

Irina Brown

Profile

Irina Brown, born and educated in St Petersburg, has lived and worked in Britain for over thirty years, establishing a versatile career as opera and theatre director, dramaturge, adapter, and teacher of acting and directing. Her work spans the experimental and the popular, classical drama and new writing, opera and musicals. She started out as assistant director to Andrei Tarkovsky, Yuri Lubimov and Anatoly Vassiliev, Richard Eyre, David Hare, Mike Alfreds and Anthony Page.

Directing

Opera Work includes:

2018	<i>Anna Bolena</i>	Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe, Germany
2016	<i>Stravinsky: Tales</i> <i>Renard/ Mavra/ Les Noces</i>	Philharmonia Orchestra Royal Festival Hall
2015	<i>Orango</i> by Shostakovich	Philharmonia Orchestra Proms, RAH
2015	<i>L'enfant et les sortilèges</i> by Ravel	Philharmonia Orchestra Royal Festival Hall
2013	<i>Orango</i> by Shostakovich	Philharmonia Orchestra Royal Festival Hall
2010	<i>The Gamblers</i> by Shostakovich	LPO, RFH
2010	<i>The Letter</i>	Scottish Opera 5:15 Festival
2010	Prokofiev's <i>War and Peace</i>	Scottish Opera/ RSAMD

Royal Opera House

2006	<i>Bird of Night</i> by Dominique Le Gendre Conductor Yuval Zorn	Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House
2006	<i>Boris Godunov</i> Revival	L'Opera de Monte Carlo
2003	<i>Boris Godunov</i> 20th Anniversary Production	Royal Opera House Conductor Semyon Bychkov

Theatre

National Theatre

2008- 2009	<i>Hoffmaniana</i>	by Andrei Tarkovsky Research & Development Workshops Writing an adaptation	National Theatre Studio
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2000 – 2001	<i>Further Than the Furthest Thing</i> by Zinnie Harris The Fringe First, Edinburgh Festival 2000/ The Stage Award/ The Evening Standard Best Actress Award (Paola Dionisotti) - Cottesloe; Tron Theatre; Traverse Theatre; Tricycle Theatre; BRITISH COUNCIL tour of South Africa: Grahamstown Festival, Baxter Theatre, Cape Town, State Theatre, Pretoria (RNT/ Tron co-production in association with RNT Studio)	
1985-1987	<i>The Critics Pass Judgment on the School for Wives</i> by Moliere <i>Twist of the Knife: Sweeney Agonistes and other Poems</i> by T.S. Eliot <i>Irina Ratushinskaya: Poet in Prison</i> <i>Marina Tsvetaeva: Poet. Outcast.</i> (with Fiona Shaw)	Lyttleton, NT Cottesloe, NT Cottesloe, NT Cottesloe, NT
1984	<i>Anton Chekhov (one-man show with Michael Pennington)</i>	Cottesloe, NT Regional Tour Jerusalem Festival

Other Recent Work includes:

- ***Chigger Foot Boys*** StrongBack/ Tara Theatre
- ***Britannicus*** by Racine Natural Perspective/ Wilton's Music Hall
- ***Jenufa*** Natural Perspective/ Arcola Theatre
- ***War & Peace at the Circus (writer/ director)*** Giffords Circus Tour
- ***The Importance of Being Earnest*** Open Air Theatre, Regents Park, London
- ***Desire Lines*** by Ian Rowlands Sherman, Cymru, Cardiff
- ***Three Tall Women*** by Edward Albee Oxford Playhouse; regional tour
- ***The Vagina Monologues*** by Eve Ensler West End/ National Tour
- ***The Parents' Evening*** by Bathsheba Doran Cherry Lane Theatre, New York
- ***FillerUp!*** Drill Hall, London

Artistic Director - Tron Theatre, Glasgow

1996 - 1999

- ***The Cosmanaut's Last Message to the Woman He Once Loved In the Former Soviet Union***
by David Greig, Scottish premiere (developed at the Tron Writer's Lab, voted best Scottish
Show 1999, The List)
- ***The Tempest Dream*** after William Shakespeare
- ***Speedrun*** by Isabel Wright, world premiere
- ***Sea Urchins*** by Sharman Macdonald, world stage premiere
- ***Mate in Three*** by Vittorio Franceschi, UK premiere
- ***Lavochkin-5*** by Alexei Shipenko, translated by Iain Heggie and Irina Brown, UK premiere

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Her other work at the Tron includes:

- The Writer's Lab (David Greig/ Zinnie Harris/ Douglas Maxwell/ Isabel Wright, etc)
- The Tron Summer School of Theatre and Film Design
- An extensive Education and Outreach programme
- Rebuilding the theatre

Other Opera Work

1983 -1992

1983/ 1984 *Boris Godunov*

Director **Andrei Tarkovsky** **Royal Opera House** Assistant Director
Conductor **Claudio Abbado**

1987 – 1990

Samson et Dalila; Tannhauser; Lohengrin; Prince Igor Assistant Director

1988

Boris Godunov **Royal Opera House** Revival Director
Conductor **James Conlon**

1990

Boris Godunov **Mariinski Opera** Revival Director
Conductor **Valery Gergiev** St Petersburg

