

# GARNETT BRUCE | DIRECTOR

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## BIOGRAPHY

Garnett Bruce stages *Turandot* for the opening of the San Francisco Opera's 2011/2012 season as well as for the inaugural production for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City's Kaufmann Performing Arts Center. He will return to the Dallas Opera to stage *Lucia di Lammermoor*, followed by *The Rake's Progress* for Peabody Opera Theater, *Don Pasquale* for Opera Memphis, and his production of *La Cenerentola* for Madison Opera. Last season he directed *La Traviata* for Austin Lyric Opera and Madison Opera, and continued his Da Ponte Cycle with *Don Giovanni* for Opera Omaha and continued his work as teacher and director at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University with a double bill of Poulenc's *Les mamelles de Tiresias* and Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Mr. Bruce's rich body of work includes companies across the country such as Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, San Diego Opera, Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Cincinnati Opera and Utah Symphony & Opera and his European opera debut staging *Turandot* for the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples. He was the Artistic Adviser and Principal Stage Director for Opera Omaha from 2008-2011.

Born in Washington, DC, Mr Bruce was a choirboy at Washington National Cathedral where he made his operatic debut in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. He holds degrees in English and Drama from Tufts University and has also guest directed on the faculty of Yale University and Westminster Choir College. Initial internships with Harold Prince (*Faust*, Metropolitan Opera) and Leonard Bernstein (performances and recording of *Candide*) led to stage management positions at The Santa Fe Opera, Washington National Opera and Opera Colorado and assistant director assignments at The Dallas Opera and Houston Grand Opera, where he assisted (among others) Francesca Zambello, John Copley, Bruce Beresford, David Alden, Michael Blakemore, Harry Silverstein and Anne-Margret Pettersson.

Bruce currently serves on the directing faculties of the Aspen Music Festival and Peabody Conservatory as well as the board of directors for FBN Productions (Opera for Kids).

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## PRODUCTIONS | DIRECTOR

<b>The Rake's Progress</b>	Peabody Opera	November 2011
<b>Lucia di Lammermoor</b>	The Dallas Opera	October 2011
<b>Turandot</b>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	October 2011
<b>Turandot</b>	San Francisco Opera	September 2011
<b>La Traviata</b>	Madison Opera	April 2011
<b>Les mamelles de Tirésias</b>	Peabody Opera	March 2011
<b>L'enfant et les sortilèges</b>	Peabody Opera	March 2011
<b>Don Giovanni</b>	Opera Omaha	February 2011
<b>La Traviata</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	November 2010
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b>	Aspen Music Festival and School	July 2010
<b>Lucia di Lammermoor</b>	Green Mountain Opera Festival	June 2010
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	Dallas Opera	May 2010
<b>Rigoletto</b>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	March 2010
<b>Le Nozze di Figaro</b>	Opera Omaha	February 2010
<b>Carmen</b>	Utah Opera	January 2010
<b>La bohème</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	November 2009
<b>Pagliacci</b>	Opera Omaha	October 2009
<b>Tosca</b>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	September 2009
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	San Diego Opera	May 2009
<b>La bohème</b>	Opera Omaha	April 2009
<b>La Traviata</b>	Peabody Opera	March 2009
<b>La Cenerentola</b>	Orlando Opera	February 2009
<b>La Cenerentola</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	November 2008
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	Utah Opera	October 2008
<b>Otello</b>	Kentucky Opera	September 2008
<b>Aida</b>	San Diego Opera	April 2008
<b>Die Zauberflöte</b>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	March 2008
<b>The Yellow Wallpaper*</b>	Peabody Opera	February 2008
<b>The Turn of the Screw*</b>	Peabody Opera	November 2007
<b>Tosca</b>	Cleveland Opera	October 2007
<b>Turandot</b>	Kentucky Opera	September 2007
<b>Les contes d'Hoffmann</b>	Peabody Opera	March 2007
<b>Rigoletto</b>	Chattanooga Symphony & Opera	January 2007

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## PRODUCTIONS | DIRECTOR (CONTINUED)

