

Stephane Braunschweig's biography



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Stéphane Braunschweig was born in 1964.

After studying philosophy at the *École Normale Supérieure* in Paris, he joined the drama school of the *Théâtre National de Chaillot* directed by Antoine Vitez in 1987. In 1988, he founded his own company, the *Théâtre-Machine*, with which he produced Büchner's *Woyzeck* (1988), Brecht's *Drums in the Night* (1989) von Horvath's *Don Juan Comes Back from the War* (1991), Sophocles' *Ajax* (1992), Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard* (1992), and Thomas Mann's *Doctor Faustus* (1993).

S. Braunschweig was director of the *Centre Dramatique National/Orléans-Loiret-Centre* from 1993 to June 1998. His creations in Orléans include Shakespeare's *A Winter's Tale* (1993), Kleist's *Amphitryon* (1994), Frank Wedekind's *Franziska* (1995), Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* (1996), Brecht's *In the Jungle of Cities* (1997) and Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* (1999).

He was director of the *Théâtre National de Strasbourg* and its National Drama School between 2000 and 2008, and his productions include Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound* (February 2001), Olivier Py's *L'Exaltation du labyrinthe* (April 2001), Chekhov's *The Seagull* (November 2001), Kleist's *The Schroffenstein Family* (October 2002), Ibsen's *Ghosts* (January 2003), Moliere's *Misanthrope* (November 2003), Ibsen's *Brand* (February 2005), Pirandello's *Clothing the naked* (January 2006), Hanokh Levin's *Dreaming Child* (March 2006), Chekhov's *Three Sisters* (2007), and Molière's *Tartuffe* (2008).

He also directed plays abroad, Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* (in English) at Edinburgh Festival in 1997, *The Merchant of Venice* (in Italian) at Milan's *Piccolo Teatro* (1999) and (in German), Büchner's *Woyzeck* at Munich's *Residenz Theater* (1999), as well as *Ghosts* by Ibsen, a co-production between the *Théâtre National de Strasbourg* and the *Frankfurter Schauspiel* (2003). His French productions have been presented in different European cities (London, Edinburgh, Berlin, Munich, Frankfurt, Istanbul, Madrid, Rome, Moscow, Québec, Dublin...).

S. Braunschweig has also been successful in the opera, directing Bartok's *Bluebeard's Castle* (*Théâtre du Châtelet* – Paris, 1993), Beethoven's *Fidelio* (*Staatsoper* – Berlin, *Théâtre du Châtelet* – Paris, Jerusalem festival, La Fenice – Venice, 1995), Dazzi's *La Rosa de Ariadna* (1995), Janacek's *Jenufa* (*Théâtre du Châtelet* – Paris 1996), Verdi's *Rigoletto* (La Monnaie – Brussels, 1998), Mozart's *Magic Flute* (Aix en Provence Festival, 1999, Edinburgh Festival 2000), Janacek's *The Makropoulos Affair* (Aix en Provence Festival, 2000), Richard Strauss' *Elektra* (Opéra du Rhin – Strasbourg, La Monnaie – Brussels, September 2002) and Verdi's *Don Carlo* (La Scala – Milan, 2008). At the Aix-en-Provence Festival he directed Alban Berg's *Wozzeck* with Daniel Harding as conductor in July 2003, and from 2006 to 2009 he created Wagner's *Ring* with the Berliner Philharmoniker conducted by Sir Simon Rattle, *The Rhine Gold* in 2006, *Walkyrie* in 2007, *Siegfried* in 2008 and *The Twilight of the Gods* in 2009, all presented at Salzburg Easter Festival from 2007 to 2010. He will stage *Pelleas and Melisande* by Debussy at the Opéra Comique in Paris in June 2010, conducted by Sir John Elliott Gardiner.

Stéphane Braunschweig is the associate artist with La Colline – théâtre national since January 2009 and he will become director in January 2010.