1991

Boris Godunov **Royal Opera House** Revival Director
Conductor **Gennady Rozhdestvensky**

1990

Dido and Aeneas **Royal Academy of Music** Director

1988 - 1992

Scenes from Operas **Royal College of Music** Director
Royal Academy of Music

Other Theatre Work

1990 *The Dumb Waiter* by Pinter **Derby Playhouse**
Macbeth Educational Workshop

The Misunderstanding by Albert Camus **Gate Theatre, London**
(Winner of 01-for London Award)

1991 *Dear Elena Sergeevna* **Gate Theatre, London**

Fool for Love by Sam Shepard **Timber Street Studios**

1992 *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker **Tabakov Theatre, Moscow**

West Side Story **Cambridge Festival,**
Regional Tour

1992 *Peer Gynt* **Arts Theatre, Cambridge**
Marlowe Society

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1993	<i>Violent Peace</i> by Lavonne Mueller	DOC Theatre Club
1994	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	Contact Theatre, Manchester
1995	<i>Sound of Music</i>	West Yorkshire Playhouse
	<i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i>	Southern Shakespeare Festival Tallahassee, Florida
	<i>Blood Libel</i> by Arnold Wesker (world premiere)	Norwich Playhouse
1996	<i>The Doll's House</i>	Birmingham Rep

Film

1993	<i>Zinky Boys Go Underground</i> Produced by Tatiana Kennedy and Eliza Mellor <i>BAFTA Shorts Award</i>	BBC/ BFI – Associate Director
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Radio

1997	<i>More Sinned Against Than Sinning</i> by Alexander Ostrovsky (with Rhys Ifans and Bill Nighy)
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Positions Held

1983 – to present	Freelance theatre and opera director	
2012 – 2013	Artistic Director	MA Ensemble Rose Bruford College
2007 – 2011	Artistic Director (Joint with Timberlake Wertenbaker)	Natural Perspective Theatre Company
2005 – 2006	Senior Lecturer in Acting (0.5)	Manchester Metropolitan University School of Theatre
1996 – 1999	Artistic Director	Tron Theatre, Glasgow
1985 - 1987	Staff Director (with Richard Eyre and David Hare as well as Mike Alfreds Companies)	Royal National Theatre
1983 - 1984	Staff Producer on <i>Boris Godunov</i> , dir. Andrei Tarkovsky	Royal Opera House
1987 – 1991	Staff Producer (<i>various operas</i>)	Royal Opera House (<i>freelance</i>)
1992	Artist-in-Residence	Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge
2004/ 2008	Granada Artist-in-Residence	UC Davis, CA USA

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2012 – to present

Board Member

Stone Nest

St Petersburg, RUSSIA

1972 - 1978

Acting ASM at the Studio-Theatre of Vladimir Malyshchitsky, St Petersburg

ADAPTOR & DIRECTOR

The Snow-Maiden by Alexander Ostrovsky

The Limerick Show (in English)

Up the Down Staircase by Bel Kaufman (in English)

Winnie-the-Poor (in English) Schools Tour

Teaching

Acting

1987 – 1995 Workshop Leader

NT Studio

1987 – 1993 Visiting Director

Guildhall School of Music and Drama

1994 – 2004 Visiting Director

Manchester Metropolitan University
School of Theatre

1987 – present Visiting Professor

British-American Drama Academy

1993 – present

Visiting Director RADA, LAMDA, Central
School of Music & Drama, GITIS, Moscow,
East 15, Rose Bruford College, RSAMD,
Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of
Music,

Directing

1995 – 2013 Workshop Leader

National Theatre Studio, London,
Old Vic
Young Vic
Birkbeck Directing Course

1994 Visiting Professor

Florida State University, Tallahassee

2006 – present *Unlocking the Director's Imagination*
A two-week directing course
with Irina Brown

2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 (twice),
2014 (X3 times)
Sponsored by the Jerwood
Foundation, the Old Vic and the Operating
Theatre Company (2006 & 2008)

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Theatre Design

1987 – 2012 Visiting Director

Wimbledon School of Art
Central St Martin's
Central School of Speech and Drama
Tron Theatre *Summer School for Film & Theatre Design*

Publications

- ***Donnerstag aus Licht* by Karlheinz Stockhausen**, translated by Irina Brown
Royal Opera House Publication 1985
- ***Tarkovsky in London: Production of Boris Godunov***
TARKOVSKY, edited by Nathan Dunn, Black Dog Publishing, pp.353-369

Education

1971-1976

Department of Foreign Languages, Leningrad Pedagogical Institute named after A.I. Herzen, USSR
(now Russian Academy of Teaching, St Petersburg, Russia)

BA (Hons) 1st Class with Distinction in English and German

Other subjects studied in-depth: English and American Literature, Psychology, Religious Studies,
Linguistics, History, Political Economy, Methodology of Teaching

1980

London Tourist Board Guiding Course. Qualified as a Blue Badged London Guide

1981-1982

University of London, Royal Holloway College, Dept of Drama and Theatre Studies

1982-1983

University of London, Birkbeck College, Dept of German and History of Art

2008

NFTS *Directing the Camera* and *Story-Boarding* Courses under *Udayan Prasad* and *Paul Taylor*

Foreign Languages

Russian, German