

# Josh Shaw

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Founding Artistic Director, CEO		Pacific Opera Project	2011-present
Resident Director		Southern Illinois Music Festival	2013-present
Resident Director		Salt Marsh Opera	2015-present
Stage Director/ Technical Director		Opera Neo (San Diego)	2013-2017
Resident Director		Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2013-2015
Director	<i>Tosca</i>	Opera Orlando	Oct 2023
Director	<i>Falstaff</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	Sept 2023
Director/Designer	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Pacific Opera Project	Aug 2023
Director/Designer	<i>La Rondine</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	June 2023
Director/Designer	<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Pacific Opera Project	May 2023
Director	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Gulfshore Opera	April 2023
Director/Designer	<i>The Magic Flute AKA #Superflute</i>	Pacific Opera Project	March 2023
Director	<i>Il Barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Gulfshore Opera	Feb 2023
Director	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Intermountain Opera	2023
Director/Designer	<i>Ercole s'ul Termodonte</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2023
Director/Designer	<i>La boheme</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2022
Director	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Opera in the Heights	2022
Director	<i>La scala di seta</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2022
Director	<i>Gianni Schicchi/Trial by Jury</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2022
Director/Designer	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2022
Director/Designer	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2022
Director/Designer	<i>Salome</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2022
Director	<i>Scalia/Ginsberg</i>	Opera in the Heights	2022
Director/Designer	<i>I Can't Breathe</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2022
Director/Designer	<i>Iolanta</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2022
Director	<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	Gulfshore Opera	2022
Director/Designer	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2021
Director	<i>Carmen</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2021
Director/Designer	<i>Cenerentola</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2021
Director/Designer	<i>COVID fan tutte</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2021
Director/Designer	<i>Don Procopio (Bizet)</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2021
Director	<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2021
Director/Designer	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2021
Director	<i>La boheme</i>	Gulfshore Opera	2021
Director/Designer	<i>La boheme</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2020
Director/Designer	<i>Il Parnaso Confuso/La Corona (Gluck)</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2020
Director/Designer	<i>COVID fan tutte</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2020
Director	<i>La boheme</i>	Gulfshore Opera	2020
Director/Designer	<i>L'enfant et les Sortilèges/Gianni Schicchi</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2020
Director/Designer	<i>La boheme</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2019
Director	<i>I pagliacci</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2019
Director	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Opera Columbus	2019
Director/Designer	<i>The Mikado</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2019
Director/Designer	<i>Il trovatore</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2019
Director/Designer	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2019
Director/Designer	<i>Madama Butterfly (Japanese/English)</i>	Opera in the Heights	2019
Director/Designer	<i>Madama Butterfly (Japanese/English)</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2019
Director/Designer	<i>Le Docteur Miracle</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2019
Director/Designer	<i>The Magic Flute AKA #SuperFlute</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2019
Director	<i>Camelot</i>	Intermountain Opera	2019
Director/Designer	<i>La boheme</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2018

