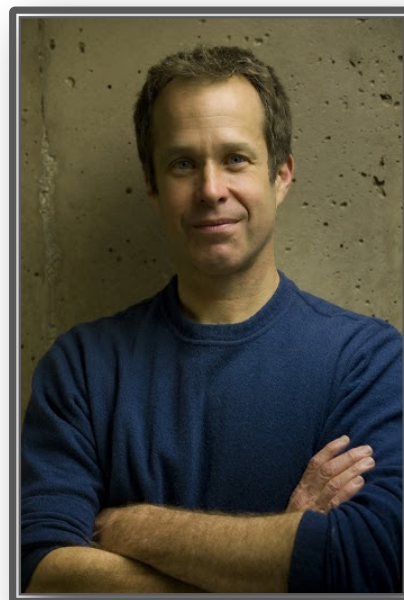


BRIAN STAUFENBIEL
DIRECTOR

Brian Staufenbiel is the creative director and stage director for Opera Parallèle where he has directed and spearheaded the conceptual designs of the company's productions since it was founded in 2010. Specializing in multimedia, immersive, and interdisciplinary productions, he actively works across a wide range of artistic disciplines collaborating with film and media designers, choreographers and dancers, circus and fabric artists, and designer fabricators. His progressive approach to stagecraft has garnered critical acclaim for many of the company's productions, including Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness*, Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, Glass' *Orphée* and *Les Enfants Terribles*, Golijov's *Ainadamar*, Gorb's *Anyá 17*, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Davies' *The Lighthouse*, Blanchard's *Champion*, and Dove's *Flight*.



Last season he directed new productions of Glass' *In the Penal Colony* and was director and dramaturge for the world premiere of *Today it Rains* by Laura Kaminsky and librettists Mark Campbell and Kimberly Reed. Upcoming engagements include a new production of Strauss' *Elektra* for Minnesota Opera, Stewart Wallace's *Harvey Milk* with Opera Parallèle, Miguel Zenon's *Golden City Suite* (an immersive design project) with the SF Jazz Center and the creation of a new work for Fort Worth Opera.

Mr. Staufenbiel recently created a new production of *Das Rheingold* for Minnesota Opera, which was reprised at Arizona Opera and at Opéra de Montréal. He also recently created a new production of Gordon Getty's *Usher House* and *Canterville Ghost* for the Center of Contemporary Opera in New York and LA Opera. He directed and was dramaturge for the world premiere production of *Sophia's Forest* by composer Lembit Beecher and librettist Hannah Moscovitch performed in Philadelphia in Fall 2017.

Staufenbiel directed the World Premiere of *Angel Heart* by Luna Pearl Woolf which was performed at Cal Performances in Berkeley, Carnegie Hall, and Festival del Sole in Sonoma. In addition to opera, Staufenbiel also brings his unique brand of experimental staging to theater and has shared a residency at Banff with composer Luna Pearl Woolf to create an original theater piece - *Mélange à Trois*- premiered in Montréal.

Staufenbiel enjoys working as a dramaturge for dance companies and he has curated and created several art installations to accompany and enhance his productions with audience immersive experiences.

Staufenbiel's interdisciplinary approach to opera extends to his academic activity. He recently left his position after seventeen years as the director of the opera program at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he has mounted a wide spectrum of award-winning productions ranging from traditional operas to original works by contemporary composers. He holds degrees in Philosophy and Music including a Doctor of Musical Arts from the Eastman School of Music and currently resides in San Francisco.

BRIAN STAUFENBIEL

DIRECTOR

Upcoming projects

- Director, Creative Director, New Production of Stewart Wallace's *Harvey Milk* Opera Parallèle (2020)
- Director, Production Designer, Miguel Zenon's *Golden City Suite* at SF Jazz Center (2020)
- Director, Conceptual Design, Strauss' *Elektra*, Minnesota Opera, Minneapolis (2019)

2019

- Director, Dramaturge, Laura Kamisky's *Today it Rains* (Librettist, Mark Campbell and Kim Reed) (commissioned world premiere) Opera Parallèle (OP) American Opera Project (2019)

2018

- Director, Creative Director, New production in Collaboration with Philip Glass of his opera *In the Penal Colony*, Opera Parallèle and Days and Nights Festival, Carmel (2018)
- Director, Conceptual Design, Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Opera Montreal, Montreal, QB
- Director, Production Concept Designer, Gordon Getty's *Usher House* and *The Canterville Ghost*, LA Opera
- Director, Production Designer, Rachel Portman's *Little Prince*, Opera Parallèle, San Francisco
- Director, Production Concept Designer, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Heggie's *At The Statues Of Venus*, Opera Parallèle, SFJazz Center, San Francisco
- Director, Conceptual Design, Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Arizona Opera, Phoenix and Tuscan
- Dramaturge, Joby Talbot's *Path of Miracles*, ODC Dance Company, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

