

**KATHLEEN BELCHER**  
**DIRECTOR**

Stage director Kathleen Smith Belcher is currently engaged in her 20th year as a member of the directing staff at the Metropolitan Opera.

Among others, she has worked extensively with the San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera and the San Diego Opera. Belcher assisted Peter Sellars on the world premiere of John Adams' *Dr. Atomic* in San Francisco and helped to remount the production for The Netherlands Opera (Amsterdam), and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Woody Allen, Michael Mayer, Bartlett Sher, Susan Stroman and Julie Taymor are just a few of the directors with whom she has collaborated. As a member of the Metropolitan Opera directing staff, she has collaborated on numerous "Live in HD" broadcasts, including the Emmy-winning production of *Don Pasquale*.



Engagements for last season included company debuts directing *Gianni Schicchi* at La Scala, *Rigoletto* for Kentucky Opera, a new production of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* for Chautauqua Opera, and assisting on James Robinson's new production of *Porgy & Bess* at ENO and Michael Mayer's new production of *La Traviata* at the Met. The 2019-2020 season includes *La bohème* for Lyric Opera of Kansas City, *Rigoletto* for Florida Grand Opera, and her return to the Metropolitan Opera for productions of *Porgy and Bess* and *Der Rosenkavalier*.

The New York Times praised her recent Metropolitan Opera directing debut of *Il barbiere di Siviglia* "a pitch-perfect interpretation of the dazzling display and abundant wit in Rossini's work." Her direction of the highly-acclaimed production of *Madama Butterfly* for the San Francisco Opera was hailed as "exceptional, giving the audience a number of indelible moments" (San Francisco Classical Voice) and "studded with imaginative and telling details" (San Francisco Chronicle). Belcher also directed Woody Allen's highly-praised Los Angeles Opera production of *Gianni Schicchi* for the Festival of Two Worlds in Spoleto, Italy, the Teatro Real in Madrid, and the revival for LA Opera to rave reviews. Belcher most recently directed the English Language *The Barber of Seville* for the Metropolitan Opera, a well-received *La bohème* for the Portland Opera, and a highly acclaimed *Così fan tutte* for the Sarasota Opera.

While serving as Artistic Director of Opera at the University of Kansas, Belcher directed the National Opera Association award winning production of *Werther* as well as productions of *Hansel and Gretel*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Così fan Tutte*, *Gianni Schicchi*, and *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. Belcher has also worked with the opera programs at The Florida State University and Carnegie Mellon University.

**KATHLEEN BELCHER****DIRECTOR****Artistic Production****STAGE DIRECTOR**

Rigoletto	Verdi	Florida Grand Opera	2020
La bohème	Puccini	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2019
Il barbiere di Siviglia	Rossini	Chautauqua Opera	2019
Gianni Schicchi	Puccini	La Scala, Milan	2019
Rigoletto	Verdi	Kentucky Opera	2019
Trouble in Tahiti	Bernstein	Carnegie Mellon University	2018
La bohème	Puccini	Portland Opera	2017
Così fan tutte	Mozart	Sarasota Opera	2016
The Barber of Seville (abridged English)	Rossini	The Metropolitan Opera	2013, 2015
Gianni Schicchi	Puccini	Los Angeles Opera & Teatro Real, Madrid	2015
Il trovatore	Verdi	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2012
Il barbiere di Siviglia	Rossini	The Metropolitan Opera	2009, '10, '11, '12 & '16
Suor Angelica/ Gianni Schicchi	Puccini	Utah Opera	2010
Gianni Schicchi	Puccini	Festival dei due Mondi, Spoleto, Italy	2009
La Traviata	Verdi	Lyric Opera of Kansas City	2009
Madama Butterfly	Puccini	San Francisco Opera	2007

**SEMI-STAGED/CONCERT PERFORMANCES-STAGE DIRECTOR**

Opera Highlights & Pops Concerts	Various	Chautauqua Opera	2016
Opera Under the Stars	Various	Opera Omaha	2014
Carmen	Bizet	Opera Colorado	2014
An Evening at the Opera	Various	Deer Valley Music Festival	2013
An Evening with Samuel Ramey	Various	San Francisco Opera	2002

**ASSOCIATE STAGE DIRECTOR**

Dr. Atomic	Adams	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2007
Dr. Atomic	Adams	The Netherlands Opera	2007
Die Zauberflöte (Student Matinee Cast)	Mozart	Lyric Opera of Chicago	2002

**ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR****THE METROPOLITAN OPERA**

<b>Opera</b>	<b>Production</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Year</b>
Manon Lescaut	Sir Richard Eyre	Sir Richard Eyre	2020
Rosenkavalier	Robert Carsen	Robert Carsen	2019
Porgy and Bess	James Robinson	James Robinson	2019
La Traviata	Michael Mayer	Michael Mayer	2018
L'elisir d'amore	Bartlett Sher	Gina Lapinski	2018
Thaïs	John Cox	Bruno Ravella	2017
La bohème	Franco Zeffirelli	Gregory Keller	2017
Der Rosenkavalier	Robert Carsen	Robert Carsen	2017
The Merry Widow	Susan Stroman	Susan Stroman	2014
Two Boys	Bartlett Sher	Bartlett Sher	2013
Guilio Cesare	David McVicar	David McVicar	2013
Rigoletto	Michael Mayer	Michael Mayer	2013
The Barber of Seville (English)	Bartlett Sher	Bartlett Sher	2012-13
Enchanted Island+	Phelim McDermott	Phelim McDermott	2011-2012, 2014
Satyagraha	Phelim McDermott	Phelim McDermott	2011
Nixon in China	Peter Sellars	Peter Sellars	2010
Don Pasquale	Otto Schenk	Otto Schenk	2006, 2011, 2016