Director/Designer	<i>La traviata</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2018
Director	<i>La boheme</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2018
Director/Designer	<i>Carmen</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2018
Director/Designer	<i>La gazzetta</i> (Rossini)	Pacific Opera Project	2018
Director/Designer	<i>The Magic Flute</i> AKA # <i>SuperFlute</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2018
Director	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Opera Orlando	2018
Director/Designer	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2018
Director	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Opera Santa Barbara	2018
Director	<i>Tabasco</i>	New Orleans Opera	2018
Director/Designer	<i>La boheme</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2017
Director/Designer	<i>The Medium/The Monkey's Paw</i> (World Premiere)	Pacific Opera Project	2017
Director/Designer	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2017
Director/Designer	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2017
Director	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Opera Neo	2017
Director/Designer	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2017
Director	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Queen City Opera	2017
Director	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2017
Director/Designer	<i>L'elisir d'amore</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2017
Director	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Salt March Opera	2016
Director/Designer	<i>The Rake's Progress</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2016
Director/Designer	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	The Ford Theatre	2016
Director	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Festival Opera	2016
Director/Designer	<i>Guillaume Tell</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2016
Director/Designer	<i>Prima la musica, e poi le parole/The Impresario</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2016
Director/Designer	<i>The Merry Widow</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2016
Director	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Opera Piccola San Antonio	2016
Director/Designer	<i>Viva la mamma!</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2015
Director	<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Salt Marsh Opera	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Falstaff</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2015
Director/Designer	<i>The Impresario</i>	Opera NEO	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Carmen</i>	Opera NEO	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Scenic City Opera	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Ariadne auf Naxos</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Cavalleria Rusticana/I Pagliacci</i>	Celestial Opera Company	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2015
Director/Designer	<i>Into the Woods</i>	Burbank Community Theater	2014
Director/Designer	<i>La bohème</i> AKA <i>The Hipsters</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2014
Director/Designer	<i>The Last Silent Voice</i> (Word Premier)	Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Three Sisters who are not Sisters</i>	Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Tosca</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Sunday Excursion/Man on a Bearskin Rug</i>	Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2014
Director/Designer	<i>La Calisto</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Carmen</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2014
Director/Designer	<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2014
Director/Designer	<i>Annie</i>	Burbank Community Theater	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Gallantry/A Hand of Bridge</i>	Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2013
Director/Designer	<i>The Medium</i>	Redlands Opera Theater	2013
Director/Designer	<i>The Mikado</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Carmen</i>	Southern Illinois Music Festival	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Quantum Mechanic/ Review</i>	New Fangled Opera (New Orleans)	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Le nozze di Figaro</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Il barbiere di Siviglia</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2013
Director/Designer	<i>Il segreto di Susanna</i>	Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles	2013
Director/Designer	<i>La bohème</i> AKA <i>The Hipsters</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2012
Director/Designer	<i>Sweeney Todd</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2012
Director/Designer	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2012
Director /Designer	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2012
Director/Designer	<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2011
Director /Designer	<i>Trouble in Tahiti</i>	Pacific Opera Project	2011
Director/Designer	<i>La traviata</i>	Pacific Coast Opera	2011

## Original English Librettos

<i>Tabasco: A burlesque opera</i>	(new book and additional lyrics)
<i>Abduction from the Seraglio</i>	(Set as an episode of Star Trek)
<i>The Magic Flute AKA #SuperFlute</i>	(Set in the world of 1990s video games)
<i>COVID fan tutte</i>	(Set on a golf course during the pandemic)
<i>The Merry Widder</i>	(Old West setting of The Merry Widow)
<i>The Impresario</i>	(Contemporary setting)
<i>Doctor Miracle</i>	(Old West setting)
<i>Die Fledermaus</i>	(1920s Hollywood setting)

## Education

Master of Music in Opera/Music Theater Performance, Southern Illinois University	2004
Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance, Ouachita Baptist University	2001

Before I begin this review, let's just get one thing straight. As of the moment I'm typing this, only two opera companies in all of the Greater Los Angeles area dare to perform opera as a living art: Long Beach Opera and the up-and-coming Pacific Opera Project.

--Ted Ayala, Crescenta Valley Weekly

LA Opera should take note of Pacific Opera Project. The upstart company's edgy productions explode popular perceptions of what opera is and how it should be performed. Pacific Opera Project takes this typically elite art form and strips it down to its barest essentials: stunning music and simple, enjoyable stories.

--Barnaby Hughes, Stage and Cinema

Under Artistic Director Josh Shaw's hands-on guidance, Pacific Opera Project has become L.A.'s most exciting new opera company. In just three years since POP began with the teeny-tiny production of Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti*, I sensed that this would be the company to make quality opera more accessible, approachable, and affordable. Exceeding my expectations, POP opened their biggest production yet last Friday with a *Tosca* that is more powerfully intimate and emotionally successful than many of the large-budget productions seen at major opera houses... Shaw's behemoth production went off without a hitch... Talk about a miracle of logistics.

--Tony Frankel, Stage and Cinema

Josh Shaw, POP's artistic director and its other founder, was responsible for a narratively straightforward and traditionally well-acted production. What is different is the level of intimacy. Opera on a conventional proscenium, even when the venue is far smaller than the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion or nearly 4,000-seat Metropolitan Opera, is an art form of deceptions. Oversized passion on stage is projected at a distance, and that distance protects an audience from direct exposure to emotive excess. The squeamish are afforded space to psychically remove themselves when need be. But forget all that in *Rosenthal*, where the singers and musicians are within spitting distance. They're aiming directly at you.

--Mark Swed, LA Times

Shaw and Karr are clever in every way, putting their greatest energies into the operatic arts and doing amazing work with limited budgets. Pacific Opera Project is surely a company to watch and enjoy.

--Georja Umamo, LASplash.com

In a stroke of supreme savvy, Director Josh Shaw found a venue that is perfectly tailored to the subject and settings of Puccini's 1900 opera: *St. James Methodist Church* in Pasadena. Each of the three acts takes place in different spaces within the church grounds, a decision that not only keeps the audience literally on their toes...this *Tosca* represents one of the best values you'd ever expect to find in opera today, especially at this high level of production quality. Highly recommended.