2017

- Director, Production Concept Designer, Gordon Getty's *Usher House* and *The Canterville Ghost*, Center for Contemporary Opera, NYC
- Director, Production Designer, Rachel Portman's *Little Prince*, Opera Parallèle, Fort Mason Center, SF
- Director, Production Designer, Philip Glass's *Les enfants terribles*, Opera Parallèle, SFCM
- Director, Creative Director, Jonathan Dove's *Flight*, Opera Parallèle, YBCA, SF
- Director, Dramaturge, Creative Director, Lembit Beecher's *Sophia's Forest*, (World Premiere) Pew Arts and Heritage Project, Philadelphia

2016

- Director, Conceptual Design, Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Minnesota Opera, Minneapolis
- Director, Production Designer, Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, UCSC Opera Theatre, Univ of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Creative Designer, Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Lighthouse*, Opera Parallèle, ZSpace, SF
- Director, Creative Designer, Terence Blanchard's *Champion*, Opera Parallèle, SFJazz Center, SF

2015

- Director, Production Designer, Milhaud's *Médée*, Littlefield Concert Hall, Oakland
- Creative Director, Pratorius's *Amazing Grace*, (Commissioned World Premiere), Opera Parallèle, AAACC, SF
- Director, Creative Director, Luna Pearl Woolf's *Angel Heart*, Festival Del Sole, Napa
- Director/ Production Designer, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Astoria Music Festival, Astoria, Oregon
- Director, Production Designer, Rachel Portman's *Little Prince*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Creative Designer, Tarik O'Regan's *Heart of Darkness*, Opera Parallèle, ZSpace, SF
- Director, Creative Designer, Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Opera Parallèle, Broad Stage, Santa Monica
- Director, Creative Designer, Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Opera Parallèle, YBCA, SF
- Artistic Director, Pratorius's *My Head is Full of Colors*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz

2014

- Director, Creative Designer, Adam Gorb's *Any17*, Opera Parallèle, Marines' Memorial Theater, SF
- Director, Production Designer, Kirke Mechem's *Tartuffe*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Luna Pearl Woolf's *Mélange à Trois (a voiceless opera)* McGill University, Commissioned by Percussionist Krystina Marcoux, Artistic Residency at the Banff Center

- Director, Creative Designer, Weill's *Mahagonny* and Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, Opera Parallèle, YBCA, SF
- Artistic Director, Chris Pratorius's *My Head is Full of Colors*, (Commissioned World Premiere), Opera Parallèle, SF Public Library, SF

2013

- Director, Production Designer, Luna Pearl Woolf's *Angel Heart*, Cal Performances, Hertz Hall Berkeley and Carnegie Hall, NYC
- Director, Production Designer, Jake Heggie's *At the Statue of Venus*, Opera Parallèle, Fort Mason Center, SF
- Director, David Del Tredici's *Dracula*, BluePrint New Music Series, Caroline H, Hume Hall, SF
- Creative Director, Peter Maxwell Davies's *The Spiders' Revenge*, OP, California Academy of Sciences, SF
- Director, Production Designer, Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, Nonsemble 6, Stanford Memorial Auditorium, Palo Alto
- Artistic Director, Humperdinck's *Hänsel and Gretel*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Dante De Silva's *Prince of Madness*, Opera Parallèle's *Graphic Opera Project*, Sol Joseph Recital Hall, SF
- Director, Production Designer, Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* and Barber's *A Hand of Bridge*, Opera Parallèle, ZSpace, SF
- Director, Production Designer, Menotti's *Chip and His Dog*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Golijov's *Ainadamar*, Opera Parallèle, YBCA, SF

2012

- Director, Production Designer, Arnold Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire*, Nonsemble 6, Caroline H, Hume Hall, SF
- Director/ Production Designer, Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, Astoria Music Festival, Astoria, Oregon
- Director/ Production Designer, Adamo's *Little Women*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, Ensemble Parallèle, YBCA, SF
- Artistic Director/Production Designer, Ronald Perera's *The Arabolies of Liberty Street*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Loesser's *The Most Happy Fella*, Festival Opera, Walnut Creek, California
- Director, Production Designer, Thomson's *Four Saints in Three Acts*, Ensemble Parallèle and MOMA Production, YBCA, SF.
- Director/Production Designer, Britten's *Albert Herring*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Shearer's *Riddle Me* (World Premiere), UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Glass's *Orphée*, Ensemble Parallèle, Herbst Theater, SF
- Director, Production Designer, *Philip Glass – an Opera Installation*, Friday Night at the De Young Museum SF

2010

- Director, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Festival Opera, Walnut Creek, California
- Director/Production Designer, Donizetti's *L'elisir d'amore*, UCSC Opera Theatre, University of California, Santa Cruz
- Director, Production Designer, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Astoria Music Festival, Oregon.
- Director, Production Designer, Berg's *Wozzeck*, Ensemble Parallèle, YBCA, SF

EMPLOYMENT

- Stage Director and Creative Director, Opera Parallèle, San Francisco, CA, 2007-Present
- Freelance Director and Designer, 2007-Present
- Director of Opera Program, Department of Music, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, 2000-2017
- Voice Instructor, Lecturer, Department of Music, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA, 1997-2014
- Tenor soloist, 1992-2016.

