

EDWARD FRANKO

**Stage Director
Tenor
Educator
Producer
Artistic Director**

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Edward Franko

Stage Director, Tenor, Educator, Producer, Artistic Director

Brampton, Ontario born Edward Franko has distinguished himself as one of Canada's most energetic and experienced stage directors. His career has also included stints as producer, artistic director, educator, actor and lyric tenor. Mr. Franko has been hailed for his vivid imagination and his unique interpretations of theatre, traditional and contemporary opera and musical theatre. He has developed a large operatic directing repertoire while working with Opera Anonymous, TrypTych, Opera York, Opera Mississauga, and many others. His innovative stagings have included successful productions of Menotti's *The Consul*, Menotti's *The Medium*, Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress*; Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* and Puccini's *La Bohème*.

Mr. Franko has been instrumental in the formation and development of such groups as Songstar Productions, Opera Anonymous (where he acted as chairman of the board, managing director and production director) and TrypTych, a group he co-founded along with William Shookhoff and Lenard Whiting. With TrypTych, he has directed Poulenc's *La Voix Humaine*, Mihalovici's operatic version of Krapp's *Last Tape*, and Weisgall's operatic version of *The Stranger*. As well, he has directed the play *Krapp's Last Tape* by Samuel Beckett and the play *The Stranger* by August Strindberg. Mr. Franko directed and performed in Mahagonny *Songspiel* for TrypTych. He also acted as staging consultant for Beethoven's *Fidelio* and the Canadian premiere of Hugo Wolf's only opera, *Der Corregidor*. He directed many Orion House productions including *Golden Moments in Opera and Music for the Soul*. Mr. Franko also directed Opera Anonymous' English language world premiere of Joseph Quesnel's *Lucas et Cecile* at the Glenn Gould Studio which garnered rave reviews. He has directed the Canadian Premiere of Frid's *The Diary of Anne Frank* to critical acclaim. Recently for TrypTych, he directed and starred in the one-man opera Askenasi's *The Tell Tale Heart*. Mr. Franko directed Doolittle's *Boiler Room Suite* early in 2009. In the summer of 2009, he was on staff as stage director for Adamo's *Little Women* for Halifax Summer Opera Workshop. In early 2010, he directed the world premiere of Canadian composer Andrew Ager's *Frankenstein* for TrypTych. Mr. Franko also stage directs for the annual showcase for Pro Voce Studios in Toronto.

He made his successful European directorial debut with his original production of Frid's *The Diary of Anne Frank* at the Three Rings Festival in Prague, Czech Republic. As well, he stage directed Britten's *The Beggar's Opera* as part of the inaugural Summer Opera School in Chichester, Great Britain. One of Mr. Franko's latest projects has been the Toronto International Chamber Music Festival, which made its debut in the summer of 2003, returned in 2004 and 2006. As producer, director and performer, he, along with his partners Lenard Whiting and William Shookhoff, have laid the groundwork for an annual music event of international stature.

Active as an opera educator, Mr. Franko has worked with The Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto (*Rodelinda*, *Magic Flute*); Creative Artist's Productions (*Così fan tutte*, *The Impresario*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, *Old Maid and the Thief*); Opera Anonymous (*Abduction from the Seraglio*) and JHS Opera (*Il Trittico*, *Lucia di Lamermoor*). Until recently he was on staff with Pro Voce Vocal Studio's opera workshop where he directed Gianni Schicchi, *In a Garden*, *Hin und Zuruck*, *Old Maid and the Thief*, *Suor Angelica* and *The Medium*. He regularly acts as stage director for *Yoriko* and *Her Shooting Stars* in Ottawa, a programme aimed at educating youth about opera, and that has featured the esteemed Stuart Hamilton as narrator. As well, he has acted as the original Artistic Director of Bytown Opera Works (Ottawa, Ontario). With TrypTych, he has helped develop its workshop division and has stage directed *Rigoletto*, *The Tales of Hoffman*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *The Boys from Syracuse*, *A Kurt Weill Kabaret*, *Send in the Sondheim*, *Little Women* and many others.

As a professional tenor, Mr. Franko has many oratorio and opera roles to his credit. In oratorio, he has been heard in *Messiah*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Elgar's *Coronation Ode*, Haydn's *St. Cecilia Mass* and many others. His operatic roles include Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, Charles Darwin in *The Leviathan Hook* (World Premiere), Charlie in Weill's *Mahagonny Songspiel*, the lead fowl in Doolittle's *Charlie the Chicken*, the role of the Protagonist in the one-man opera, Askenasi's *The Tell Tale Heart* (A Canadian Premiere) and Luigi in *Il Tabarro*. He has made many cabaret appearances in shows including *Another Opening*, *Another Show*, *Life is a Cabaret*, *Heart Songs*, *Heart and Soulstice*, *Brush up Your Tenor*, *Holly Jolly Christmas Cabaret* and many others. He has performed with the Canadian Opera Company, Opera Ontario, Opera Hamilton, Opera York, Opera Anonymous, Maritime Concert Opera and many others.

