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MO ZHOU DIRECTOR

Chinese-born stage director Mo Zhou is a visionary force in opera and theater, celebrated for her innovative and dynamic productions that transcend traditional boundaries. Her work has graced esteemed stages worldwide, including Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Elbphilharmonie, and the National Centre for the Performing Arts in China.

Last season showcased Ms. Zhou's versatility and ingenuity with several exciting company débuts. These included directing the Butler Studio Showcase at Houston Grand Opera, reviving her acclaimed ***Madama Butterfly*** with Florentine Opera and Kentucky Opera, ***La Bohème*** for Arizona Opera, the revival of Meilina Tsui and Melisa Tien's ***The Big Swim*** for Houston Grand Opera in conjunction with the Asia Society Texas Center and a new production of ***Così fan tutte*** for Virginia Opera which she also staged for The Juilliard School. This spring she will make her Canadian début directing ***Madama Butterfly*** for Vancouver Opera and finish up the season with a new production of ***Don Giovanni*** for Music Academy of the West. This season, Ms. Zhou's engagements include a début with Opera Colorado for ***Madama Butterfly*** in addition to a new production of ***Madama Butterfly*** for Calgary Opera, Arizona Opera, and Opera Grand Rapids where Mo currently serves as a guest Artistic Director.



Her 2023-2024 season featured the world premiere of Meilina Tsui and Melisa Tien's ***The Big Swim*** commissioned by Houston Grand Opera and Asia Society Texas Center, a reimagined ***Madama Butterfly*** set in post-WWII Allied-occupied Japan at Virginia Opera, ***Tosca*** with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and a "supremely stylish" (Opera Today) ***La Calisto*** for the Glimmerglass Festival. Previous highlights include a sold-out ***Rinaldo*** at Minnesota Opera which was picked by the StarTribune as Minnesota's Top Classical Performance Highlights of 2022 and the critically acclaimed ***Iphigénie en Tauride*** with Boston Baroque, praised by Forbes for its digital innovation. She is a recipient of the OPERA America Grants for Women Stage Directors and Conductors as well as OPERA America Robert Tobin Director-Designer Prize.

An advocate for young talent, Ms. Zhou has taught at the University of Michigan and the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory and has served as guest dramatic faculty at prestigious programs like the Ryan Opera Center at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Butler Studio at Houston Grand Opera, and Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. Ms. Zhou received her training at The Juilliard School, Merola Opera Program, Wolf Trap Opera, and Glimmerglass Festival. She has also worked on the directing staff at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, and Dallas Opera. She holds an MFA in Stage Directing from Columbia University, where she studied under Anne Bogart, and a BA in English and Theater from Bowdoin College.

Current as of July 23, 2025