

Stephen Langridge is Artistic Director (Opera/Drama) of GöteborgsOperan, the Gothenburg Opera.

Having studied Drama at Exeter University, Stephen then spent several years working as assistant director, mostly with the cutting edge company, Opera Factory, but also at Covent Garden, Opera North and Scottish Opera. His own practice developed through a mixture of small scale tours of cut-down classics with Pimlico Opera, practical laboratories for composers and librettists, and devised music theatre projects, often in unconventional spaces with unconventional people. Underlying all his work is the belief that music theatre is a natural and dynamic form of human expression, to which everybody should have access, both as a creative participant and as an audience.

As a director he has worked at Glyndebourne, Covent Garden, Rome, Chicago, Paris, Salzburg. Opera productions include works by Monteverdi, Rameau and Handel through Mozart, Verdi and Wagner to many new commissions. He is particularly associated with the work of Harrison Birtwistle. Productions coming up are *Tristan und Isolde* in Hannover, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* for Theatre des Champs Elysees, and Gothenburg's first ever Ring Cycle.

Stephen is well known for his education, development, and training work (projects in France, Spain, Germany, Finland, Holland, Sweden, Senegal, South Africa, and throughout the UK), and for his theatre work in unusual settings, including *West Side Story* (Bernstein) and *Julius Caesar* (Shakespeare) with large casts of prisoners in various British high security prisons, and Ngoma, a multi-racial music and theatre project in South African townships.

Although his directing work is now often on a larger scale - including productions at many of the world's leading opera houses - Stephen continues to work *off piste* incorporating smaller scale experimental and developmental projects as an essential part of his working life.