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Musical Arts, in Voice, Performance and Literature, Eastman School of Music, 1997
- Master of Music in Vocal Performance, San José State University, San José, California, 1992
- Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, University of California, Santa Cruz, 1988

BRIAN STAUFENBIEL

DIRECTOR

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

Today it Rains – Opera Parallèle

"Director Brian Staufenbiel gave the opera a fluid staging on Sean Riley's set, which employed a series of moveable pieces. A stack of suitcases in the opening scene at Penn Station, along with a succession of arches and banquettes, were all put to use as elements of the train's interiors"
-Opera News

Das Rheingold – Opéra de Montréal

"La production de Das Rheingold présentée en première à [samedi] soir à l'Opéra de Montréal était spectaculaire avec ses impressionnants effets scéniques. / The production of Das Rheingold premiered at [Saturday] night at the Opéra de Montréal was spectacular with its impressive stage effects."
-Ludwig van Montréal

"The first time Wagner's Das Rheingold is staged in Montreal is a success. As a whole, this is Opéra de Montréal's best production in the last two and a half years, riveting from beginning to the end."
-La Scena Musicale

"Cet Or du Rhin vaut le détour pour les solutions intéressantes apportées par la présence de l'orchestre sur scène, la qualité des projections et la solidité globale de la distribution / This Rheingold is worth the detour for the interesting solutions brought by the presence of the orchestra on stage, the quality of the projections and the overall strength of the distribution"
-Le Devoir

"Cette plongée, dans les abîmes du pouvoir de la convoitise, dont J. R. Tolkien s'inspira fortement pour la création du Seigneur des anneaux est un pur bijou / This dive, in the abysses of the power of lust, from which J. R. Tolkien drew heavily for the creation of the Lord of the Rings, is a pure jewel"
-Le Journal de Montréal

Usher House / The Canterville Ghost

LA Opera

"Stage director Brian Stauffenbiel told Poe's story in a straightforward manner, which lent a solid footing to the unearthly aspects of the story."
-BroadwayWorld.com

Collectively, L.A. Opera's Off Grand presentation of Scare Pair, under the direction of Brian Staufenbiel, was an entertaining hybrid of spooky stories and opera, providing fans of scary stories with an eloquent theatrical experience and fans of opera with a particularly colorful program."
-LA Weekly

Center for Contemporary Opera

"...while director Brian Staufenbiel kept the characters in close proximity, forcing the truth of their relationships to the fore."
- Opera News

Das Rheingold – Arizona Opera

"With equal flashes of imagination and innovation, Arizona Opera's production of DAS RHEINGOLD, under the visionary direction of Brian Staufenbiel, has added technology to this fusion of theatrical elements. The result is the creation of an engaging environment and an enthralling experience ~ reason enough, I daresay, to sit for two and a half uninterrupted hours and embrace the convolutions of plot and the intrigues of its mythical characters! . . . Staufenbiel echoes Wagner's emphasis on fusion with an intelligent and economical exploitation of space. True to Wagner's emphasis on the role of the orchestra, he gives it centrality on the main stage."
-Broadway World

Les Enfants Terribles – Opera Parallèle

"With music director Nicole Paiement conducting Glass's mesmerizing three-piano score and director Brian Staufenbiel employing lean but imaginative stagecraft to present the story of the obsessive Parisian siblings Paul and Lise, the work's visual, musical, dance and spoken-word elements merged in a singular vision."
- Opera News

Das Rheingold – Minnesota Opera

“Under the stage direction and production concept of Brian Staufenbiel, Minnesota Opera’s production involves a layered mixture of medieval, steampunk, and retrofuturist imagery, with, for the most part, a light enough touch to avoid overwhelming the audience with dense imagery over Wagner’s already dense score.” - Twin Cities Art Reader

The Lighthouse – Opera Parallèle

“Creative and stage director and set designer Brian Staufenbiel created a visual equivalent of Davies’ score.”
- Stark Insider

Champion – Opera Parallèle

“All of these contributions, and many more, were blended into a fluid and theatrically resourceful staging by director Brian Staufenbiel.”
- San Francisco Chronicle

Heart of Darkness – Opera Parallèle

“The other is Creative Director Brian Staufenbiel’s physically taut production, which inserts the audience members (some of them, anyway) directly into the proceedings.”
- San Francisco Chronicle

Dead Man Walking – Opera Parallèle

“And yet this production, which Staufenbiel directed with a nimble blend of realism and shadowy allusion, hardly shied away from the gritty realities of its subject matter.”
- San Francisco Chronicle