Federico Figueroa

STAGE DIRECTOR

Stage director and playwright. He has been Artistic Director of the Festival Lírico de Medinaceli since December 2020.

His activity is already extending towards new engagements, including Los Gavilanes in Medellín, La tabernera del puerto in Las Palmas and Il barbiere di Siviglia in São Miguel (Azores). In addition, as head of the Estudio de Zarzuela Internacional and in collaboration with the Universidad del Cauca, he is preparing a production of Luisa Fernanda at the Teatro Municipal de Popayán, among other projects.

Born in Cintalapa (Chiapas, Mexico), he studied Industrial Engineering in his native country, combining this training with studies in Fine Arts and Music. He later studied Architecture at the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Graphic Design in Mexico City and drama workshops in New York, as well as various art courses in different European cities.

His involvement with the stage began as an assistant director in Mexico and Spain, working in theatre, zarzuela and opera. In 1996, he made his first foray into stage direction in the lyric field in Mexico City with a production based on Manuel de Falla's Siete canciones populares españolas. From then on, he combined theatre and lyric stage direction until making his debut as an opera director in 2004 with Donizetti's Lucia di Lammermoor at the Teatro Jovellanos in Gijón.

Since then, he has built a career particularly closely linked to opera and zarzuela, with titles including La traviata, Rigoletto, La bohème, Turandot, Amahl and the Night Visitors, Pepita Jiménez, Cavalleria rusticana, Carmen and Lehár's operetta The Merry Widow. His work has taken him to stages across the Americas and Europe, with productions and performances in cities including Havana, Bogotá, Edinburgh, Dallas and Miami, among others.

Alongside his work as a director, he has developed an important career as a creator. He has written and premiered lyric-theatre productions such as Händel, rey de la ópera barroca, Fernando VI y su corte musical, Un homenaje a Albéniz and Mahler: un artista en el cambio de siglo. In 2011, he directed the musical A Man's a Man at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

His activity as a director intensified from 2012 onwards. In Bogotá, he presented Sumisión y sortilegios and, that same year, directed La travesía at the Gran Teatro de La Habana. In 2013, he presented the performance Rodin: los volúmenes del hombre at the Museo Soumaya in Mexico City. In the following years, he directed new productions of La traviata in Bogotá and La bohème at the IV Festival de Ópera de Oaxaca, as well as La corte de Faraón, Gianni Schicchi, María la O, The Merry Widow and Don Giovanni, the latter at the Ateneo de Madrid.

In 2018, he premiered Farinelli VS Carestini at the Corral de Comedias de Alcalá de Henares and directed Carmen and Luisa Fernanda as part of Bogotá's Temporada Internacional de Zarzuela. That same year, he presented an Opera Gala at the Palacio de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, which

subsequently toured more than a dozen Mexican cities, as well as the lyric production Monumental in Toledo. He also directed a new production of La traviata at the Teatro Municipal de Cali and premiered Bijoux lyriques and La muerte de Violeta in Madrid, both featuring texts of his own authorship.

In 2019, he premiered Reina y mujer, las Tudor en ópera, a work of his own authorship presented at the Festival 5 de Mayo in Puebla, the Ateneo de Madrid and the Centro Nacional de las Artes in Mexico City. He also took part in new productions of La traviata in Bogotá and Lucia di Lammermoor in Cali.

In 2020, he directed the Baroque zarzuela El imposible mayor en amor, le vence Amor in Dallas and took part in the revival of the Colombian zarzuela Romance esclavo in Bogotá. Since that year, he has also served as Director of the Festival Lírico de Medinaceli and has developed the Estudio de Zarzuela Internacional (EZI), his own project conceived as a travelling workshop specialising in zarzuela and focused on the training and development of young performers.

From 2021 onwards, he expanded this activity with productions such as Cecilia Valdés in the Temporada Lírica de Andorra, Der Schauspieldirektor at the Teatro Real de Aranjuez and Los Gavilanes in Bogotá. In 2022, he directed two different productions of Rigoletto in Cali and Porto, as well as La del manojo de rosas and La canción del olvido in different Spanish locations. He also undertook a tour of Chiapas with Chiapas Lírico and collaborated on the revival in Spain of the zarzuela Chin Chun Chan.

The Estudio de Zarzuela Internacional has now reached seven editions and awards a scholarship each year to a Latin American singer. In 2026, it will hold an edition in Latin America for the first time, based in the Colombian city of Popayán and with the participation of artists from Panama as well, further strengthening the project’s international scope.

Among his other notable projects are the Baroque zarzuelas Apolo y Dafne in Dallas and Jasón, presented at the Festival Brunetti in Colmenar de Oreja and at the Centro Cultural Conde Duque in Madrid; the revival of Veneno es de amor la envidia at the Auditorio Nacional de Madrid; Doña Francisquita at the Festival de Zarzuela de La Solana; Madama Butterfly in Lisbon; La rondine in San José, Costa Rica; and La bohème in Panama.

His career has also developed in parallel with cultural journalism. He has contributed to specialist publications in Mexico, including ProÓpera; in Spain, including Opera World, Ópera Actual and Mundo Clásico; and in Argentina, with Operayre, as well as to publications associated with the Festival Mozart de La Coruña, the Teatro de la Zarzuela and the Teatro Real in Madrid.

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