

Jacques Offenbach

Staatsoperette Dresden

2010

La Cenerentola

Gioachino Rossini

Nationale Reisopera Enschede

2008

Der Vampyr

Heinrich Marschner

Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ / Grachtenfestival
Amsterdam

Direction & set design

2008

Die Fledermaus

Johann Strauss

Landestheater Eisenach

2008

Cabaret

John Kander

Landestheater Mecklenburg

2007

Pierrot Lunaire

Arnold Schönberg

De Doelen Rotterdam / Gergiev Festival

2007

L'Orfeo

Claudio Monteverdi

Drottningholms Slottsteater Stockholm

2007

Berlin-Broadway

Weill / Hollaender / Eisler

Les Dominicains de Haute-Alsace, Colmar

2006

La Cenerentola

Gioachino Rossini

Estnische Nationaloper Tallinn

2006

Egmont

Beethoven / Goethe

Nieuwe Luxor Theater / Gergiev Festival
Rotterdam

2006

Ascanio in Alba

Mozart

Hochschule der Künste ArtEZ Enschede

2006

Carmen

Georges Bizet

Landestheater Eisenach / Meininger Theater

2005

Orfeo ed Euridice

Gluck

Niederländische Reisopera

04 / 1998-2024 / CONTINUED

Direction & set design

2005

Pelléas et Mélisande

Debussy

Niederländische Reisopera

Resident Artists Programme

2001

Ali Pascha

Albert Lortzing

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin /
SFB

2004

Pasticcio

Mozart

Niederländische Reisopera / Opera class HdK
ArtEZ

2000

Fortunios Lied

Jacques Offenbach

Offenbach Musiktheater Berlin / Saalbau
Neukölln

2003

La Périchole

Jacques Offenbach

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

1998

A Hand of Bridge

Samuel Barber

Hochschule der Künste Utrecht
Opera class

2002

A Hand of Bridge

Samuel Barber

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin

05 / 1992-2003

Education

1998-2003

Opera direction

Hochschule für Musik Hanns Eisler Berlin · Prof. Claus Unzen, Peter Konwitschny, Wolfgang Willaschek, Prof. Hans-Jochen Irmer and Prof. Gerd Rienäcker · Additional song accompaniment studies with Prof. Wolfram Rieger · Diploma in opera direction

1993-1998

Piano

Hochschule der Künste Utrecht / Utrechts Conservatorium · Prof. Alexander Warenberg and Prof. Alwin Bär · Song accompaniment with Thom Bollen · Piano diploma and teaching diploma

1992-1993

Piano

Hochschule der Künste Amsterdam / Sweelinck Conservatorium · Prof. Danièle Dechenne

1986-1992

VWO · classical secondary school

Gymnasium Felisenum Velsen-Zuid · Diploma