



## Pierre Audi to be appointed General Director of the Festival d'Aix as of September 1, 2018.

Aix-en-Provence | 06/24/2016

In agreement with the French Ministry of Culture and Communication, the Board of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence chaired by Bruno Roger has unanimously appointed this day Pierre Audi as General Director for a 5 year mandate as of September 1, 2018 which coincides to be the expiration date of Bernard Foccroulle's mandate. Pierre Audi will be appointed Deputy Director as of September 1, 2016 in order to prepare the 2019 and further Festival's programming.

*"I am thrilled that Pierre Audi will lead the responsibility of the general direction of the Festival d'Aix. Thanks to Pierre Audi, the Dutch National Opera is now one of the most important institutions of the world, characterized by the excellency of its artistic program, via the development of an international network of high quality co-producers and an important focus on audience diversification and growth. I also would like to honor the extraordinary work that Bernard Foccroulle has achieved for the past ten years leading the festival and that he would pursue until July 2018."*

*Bruno Roger, President*

*"I want to acknowledge Pierre Audi who has been giving the Dutch National Opera of Amsterdam an international recognition for 28 years, an institution recently awarded "Company of the Year" at the International Opera Awards of London. He led there a bold strategy in the area of artistic creation and programming, welcoming the world's most renowned artists. It is under his mandate that the Opera of Amsterdam and the Festival d'Aix have co-produced many shows such as Le Rossignol et autres fables, Written on Skin, Ariodante. We also partnered with Die Zauberflöte, directed by Simon McBurney. These ties were also reinforced by the partnership of the Opera Studio of Amsterdam with the European network of enoa in 2014. I here want to address him my warmest congratulations."*

*Bernard Foccroulle, General Director*

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## PIERRE AUDI

Pierre Audi was born in Beirut (Lebanon) in 1957. He grew up there and in Paris. He read History at Oxford University in Great Britain between 1975 and 1978.

In 1979, Pierre Audi founded the Almeida Theatre in London and its Festival of Contemporary Music, which he directed until 1989. Since 1988 he has been director of Dutch National Opera, awarded the International Opera Award for Company of the Year 2016. In addition to his responsibilities at the opera in Amsterdam, he was for ten years - until June 2014 - artistic director of the Holland Festival. He was appointed in June 2015 Artistic director of the Park Avenue Armory in New York.

As a stage director he collaborated with many visual artists notably Karel Appel, Georg Baselitz, Anish Kapoor, Herzog & de Meuron, Jannis Kounellis, Berlinde De Bruyckere and Jonathan Meese.

Many of his productions, introduced in Amsterdam, have gone on to win acclaim on other stages, including his cycle of all four Monteverdi operas, which have been seen at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Sydney Festival and Los Angeles Opera. He staged the first Netherlands production of Wagner's *Ring* cycle, as well as many other opera's from across the whole repertoire including many by Mozart, Glück, Berlioz, Rameau, Rossini, Schönberg and Händel.

He has established a large repertoire of contemporary music theater works, among them Harrison Birtwistle's *Punch and Judy*, Morton Feldman's *Neither*, Claude Vivier's *Rêves d'un Marco Polo* and world premieres of works by Theo Loevendie, Guus Janssen, Jonathan Harvey, Hans Werner Henze, Tan Dun, Param Vir, Kaija Saariaho, Alexander Knaifel, Pascal Dusapin, Louis Andriessen and Wolfgang Rihm.

As guest director, he has worked for, among others, the Bavarian State Opera (*Venus und Adonis*, *Tamerlano*), Sweden's Drottningholm Court Theatre (*Tamerlano*, *Alcina* and *Zoroastre*), Salzburg Festival (recreation in 2006 of De Nederlandse Opera's *Die Zauberflöte*, world premiere of Rihm's *Dyonisos*), Paris Opera (*La Juive*, *Tosca*), Théâtre des Champs-Élysées (*Il matrimonio segreto*, *Orlando Furioso*, *Médée* and *Tristan und Isolde*), Theater an der Wien (*Partenope*), La Monnaie in Brussels (*Pelléas et Mélisande*, *Iphigénie en Tauride*, *Iphigénie en Aulide*, *Orlando*,



*Tamerlano*, *Alcina* and the world premiere of Dusapin's *Penthesilea*), Teatro Dell'Opera Di Roma (*Pelléas et Mélisande*), Metropolitan Opera New York (*Attila* and *Guillaume Tell*), Vienna State Opera (*Rigoletto*), English National Opera (world premiere *Thebans*, also at Theater Bonn) and Ruhrtriennale (*Gisela*).

His numerous awards include the Leslie Boosey Award for his contribution to British Musical Life, Medal of Honour, Drottningholm Sweden, the Prize of Holland's Theater Critics, the Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds Theater Prize and the Amsterdam Cultural Business Award. He became in 2009 the first recipient of the Johannes Vermeer Award, a new State prize for the arts in The Netherlands. He was knighted in the Order of the Dutch Lion in 2000 and was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur a few years later. For his work for Holland Festival Pierre received the Silver Medal of the City of Amsterdam. He is appointed Honorary Fellow Music Theatre at University of Amsterdam 2014 – 2016.

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