Turandot	Franco Zeffirelli	David Kneuss	2009
Il barbiere di Siviglia	Bartlett Sher	Bartlett Sher	2006-2009, 2014
Thaïs	John Cox	John Cox	2008
Peter Grimes	John Doyle	John Doyle	2008
The Magic Flute (English)	Julie Taymor	Julie Taymor	2006
		David Kneuss	2008, 2016
Madama Butterfly	Anthony Minghella	Anthony Minghella	2006-2007
La bohème	Franco Zeffirelli	J. Knighten Smit	2008
La Traviata	Franco Zeffirelli	Kristine McIntyre	2006-2008
Tosca	Franco Zeffirelli	Sharon Thomas	2006
Die Zauberflöte	Julie Taymor	David Kneuss	2006-2007
Don Giovanni	Marthe Keller	Marthe Keller	2004
The Rake's Progress	Jonathan Miller	Laurie Feldman	2003
Nabucco	Elijah Moshinsky	J. Knighten Smit	2003-2005
A View from the Bridge	Frank Galati	Frank Galati	2002
Die Frau ohne Schatten	Herbert Wernicke	Herbert Wernicke	2001

**ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR  
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**

Opera	Production	Director	Year
Porgy and Bess	James Robinson	James Robinson	2018
Two Boys+	Bartlett Sher	Bartlett Sher	2011

**ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR  
LOS ANGELES OPERA**

Opera	Production	Director	Year
Gianni Schicchi	Woody Allen	Woody Allen	2008

**ASSISTANT STAGE DIRECTOR  
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA**

Opera	Production	Director	Year
Doctor Atomic+	Peter Sellars	Peter Sellars	2005
The Pearl Fishers	Andrew Sinclair	Andrew Sinclair	2005
The Cunning Little Vixen	Daniel Slater	Daniel Slater	2004
Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk	Johannes Schaff	Johannes Schaff	2003
Die Zauberflöte	John Cox	John Cox	2003
La Damnation de Faust	Thomas Langhoff	Thomas Langhoff	2003
Ariadne auf Naxos	John Cox	John Cox	2002
Madama Butterfly	Ron Daniels	Ron Daniels	2002-2003

**Teaching Credentials**

**William Jewell College, Liberty, MO** Fall 2016  
Guest director-scenes program

**Florida State University** Fall 2015  
Opera Workshop/Undergrads

**University of Kansas** 2009-2011  
Assistant professor of opera/Director KU Opera

## KATHLEEN BELCHER

### DIRECTOR

### CRITICAL ACCLAIM

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

"Lyric Opera KC's "La Boheme", expertly directed by Kathleen Smith Belcher. . . deserves all the accolades one can dream up and then some."  
-KC Applauds

#### **Il barbiere di Siviglia – Chautauqua Opera**

"On Friday, I found myself enjoying Barbiere in Norton Hall mostly for the time-honored reasons. This is an opera that succeeds by not taking itself seriously, and while director Kathleen Smith Belcher promised social commentary in her program note, she mostly let the situations and conflicts inherent in the text (and the original play by Pierre Beaumarchais) speak and sing for themselves. . . The Chautauqua production — surprisingly, the first of this favorite since 2000 — is true to its fun-loving spirit. There are dizzying strobe effects and stop-action sequences in front of a giant clock that reminds us of the inevitable march, usually forward, of time. Physical comedy was ample but not intrusive."  
-Chautauqua Daily

#### **Gianni Schicchi – Los Angeles Opera**

"Kathleen Smith Belcher, the stage director for the *Schicchi* revival, sustained a witty, frequently grotesque stream of comic invention"  
- Opera News

"The production with all its comic interplay is a good deal of fun as restaged by Kathleen Smith Belcher. . . From its comic opening credits to its surprising final moment (one not intended by Puccini), the production is a wonderful romp led by Domingo's physical and vocal presence."  
-Los Angeles Daily News

#### **Così fan tutte – Sarasota Opera**

"There cannot be enough said about the effectiveness of Kathleen Smith Belcher's stage direction. In her Sarasota Opera debut, this veteran of the Met and other major stages of the opera world, added a new level of entertainment excellence for us to enjoy. At no point was a character simply existing on stage. Everyone's actions had a meaning, and sometimes several layers. Did I catch an insider's reference to "Aida" in Despina's crossed arm pose on top of the chair at the beginning of Act II?"  
-Sarasota Herald-Tribune

#### **Suor Angelica and Gianni Schicchi – Utah Opera**

"Fortunately, incisive direction by Kathleen Smith Belcher aided dramatic coherency that, along with exceptional principals, an able orchestra and a sense of unifying clarity from conductor Susanne Sheston, successfully linked musical and dramatic elements to the score."  
-Opera News

#### **Il barbiere di Siviglia – Metropolitan Opera**

"But in Sher's production, now overseen by the stage director Kathleen Smith Belcher, public and private spaces are loosely defined by the designer Michael Yeargan's double doors, orange trees and towering balcony, shifted around the stage by visible supernumeraries. You get enough sense of place to make each scene comprehensible, but the general bustle and whirl ideally suit the busy, animated plot and score. . . If the Met currently has a sure-fire hit, this delicious lark is it."  
-New York Times

#### **La Traviata – Lyric Opera of Kansas City**

"Belcher began by researching the inspiration for Violetta, the real life nineteenth century Parisian Marie Duplessis. . . Belcher observed: "It seems that Marie's story tumbled out of the men whose lives she touched." With this in mind, she staged the first two acts of the opera as a memory, with Alfredo recalling falling in love with Violetta and their happiness together. This innovation accounts for a very striking opening. . . A familiar story told well is always a new experience, and Belcher's reading of "La Traviata" is certainly enjoyable."  
-Kansas City Star