

WALDEMAR RAŻNIAK

STAGE DIRECTOR | LIBRETTIST | PROFESSOR

Opera - theatre - interdisciplinary performance

Warsaw, Poland | arbiter@o2.pl | waldemarrazniak.pl | Operabase



PROFILE

Polish stage director, librettist and professor working across opera, theatre and interdisciplinary performance. A trained actor and former Director of the Helena Modrzejewska National Stary Theatre in Krakow (2020-24), one of Poland's oldest public stages, he combines close character work and physical theatre with musical dramaturgy, contemporary composition and multimedia. Recent work ranges from Handel to new opera and site-specific performance. His 2024 Solaris, staged inside the SOLARIS National Synchrotron Radiation Centre, integrated AI-assisted computer-generated singing with live instrumental performance.

SELECTED OPERA & MUSIC THEATRE

- 2025-26** **Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno - G. F. Handel** | Polish Royal Opera, Warsaw | guest production, 32nd Bydgoszcz Opera Festival
Stage Director. Premiere 4 Apr 2025; festival performance 30 Apr 2026.
- 2024** **Solaris - Karol Nepelski / after Stanisław Lem** | National Stary Theatre, Opera Rara Krakow & Jagiellonian University
Director & Librettist. Site-specific production at the SOLARIS synchrotron; AI-assisted computer-generated singing, live electronics and instrumental ensemble.
- 2022 / 24-25** **Noc kruków (The Night of Ravens) - Zygmunt Krauze / Małgorzata Sikorska-Miszczyk** | Polish Royal Opera, Warsaw
Stage Director. New production 2022; subsequent revivals.
- 2021** **Bunker. Fake Opera - Wojciech Błajczyk** | Warsaw Autumn International Festival of Contemporary Music
Stage Director.
- 2019** **Birdy - Karol Nepelski / after William Wharton** | Tête à Tête: The Opera Festival, RADA, London
Stage Director.
- 2015** **Orlando Paladino - Joseph Haydn** | Academy of Fine Arts / Chopin University of Music / Theatre Academy, Warsaw
Stage Director.
- 2008** **Solaris Electronic Opera - Karol Nepelski / after Stanisław Lem** | Malta Festival Poznań - New Situations
Director & Librettist. Honorary Mention; early work integrating actor speech with algorithmically triggered electronic singing.

SELECTED THEATRE

- 2026** **The Damned (Zmierzch bogów) - after Luchino Visconti** | Teatr Polski, Bydgoszcz
Director & Adapter. Site-specific production in the historic Pump Hall of the Waterworks Museum.
- 2024** **The Minor Apocalypse 20XX - after Tadeusz Konwicki** | Helena Modrzejewska National Stary Theatre, Krakow
Director.
- 2018** **Tragedy of John (Tragedia Jana) - Jakub Gawatowic** | Theatre CHOREA / Warsaw Stage Society, Łódź
Director. Production awards: The Best Off; Golden Mask; winner, KŁAMRA 2019.
- 2017** **Hamlet: A Case Study - inspired by Jerzy Grotowski** | Theatre CHOREA, Łódź
Co-creation / direction.

WALDEMAR RAŻNIAK / SELECTED CV

FURTHER SELECTED THEATRE & SCREEN

2016	Woman in the Mirror - Piotr Domalewski Teatroteka / WFDiF, Warsaw Director - television theatre production.
2015	Othello - William Shakespeare Witold Gombrowicz Theatre, Gdynia Director.
2015	The Tempest - William Shakespeare Białystok Puppet Theatre Director.
2015	The Master and Margarita - after Mikhail Bulgakov Collegium Nobilium Theatre, Warsaw Director.
2014	Scorched - Wajdi Mouawad Collegium Nobilium Theatre, Warsaw Director.
2013	Mad Joanna; the Queen - Jolanta Janiczak Witold Gombrowicz Theatre, Gdynia Director.
2013	Wet Weather Cover - Oliver Cotton Powszechny Theatre, Łódź Director.
2012	Sawdust and Tinsel - after Ingmar Bergman Collegium Nobilium Theatre, Warsaw Director.

LEADERSHIP & ACADEMIC

2020-24 Director - Helena Modrzejewska National Stry Theatre, Krakow - one of Poland's oldest public theatres, founded in 1781.

2025- Professor - Aleksander Zelwerowicz National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw.

2016-19 Vice-Rector - Student & International Affairs, National Academy of Dramatic Art.

2014-16 Dean / Vice-Dean - Faculty of Acting, National Academy of Dramatic Art.

2019 Waldman Professor in Theatre Arts - Emerson College, Boston.

2011-14 Faculty / Artist-in-Residence - Dance Theatre Department, Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow - Bytom.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

2015 Habilitation in Theatre Arts - National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw.

2013 PhD in Theatre Arts - National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw.

2010 MA Directing - National Academy of Dramatic Art in Warsaw.

2006 MA Musical Theatre Acting - Academy of Theatre Arts in Krakow.

2006 MA Culture Management - Jagiellonian University, Krakow.

2009 Directing internship - Russian Academy of Theatre Arts (GITIS), Moscow.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

2023 Irena & Tadeusz Byrski Award - for adaptation and direction of the audio drama Porwanie Baltazara Gąbki, Dwa Teatry Festival.

2019 Tragedy of John - The Best Off; Golden Mask; winner of the 27th KŁAMRA Festival (production awards).

2008 Solaris Electronic Opera - Honorary Mention, Malta Festival - New Situations.

INTERNATIONAL TEACHING

Workshops, masterclasses and teaching at University of Cincinnati, Emerson College, UCLA, Central Academy of Drama Beijing, Drama Studio London, Ruhrtriennale, ARIA Corse and UNAM, Mexico City.

SELECTED AUDIO DIRECTION

Solaris (2017) | Fahrenheit 451 (2018) | Fall of Giants (2020) | Return from the Stars (2021) | Porwanie Baltazara Gąbki (2022)

LANGUAGES

Polish - native | Russian - native
English - fluent | French - intermediate

LINKS

Website | Operabase