

### BIOGRAPHY



Alan E. Hicks has spent the past two decades in professional opera and theatre, first as a singer, then a teacher, finally turning his attention to stage direction. His work as a director has been described as “powerful and deeply moving,” “imaginatively directed,” “absolutely brilliant,” “gorgeous,” and “real magic.” He has directed productions for organizations throughout the United States and in Europe including Minnesota Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Tulsa Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, Miami Music Festival, Green Mountain Opera Festival, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Franco-American Vocal Academy in Salzburg, Shenandoah Conservatory, the University of Texas at Austin, and the University of Iowa. Recent engagements include *Ariadne auf Naxos* for Minnesota Opera, *L’elisir d’amore* for Opera Santa Barbara, *Albert Herring* and *Die Zauberflöte* for Shenandoah University, and *Albert Herring* and *The turn of the screw* for the Miami Music Festival.

Alan has served on the directing and production staffs of Central City Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Michigan Opera Theatre, New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, and Tulsa Opera. In 2013, he was appointed Director of the Emerging Artist Program at Green Mountain Opera Festival, a position he held until the company’s closing in 2015. He has worked with such venerable operatic performers as Renée Fleming, Stephanie Blythe, Silvia McNair, Spiro Malas, Greer Grimsley, and Thomas Hampson as well as rising stars Erin Morley, Kate Lindsey, Brian Jagde, Amber Wagner, and Nadine Sierra. In addition to his work as a director, Alan has assisted directors Susan Strohman, Chris Alexander, Linda Brovsky, Jay Lesenger, John Pascoe, Peter Kazaras, and Sam Buntrock.

Committed to building future audiences and the continued growth of the art form, Alan has written and directed educational shows for various ensembles. *A recipe for opera*, written and directed for Center City Opera Theatre, toured Philadelphia-area schools in 2013. Alan’s abridged touring production of *The elixir of love*, conceived and directed for Tulsa Opera, toured Oklahoma in 2010 and 2011.

From 2002 until 2006, Alan served on the faculties of the internationally acclaimed Actors Studio Drama School and American Academy of Dramatic Arts, both in New York City. His former students have performed on Broadway, in national and international tours, on all major television networks, and in major motion pictures. He has taught master classes throughout the United States and has served as interim Director of Opera Workshop at Sam Houston State University and interim Director of the Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre at the University of Iowa. Alan is currently on the faculty of the Moores Opera Center at the University of Houston.

In addition to directing and teaching activities, Alan authored a book entitled *Singer and Actor: Acting Technique and the Operatic Performer*. The book, published by Amadeus Press, is available in bookstores worldwide as well as over 150 libraries across the globe. Alan has also penned several articles on subjects ranging from acting study to auditioning. His most recent article appeared in *Classical Singer* (magazine) in the summer of 2014.

Alan holds degrees in Education, Vocal Performance, and Opera Directing from Mississippi State University, Rice University, and The University of Texas at Austin (respectively). Alan is a member of Actors’ Equity Association (AEA) and the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA).

# ALAN E. HICKS

## STAGE DIRECTOR

INFO\_PLEASE@ALANHICKS.COM

AEA, AGMA

### UPCOMING

|                             |  |      |
|-----------------------------|--|------|
| <i>L'Italiana in Algeri</i> | Moores Opera Center, The University of Houston | 2018 |
| <i>L'amico Fritz</i>        | Moores Opera Center, The University of Houston | 2018 |

### DIRECTOR (SELECTED)

|                                    |   |                        |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| <i>Die Zauberflöte</i>             | Shenandoah Conservatory   | 2017                   |
| <i>The turn of the screw</i>       | Miami Music Festival  | 2016                   |
| <i>Albert Herring</i>              | Shenandoah Conservatory   | 2016                   |
| <i>L'elisir d'amore</i>            | Opera Santa Barbara   | 2016                   |
| <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>           | Minnesota Opera   | 2015                   |
| <i>Albert Herring</i>              | Miami Music Festival  | 2015                   |
| <i>The rape of Lucretia</i>        | Green Mountain Opera Festival   | 2014                   |
| <i>The turn of the screw</i>       | Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra  | 2014                   |
| <i>Die Fledermaus</i>              | Sugar Creek Opera   | 2014                   |
| <i>Don Giovanni</i>                | Franco-American Vocal Academy in Austria                                | 2013                   |
| <i>La traviata</i>                 | Gulf Coast Symphony (FL) and Center City Opera Theater (co-production)  | 2013                   |
| <i>A recipe for opera</i>          | Center City Opera Theater   | 2012                   |
| <i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>          | Franco-American Vocal Academy in Austria                                | 2012                   |
| <i>The turn of the screw</i>       | Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre, The University of Iowa                  | 2012                   |
| <i>Roméo et Juliette</i>           | Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre, The University of Iowa                  | 2012                   |
| <i>Euridice</i>                    | Martha-Ellen Tye Opera Theatre, The University of Iowa                  | 2011                   |
| <i>The elixir of love</i>          | Tulsa Opera   | 2010, 2011             |
| <i>Orfeo ed Euridice</i>           | Palm Beach Opera  | 2010                   |
| <i>Carmen</i>                      | Opera in the Ozarks   | 2010                   |
| <i>Dido and Aeneas</i>             | Sam Houston State University  | 2010                   |
| <i>A game of chance</i>            | Sam Houston State University  | 2009                   |
| <i>A question of taste</i>         | Sam Houston State University  | 2009                   |
| <i>A hand of bridge</i>            | Sam Houston State University  | 2009                   |
| <i>Susannah</i>                    | Sarah and Ernest Butler Opera Center, The University of Texas at Austin | 2008                   |
| <i>Various Young Artist Scenes</i> | Chautauqua Opera, Central City Opera                                    | 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 |

### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (SELECTED)

|                                 |  |      |
|---------------------------------|--|------|
| <i>Nabucco</i>                  | Lyric Opera of Chicago (Matthew Ozawa, Director)   | 2016 |
| <i>The merry widow</i>          | Lyric Opera of Chicago (Susan Stroman, Director)   | 2015 |
| <i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>        | Seattle Opera (Chris Alexander, Director)  | 2015 |
| <i>Semele</i>                   | Seattle Opera (Tomer Zvulun, Director)   | 2015 |
| <i>Tosca</i>                    | Seattle Opera (Jose Maria Condemi, Director)   | 2015 |
| <i>Don Giovanni</i>             | Seattle Opera (Chris Alexander, Director)  | 2014 |
| <i>Les contes d'Hoffmann</i>    | Seattle Opera (Chris Alexander, Director)  | 2014 |
| <i>The consul</i>               | Seattle Opera (Peter Kazaras, Director)  | 2014 |
| <i>Rigoletto</i>                | Seattle Opera (Linda Brovsky, Director)  | 2014 |
| <i>The turn of the screw</i>    | New York City Opera (Sam Buntrock, Director)   | 2013 |
| <i>Don Giovanni</i>             | Green Mountain Opera Festival (James Darrah, Director)                                   | 2013 |
| <i>Albert Herring</i>           | Green Mountain Opera Festival (James Darrah, Director)                                   | 2013 |
| <i>Don Giovanni</i>             | Florida Grand Opera (John Pascoe, Director/Sara Erde, Choreographer)                     | 2011 |
| <i>The magic flute</i>          | Chautauqua Opera (Jay Lesenger, Director)  | 2011 |
| <i>Luisa Miller</i>             | Chautauqua Opera (Jay Lesenger, Director)  | 2011 |
| <i>The mikado</i>               | Michigan Opera Theatre (Michael Scarola, Director/Dan Knechtges, Choreographer)          | 2010 |
| <i>A little night music</i>     | Central City Opera (Ken Cazan, Director)   | 2009 |
| <i>L'elisir d'amore</i>         | Tulsa Opera (Michael Scarola, Director)  | 2009 |
| <i>Hänsel and Gretel</i>        | Tulsa Opera (Tara Faircloth, Director)   | 2009 |
| <i>La bohème</i>                | Tulsa Opera (Stanley M. Garner, Director)  | 2008 |
| <i>Operatic animals</i>         | Chautauqua Opera and Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra (Jay Lesenger, Director)              | 2008 |
| <i>The cunning little vixen</i> | Chautauqua Opera (Jay Lesenger, Director)  | 2008 |
| <i>Street scene</i>             | Chautauqua Opera (Jay Lesenger, Director)  | 2008 |
| <i>Big love (play)</i>          | Department of Theatre and Dance, The University of Texas at Austin (Fran Dorn, Director) | 2008 |
| <i>Carmen</i>                   | Chautauqua Opera (John Kramar, Director)   | 2007 |
| <i>Once upon a mattress</i>     | Chautauqua Opera (Jay Lesenger, Director)  | 2007 |

### AWARDS AND HONORS (SELECTED)

Winner, The American Prize in Opera Performance, 2013 (for *The turn of the screw*); Second Prize (Category IV) in the 2012 National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition (for *The turn of the screw*); First Prize (Category II) in the 2008 National Opera Association's Opera Production Competition (for *Susannah*)

### EDUCATION

|                         |   |                                   |      |
|-------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------|
| DMA, Opera Directing    | Sarah and Ernest Butler School of Music | The University of Texas at Austin | 2009 |
| MMus, Vocal Performance | Shepherd School of Music                | Rice University                   | 1996 |
| BME, Vocal Emphasis     | College of Education                    | Mississippi State University      | 1993 |

### PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available upon request.