

currocarreres

Opera Director, Arts Administrator



Curro Carreres was born in Murcia, Spain. He graduated from the University of Murcia with a degree in the History of Art, from where he later also received his doctorate, while already working professionally in the theatre. He moved to Madrid to obtain a Masters Degree in Cultural Management /Music, Theatre & Dance) at the Institute of Musical Sciences of the Universidad Complutense in Madrid (1995-1997). His career commenced working in different departments of the Teatro de la Zarzuela in Madrid, where he acquired his knowledge of the functioning of a theatre and began to re-stage productions and move into production and artistic direction.

In 1996-97 he embarked on a career as an Assistant Director to Horacio Rodríguez Aragón, going on to work with such names as Alfredo Arias and Gerardo Vera in the staging of different operas and zarzuelas during the opera seasons of the most important theatres in Spain and in particular with Emilio Sagi, with whom he continues to work to-day.

In 2000 Curro began to work outside Spain, at such theatres as the Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf-Duisburg, the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse and the Opéra de Lausanne.

In September 2004, Curro directed Bizet's Carmen in the Patio del Conde Duque in Madrid, as part of the festival, Veranos de la Villa and also began his work as an administrator, as Head of Production during Opera Season of the Auditorio de Tenerife,

In 2005 he was awarded First Prize in the National Set Design Competition of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and in 2006 he directed his own production of Don Pasquale, for the Festival de Ópera Alfredo Kraus. This production has since been presented at the Teatro Circo de Albacete, the

Auditorio de Murcia, the Festival Castell de Peralada and most recently in 2011, at the Teatro Villamarta in Jerez.

In 2010, he directed the national première of Handel's opera *Ptolomy, King of Egypt*, as part of Spain's contribution to the 250th Anniversary of the composer's death, at the Teatro Arriaga in Bilbao, during the Festival Bilbao 700. At the Auditorio de Murcia he directed the contemporary children's opera *Pinocchio* by Natalia Valli, with the Symphonic Orchestra of the Region of Murcia.

From October 2008 to November 2011, Curro Carreres was the Artistic Coordinator for Opera at Auditorio de Murcia, also acting as director and producer in a model of public and private co-management with Murcia Cultural S.A., which pertains to the Cultural Department of the Region of Murcia, and his own business Sanmer Producción Artística S.L. This first season of opera enabled him to place the new theatre and the city of Murcia on the international opera stage, with programmes that received acclaim from the press and public alike and gave him the opportunity to stage premières with special attention given to Spanish singers and professionals, productions and co-productions with other theatres such as Liceu in Barcelona, Opera de Oviedo, INAEM and internationally with Scottish Opera and the Teatro Comunale in Florence and also created commercial recordings in DVD with the Italian company DYNAMIC, which had previously only recorded in Spain at the Teatro Real in Madrid and the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona. Despite his limited budget, the efficient management of resources, his success and recognition and the increase in audience attendance from 6,000 in the 2009/10 Season to more than 20,000 in the second season of 2010/11, the unexpected present economic situation forced him to suspend the 2011/12 Season in November 2011, just a month after the start of the rehearsals for the first production.

In February 2011 he directed his first opera in Italy; Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* for Maggio Musicale in Florence and went on to direct Mozart's *Così fan Tutte* at the Teatro Cervantes in Malaga. This new production was praised for its "intelligent traditional narrative approach, highlighting the comic aspect of the work and eliciting amusement and laughter from the public". Later in 2011, Curro staged Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* in the Auditorio de Galicia, "in which a successful contribution to the context of social criticism in the original work and a rapport with the public and current reality sparked off a controversy that eclipsed the adequate reading of the characters and wove itself through a dramatic work staged with a minimum of scenic resources, employed in the elegant and appropriate manner to which we have become accustomed in this director".

He recently attended both the Third Forum of Cultural Industries of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation, organised by the Alternativas Foundation and the Santillana Foundation and the Meeting for the Development of public-private Cooperation in the Performing Arts, organised by the Madrid Association of Cultural Managers & Technicians and was invited to attend the Conference on Research into Gender Violence in Universal Lyric Theatre at the University of

Oviedo, organised by the Oviedo Bar Association. In May 2013 he will attend the Fundraising Seminar for Cultural Organisations, to be organised by the Department of Cultural Management of the University of Alcalá de Henares, Madrid.

His career as a stage director has been highlighted this year by the revival of Pablo Sorozabal's *Entre Sevilla y Triana* at the Teatro Arriaga in Bilbao in June 2012. Despite its initial success, this zarzuela by the great Spanish composer had not been revived since its première in 1950 and this newly successful co-production will be seen at the Teatro del la Maestranza in Seville and in Los Teatros del Canal in Madrid during the 2012-2013 Season.

In August 2012 Curro Carreres directed for the first time in Latin America, in a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Teatro Solís in Montevideo, followed by Verdi's *Attila* at the Municipal Theatre in Santiago, Chile in September, with important success and controversial results for public and critics, so that he is invited to direct news operas for next 2014 season again, and in other countries as Brazil and Mexico.

In 2013 he will come back to direct in Firenze, Maggio Musicale, and he will direct new production of "*Carmen*", "*Don Giovanni*", "*Trovatore*" and others in different theatres of Italy, France and Spain.