--David Maurer, LA Culture Spot

Can Shaw pull off a production without laughs? The answer is an unambiguous yes... This production makes a welcome contribution to our city's celebration of the centenary of Britten's birth. Notable for its absence of humor, *The Turn of the Screw* provides plenty of pause for thought, especially given Shaw's brave and unflinching production of Britten's operatic oddity

--Barnaby Hughes, Stage and Cinema

If you Photoshop hipster glasses on Giacomo Puccini for your company's logo — as Pacific Opera Project did — you'd better be able to do him justice when you produce his operas... director Josh Shaw's sets reflect the original setting of Rome in 1800. Shaw's twist is that each act utilizes a different part of Pasadena's St. James Methodist Church. Act 1, set in a church, puts the audience in the pews. When the clergy and choristers march up the aisles to the altar, you might feel guilty not kneeling or singing yourself. In this milieu, Baron Scarpia's plans to seduce Tosca and murder her lover, Cavaradossi, seem especially blasphemous... Opera newbies will find this production effective and thought-provoking, while veterans who think they've sat through one too many *Toscas* should come to see and hear Blackwell and Cheney from a few rows away.

--Christian Herzog, LA Weekly

One of the best moments of the production comes at the end of the first act when director/set designer Josh Shaw uses the cast of children choristers, nuns and other church member roles to surround the audience in the final musical number. While holding lit candles, this mass of singers engulfs the sanctuary with glorious sounds and the smell of incense while creating a visual spectacle to be remembered... this production of *Tosca* by the Pacific Opera Project shows that great, affordable opera is alive and well in the Los Angeles area.

--Humberto Capiro, Living Out Loud LA

When Francesco Cavalli wrote his opera "La Calisto" 363 years ago, he wasn't thinking about how it would play in Los Angeles. So explain, then, how that opera... is so modern, so delightful, so sexually ambiguous, and still so true to the early baroque music of Cavalli. Much of that credit must go to Josh Shaw, who has created in Pacific Opera Project a sharp and talented troupe that can handle both the complex music from the 17th century and the just-as-daunting performance requirements that include slides, onstage bathrooms, swings, a playground carousel and more.

That Shaw managed to bring all these elements together is an accomplishment in itself. But that he manages to tell the story of "La Calisto" with sometimes rude, always passionate good humor, and with some really great singing, is a tribute to his company...

--John Farrell, Los Angeles Daily News

...in a welcome return to the crude and edgy humor that marked POP's early successes, Artistic Director Josh Shaw has used slangy supertitles, flushing toilets, and toy guns to considerable comic effect. Moreover, his playground set comes replete with swings, teeter-totter, merry-go-round, slide, and ball pit à la Chuck E. Cheese's... POP has compellingly shown that baroque opera still has the power to enthrall and captivate audiences.

--Barnaby Hughes, Stage and Cinema

With *The Turn of the Screw*, POP seals its place as a welcome addition to Los Angeles-area music community, reaffirming that "size isn't everything" and that it deserves to be judged as a peer alongside larger and longer established groups. The committed effort and inventiveness invested by all concerned in this production returns ample and lingering musical and dramatic satisfaction. Wider attention should be paid to POP and these performers in future.

-- George Wallace, A Fool in the Forrest

Gaudy, flashy and with eye-popping colors, the over-the-top visuals of Pacific Opera Project's *The Mikado* are the Technicolor herald of a new cultural gun in town... the idea that in 2013 a new opera company barely two years old can, on a shoestring budget, manage to sell out its performances is indeed encouraging news for the local arts scene. Josh Shaw and Musical Director Stephen Karr have achieved something important: Creating accessible opera, updated in often surprising ways, that does not cost much more than the price of a movie ticket.

--David Maurer, LA Culture Spot

Artistic Director Josh Shaw and Music Director Stephen Karr have refined their recipe of equal parts delight and trenchant stylization. Pacific Opera Project's future will be intriguing to watch. Southern California is that much richer for the company's presence... it's clear that Pacific Opera Project has laid solid foundations for continued growth. The company's winning formula of budget-wise productions mounted with spare rehearsal time – paired with mostly stellar talent and production values (all while not taking itself too seriously) has attracted sold out performances during its brief two-year existence. Cost much more than the price of a movie ticket.

--David Maurer, LA Culture Spot

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--R. Daniel Foster, Examiner.com