Operas, Musicals, Operettas Directed

Adamo	Little Women (2)
Ager	Frankenstein
Argento	The Boor
Askenasi	The Tell-Tale Heart
Barab	Mushroom Pizza
Barber	A Hand of Bridge
Beeson	Sorry Wrong Number
Berg	Vanity Suite
Bernstein	Trouble in Tahiti
Britten/Gay	The Beggar's Opera Chichester, GB
Britten	Phaedra
Donizetti	Lucia di Lammermoor
Doolittle	Boiler Room Suite
Frid	The Diary of Anne Frank Canadian Premiere (3), Czech Republic
Gilbert/Sullivan adaption	HMS Parliament
Gilbert/Sullivan	Trial by Jury (2)
Handel	Rodelinda
Hindemith	Hin und Zuruck (3)
Kupferman	In a Garden (3)
Loesser	Most Happy Fella
Menotti	The Consul (3)
Menotti	The Medium (3)
Menotti	The Old Maid and the Thief (3)
Menotti	The Telephone
Mihalovici	Krapps' Last Tape (2)
Moore	Gallantry
Mozart	Abduction from the Seraglio
Mozart	Cosi fan Tutte
Mozart	The Impresario
Mozart	The Magic Flute (2)
Offenbach	The Tales of Hoffmann
Pergolesi	La Serva Padrona
Poulenc	La Voix Humaine (3)
Puccini	La Bohème
Puccini	Gianni Schicchi (2)
Puccini	Suor Angelica
Puccini	Il Tabarro (2)
Quesnel	Lucas et Cecile
Richards	Hamlet
Rogers	The Boys from Syracuse
Rossini	La Cambiale di Matrimonio
Stravinsky	The Rake's Progress
Verdi	Falstaff
Verdi	Rigoletto
Weill	Mahagonny Songspiel
Weisgall	The Stronger (2)

Directed opera excerpts from:

Falstaff
Faust
Barber of Seville
Carmen
Die Fledermaus
Die Kluge
Don Giovanni
Don Pasquale
HMS Parliament
La Traviata
Orpheus in the Underworld
Madame Butterfly
L'Elisir D'Amore
The Bear
Rigoletto
Porgy and Bess
Tom Thumb
La Cenerentola
Susannah
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Cendrillon
Street Scene
Carmen
Turandot
Mikado
The Marriage of Figaro
Idomeneo
The Mikado
Turandot
Tales of Hoffman
Marriage of Figaro
Der Rosenkavalier
Il Trovatore

Stage Consultant/Dramatic Coach

Adrianna Lecouvreur	Cilea
The Leviathan Hook	Q. Doolittle (World Premiere)
Idomeneo	W.A. Mozart
Abraham and Isaac	B. Britten
Tosca	Puccini
Attila	Verdi
Fidelio	Beethoven
Der Corregidor	Wolf (Canadian Premiere)

Producer/ Creator /Director of Cabaret/Concert Shows

Aria Couture
Let's Duet
Memories of Vienna
An Afternoon in 1890
Life is a Cabaret
Another Opening, Another Show
Cabaret Canucks
A Holly Jolly Christmas Cabaret
A Little Fright Music 1,2,3,4
Heart Songs
Kurt Weill Kabaret
Heart and Soulstice
Love Notes
Send in the Sondheim
Opera Night in Ottawa
Opera Night in Ottawa II
Opera Night in Ottawa III
Opera Night in Ottawa IV
Yoriko and her Shooting Stars (2)
One Touch of Weill
The Sound of Sondheim
A Song in our Hearts (Rodgers and Hammerstein Tribute)

Plays directed

Becket - Krapp's Last Tape
The Stronger
Waiting for Wolfie

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

"Stage Director Edward Franko's conception of the opera was brilliant. creating a seamless flow for the drama."

Robert de Vrij, *Opera Canada* review of *The Rake's Progress*

"The staging by director Edward Franko -spare but with a sense of urgency and immediacy captures much of the strength in the W.H. Auden libretto."

Jon Kaplan, *NOW Magazine* review of *The Rake's Progress*

"Stage Direction by Edward Franko was clean and free of contrivance."

Robert de Vrij, *Opera Canada* review of *The Medium*

"Edward cleverly manipulates the setting to provide often unexpected, comic relief. He keeps the action on track so the audience really doesn't need to study the Italian opera's English surtitles too much."

Anglea Blackburn, *Mississauga News* review of *Così fan tutte*

"A clever Canadian spin by director Edward Franko. Franko's premise allows for lots of laughs."

Paula Citron, *Opera Canada*, review of *Così fan tutte*

"Edward Franko's vision was terrific."

Paula Citron, *Classical 96 FM* review of *The Consul*

"Stage Director Edward Franko made excellent use of the minimal and effective sets."

Robert deVrij, *Opera Canada* review of *The Consul*

"Stage Director Edward Franko has done a wonderful job of deploying people. He found ways to stylize things where they ought to be stylized, and to be realistic where they have to be."

Richard Ouzounian, *CBC Radio* review of *The Consul*

"Edward Franko has a definite vision. He directed with a nice bit of economy and there was a nice sense of urgency."

Paula Citron, *Classical 96* review of *The Consul*

"Songspiel was staged by tenor Edward Franko in a manner faithful to the Brechtian tradition."

Lee Ferguson, *The Strand* review of *Mahagonny Songspiel*

"Edward Franko's unfussy stage direction always found the humour in the work without gimmickry."

Christopher Hoile, *Stage-Door.org* review of *Lucas et Cecile*

"Edward Franko's staging, meanwhile, made you forget how small the Glenn Gould Studio stage actually is."

Tamara Bernstein, *National Post* review of *Lucas et Cecile*

"Director Edward Franko, making the most of minimal props, brings believability to the fakery. He maintains cohesion despite cuts."

Geoff Chapman, *Toronto Star* review of *The Medium* at Summerworks Festival

"Edward Franko's insightful direction gave dramatic shape to Anne's inner thoughts."

Christopher Hoile, *Opera Canada* review of *The Diary of Anne Frank*

"Halifax Summer Workshop staged Mark Adamo's *Little women* in a heart-warming production well directed by Edward Franko."

Daphna Levit, *Opera Canada* review of *Little Women*

"The new Canadian opera *Frankenstein* deserves a shelf life. TrypTych, the little company that could, has mounted the world premiere in a church basement on a miniscule budget, but director Edward Franko makes the opera work."

Paula Citron, *Classical 96 Website*, review of *Frankenstein*