<b>Macbeth</b>	Vancouver Opera	November 2006
<b>Pagliacci</b>	Pittsburgh Opera	October 2006
<b>Turandot</b>	Lyric Opera of Chicago	September 2006
<b>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</b>	Utah Opera	May 2006
<b>Turandot</b>	Cleveland Opera	March 2006
<b>Tosca</b>	Opera Pacific	November 2005
<b>Orfeo ed Euridice*</b>	Chattanooga Symphony & Opera	September 2005
<b>La Cenerentola</b>	Wolf Trap Opera	August 2005
<b>Vanessa</b>	San Diego Opera	April 2005
<b>The Alien Corn*</b>	Peabody Opera ( <i>world premiere</i> )	March 2005
<b>Susannah</b>	Opera Columbus	February 2005
<b>La Cenerentola*</b>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	September 2004
<b>Der fliegende Holländer</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	March 2004
<b>Abduction from the Seraglio</b>	Peabody Opera	February 2004
<b>Carmen</b>	Palm Beach Opera	January 2004
<b>La bohème</b>	The Dallas Opera	December 2003
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	Opera Pacific	November 2003
<b>Tosca</b>	Houston Grand Opera	October 2003
<b>Fidelio</b>	Chattanooga Symphony & Opera	September 2003
<b>La Clemenza di Tito*</b>	Wolf Trap Opera	June 2003
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	San Diego Opera	May 2003
<b>Rigoletto</b>	Opera Grand Rapids	February 2003
<b>Cold Sassy Tree</b>	Opera Carolina	February 2003
<b>Turandot</b> (L. Berio ending)	Dallas Opera	January 2003
<b>La Traviata</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	November 2002
<b>La bohème</b>	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	September 2002
<b>Street Scene</b>	Wolf Trap Opera	August 2002
<b>La Tragédie de Carmen</b>	Yale Opera	April 2002
<b>Tosca</b>	Opera Colorado	February 2002
<b>Turandot</b>	Teatro di San Carlo, Napoli	January 2002
<b>Gianni Schicchi/Pagliacci</b>	Knoxville Opera	September 2001
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	Cincinnati Opera	June 2001
<b>The Pirates of Penzance</b>	Chattanooga Symphony & Opera	April 2001

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## PRODUCTIONS | DIRECTOR (CONTINUED)

<b>Cold Sassy Tree</b>	Austin Lyric Opera	January 2001
<b>L'Elisir d'Amore</b>	Houston Grand Opera	January 2000
<b>Aida</b>	Eugene Opera	December 1999
<b>Carmen</b>	Tulsa Opera	October 1999
<b>Turandot</b>	San Francisco Opera	September 1998
<b>Carmen</b>	Eugene Opera	January 1996

\* Denotes an original production

## PRODUCTIONS | ASSOCIATE/ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

<b>Salome</b>	(Zambello)	Washington National Opera	October 2010
<b>Porgy and Bess</b>	(Zambello)	San Francisco Opera	June 2009
<b>Doctor Atomic</b>	(Sellars)	Lyric Opera of Chicago	December 2007
<b>La Traviata</b>	(Corsaro)	Lyric Opera of Chicago	September 2007
<b>Carmen</b>	(Rudolfsson)	Teater Hedeland	August 2007
<b>Der Rosenkavalier</b>	(Mansouri)	San Francisco Opera	June 2007
<b>Porgy and Bess</b>	(Zambello)	Los Angeles Opera	May 2007
<b>Carmen</b>	(Rudolfsson)	Santa Fe Opera	July 2006
<b>Jenůfa</b>	(Zambello)	Dallas Opera	November 2004
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	(Zambello)	Houston Grand Opera	October 2004
<b>La Traviata</b>	(Corsaro)	Houston Grand Opera	April 2003
<b>Ariodante</b>	(D. Alden)	Houston Grand Opera	November 2002
<b>Carmen</b>	(Petterson)	Washington National Opera	May 2002
<b>Jenůfa</b>	(Zambello)	San Francisco Opera	November 2001
<b>Resurrection</b>	(B. Murray)	Houston Grand Opera	April 1999
<b>Die Zauberflöte</b>	(J. Rudel)	Opera Colorado	February 1999
<b>The Crucible</b>	(Beresford)	Washington National Opera	January 1999
<b>Les Contes d'Hoffman</b>	(Judge)	Houston Grand Opera	November 1998
<b>Lulu</b>	(Mansouri)	San Francisco Opera	May 1998
<b>Madama Butterfly</b>	(Zambello)	San Diego Opera	March 1998
<b>Porgy and Bess</b>	(Hutchison)	La Fenice, Venezia	November 1997
<b>La bohème</b>	(H. Ross)	Houston Grand Opera	January 1996
<b>La Cenerentola</b>	(Simone)	Houston Grand Opera	October 1995

## INTERNSHIPS & EDUCATION

Leonard Bernstein	Amberson, Inc.	1989-1990
Harold Prince	Metropolitan Opera ( <i>Faust</i> )	1989-1990
Tufts University	Bachelor of Arts, <i>cum laude</i>	1989

## FACULTY & STAFF POSITIONS

Opera Omaha	2008-present
Peabody Conservatory	2004-present
Aspen Music Festival & School	1993-present
Houston Grand Opera	1995-2000
Opera Colorado	1991-1996
Dallas Opera	1991-1995

## PRESS

### **Le Nozze di Figaro**, Opera Omaha

"The subtitle of this opera is "The Crazy Day," and from the outset Bruce captured that feeling with a production that was positively brimming with comic and dramatic thrust."

- **John Pitcher**, *Omaha World-Herald*, February 27, 2010

### **Cenerentola**, Opera Orlando

"Orlando Opera borrowed Lyric Opera of Kansas City's novel concept for its production of Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. The audience was transported to Hollywood in 1933...Director Garnett Bruce's stated aim was to reveal what he believed was Rossini's "core intent: to show that it is our own human nature that provides the magic to make our dreams come true." The concept worked delightfully well. Who would have guessed it?"

- **Edmond Leroy**, *Opera News*, June 2009

### **La bohème**, Austin Lyric Opera

"From the very first moments, it was clear there was much reason for the buzz. Bravo to Stage Director Garnett Bruce for helping his performers capture not only the whimsical and tragic natures of their characters but also the great ease with which the set and props become playground for effective storytelling through movement."

- **Michael Kellerman**, *The Austin Chronicle*, November 13, 2009

### **Turandot**, Kentucky Opera

"Marshalling his considerable forces on and through various levels of the stage, Bruce suggests both monumentality and a desperate hunger for death without becoming trapped in the muck and mire of people simply occupying space."

- **Andrew Adler**, *The Courier Journal*, September 8, 2007

## PRESS (CONTINUED)

### **Turandot**, Lyric Opera of Chicago

"Stage director Garnett Bruce and assistant Leslie Halla's reanimation of Hockney's complex and ingenious concepts work marvelously well with the proper orchestral pacing, colors and details."

- **Andrew Patner**, *Chicago Sun-Times*, January 15, 2007

### **Susannah**, Opera Columbus

"...Garnett Bruce's dramatic direction peopled the stage with action while consistently providing focus and clarity. Acting here could easily go over the top. Bruce guided the cast to a convincing realization at just the right temperature."

- **Barbara Zuck**, *The Columbus Dispatch*, February 5, 2005

### **La Cenerentola**, Lyric Opera of Kansas City

"...this *Cinderella* succeeds through the enormous creativity of director Garnett Bruce and his team, and through a world-class performance by Prairie Village native Joyce DiDonato in the title role..."

- **Paul Horsley**, *The Kansas City Star*, September 20, 2004

### **Tosca**, Houston Grand Opera

"...American director Garnett Bruce creates mythic staging, particularly in Act I, as a high mass makes for a jarring background for the principal's actions."

- **Marene Gustin**, *Houston Press*, October 30, 2003

### **La bohème**, Lyric Opera of Kansas City

"...Under Garnett Bruce's direction, the hyper-energized cast moved with animation when necessary, as in the deftly timed Latin Quarter scene of Act 2, which ticked along like well-oiled machinery...And they stood still at the right moments, as in the intimate third act, where we really just need to focus on the characters' anguish."

- **Paul Horsley**, *The Kansas City Star*, September 22, 2002

### **Street Scene**, Wolf Trap Opera

"...Weill's passionate score puts flesh on these cardboard character sketches, and director Garnett Bruce wisely founded his production on the plain-spoken eloquence of poet Langston Hughes's lyrics. Bruce established, as well, a tone of heightened naturalism that accommodated the varied acting strengths in a cast of opera singers, actors and musical theater dancers, creating a detailed and believable world."

- **Joe Banno**, *The Washington Post*, August 19, 2002