

JULIE BEAUVAIS

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WINDHORSE

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www.thewitness.earth
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2026

JULIE BEAUVAIS

OPERA DIRECTOR, EDUCATOR, EDGE WALKER*

Julie Beauvais is an opera director, transdisciplinary artist and educator based in the mountains of southern Switzerland and northern India. Through her works, she explores the fundamental tenets of opera in its diverse expressions around the world: Embodiment of cosmoperceptions, Vibrations travelling through vastness, and Ever-changing field of entanglements. Her creations have been presented and exhibited internationally since 2001.

After graduating from Ecole Jacques Lecoq in Paris in 2000, Beauvais co-founds several companies in the United States, in Switzerland and in Denmark. For seven years, she explores forms of epic theatre in diverse political contexts. The work leads to long term collaborations with Brazilian, Mongolian, and Nicaraguan companies.

In 2006, she begins staging operas and soon focuses on the contemporary and Majority World repertoire. In 2013, she creates a platform for her experiments by founding *Windhorse*, a multicultural operatic laboratory to deepen the art of listening. Together with her collaborators, Beauvais explores new perspectives on trans-territorial cooperation for sustainable development in the context of emerging challenges and shifting paradigms.

Invited to share her research and passionate about the continuity of practices and the mutation of processes, she regularly collaborates with educational institutions including ZHdK–Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Hochschule für Musik FHNW in Basel, Hochschule Luzern–Musik, EPFL–Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, HEMU–Haute Ecole de Musique, Arthaus.Berlin International Training and Research Center, SMI–Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, and more. Julie also leads workshops and masterclasses internationally.

Since 2018, she directs *The Witness*, translocal opera weaving together the Earth's changing messages and the voices of indigenous wisdom holders. From 2020 to 2022, she founds and co-directs *Sonic Matter–Experimental Music Platform* based in Zurich. In 2021, she initiates *ALTER– Altitude Laboratory / Transition Experiments / Research*, a high-altitude residency program nurturing collaboration among artists, researchers and local inhabitants that responds to environmental crises in high-mountain communities.

Recently, Beauvais directed *ORLANDO*, a new paradigm opera co-produced by La Bâtie–Festival de Genève, performed among others at the FIBA–Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires, the Festival de Santiago a Mil, the Mostra Internacional de Teatro de São Paulo, the O. Festival in Rotterdam, the Manifesta13 European biennial in Marseille, and throughout India.

Julie's current collaborative field research focus on Himalayan operas and their potential to create new narratives that reflect both local heritage and global paradigm shifts.

*An edge walker is defined as someone who lives or works at the intersection of different disciplines, cultures, or worldviews, bridging these areas and fostering understanding between them. They are individuals who are comfortable operating in ambiguous spaces, often seen as explorers who facilitate change and connection between different perspectives.

CHRONOLOGY

1978	Born in Switzerland (Swiss and French nationality)
1998-2000	École Internationale de Théâtre Jacques Lecoq, Paris ^{FR}
2000-2002	Co-founder, co-artistic director and stage director of Sprung theatre, Chicago ^{USA}
2002-2009	Founder, artistic director and stage director of Cie Mondes Contraires, active worldwide ^{WW}
2005-2008	Co-founder and performer of Hopballehus Theatre, Silkeborg ^{DK}
2005-2014	Artistic director, and stage director of Ouverture Opéra, Sion ^{CH}
Since 2012	Founder and artistic director of Windhorse Platform active worldwide ^{WW}
Since 2018	Founder and director of The Witness translocal opera, active worldwide ^{WW}
2020-2022	Co-founder, co-director of Sonic Matter, Platform for experimental music, Zurich ^{CH}
2021-2024	Co-founder, co-director of ALTER– Altitude Laboratory Transition Experiments Research, Val d'Anniviers ^{CH}

AWARDS

Cultural prize Cie Ouverture Opéra – 2014 État du Valais ^{CH}
Cultural prize Julie Beauvais – 2011 État du Valais ^{CH}

JURY & COMMISSIONS

Canton Basel, Commission Music - Expert, 2023-2024 Basel ^{CH}
Concours Nicati 2019, Open Space category - Jury president, 2019 Bern ^{CH}

PUBLICATION

Space without fear: The art of Julie Beauvais
Espace sans peur: L'art de Julie Beauvais
Le Diable, la plume et le pinceau
2015 – Edited by Les Amis de Muret, Lens, et les ayant droits
Texts by Winsome Brown, photos by Robert Hofer
ISBN: 978-2-8399-1727-8

RESEARCH VOYAGES AND RESIDENCIES

Field research *Himalayan Operas*, 2025 Ladakh ^{IN}
Field research *MANA*, 2021 Polynesia ^{FR}
Research trip *The Witness*, 2021 Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda
Field research and residency *ORLANDO* – Pro Helvetia, 2019 Patagonia ^{AR}
Research residency *Excuse Me While I Kiss The Sky*, 2015 Bagan ^{MM}
Research residency *The Fervor*, 2014 New Mexico ^{USA}
Research trip *Krāsīs*, 2012 Amritsar, Dehradun, Varanasi, Konarak ^{IN}
Red House Manhattan Residency – Etat du Valais, 2011 New York ^{USA}

WORKS

2017-2025

ALTER-

Altitude Laboratory | Transition Experiments | Research
2021-2024 – Val d'Anniviers ^{CH}
www.alter-anniviers.com

THE WITNESS

Translocal Opera
Cooperative practice and network of communities
Since 2018 – Africa, Asia, The Americas, Europe, Oceania
www.thewitness.earth

ORLANDO

New paradigm opera for seven movements, one voice and one horizon

2018-2019 – Europe tour
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne - EPFL ^{CH}
La Bâtie, Festival de Genève ^{CH}
Dock 11 & EDEN*****, Berlin ^{DE}
REGIONAL19, Kalt, Strasbourg ^{FR}
Ferme-Asile, centre artistique et culturel Sion ^{CH}
Rotterdam Operadagen Festival ^{NL}

2019-2020 – South America tour
Santiago a Mil Festival ^{CL}
FIBA-Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires ^{AR}
MITsp-Mostra Internacional de Teatro de São Paulo ^{BR}
Val d'Anniviers, Chandolin ^{CH}
Manifesta13-Les Parallèles du Sud, gmem-CNCN-Marseille, Marseille ^{FR}

2022-2023 – India tour
Kochi-Muziris Biennale, Kochi, Kerala ^{IN}
The Giving Tree, Matai, Imphal, Manipur ^{IN}
Charshung Phungreitang, Ukhrul, Manipur ^{IN}
Zaishin Dance Rooftop, Ukhrul, Manipur ^{IN}
Yumpham Arts Space, Imphal, Manipur ^{IN}
Goethe Institute, Bangalore, Karnataka ^{IN}

DENSITY 21.5

Collaboration with flutist Claire Chase
Repertoire: Density 21.5 by Edgard Varèse
2017 – The Kitchen, New York ^{USA}

CATALOG

Récital-shooting
2017 – Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

TOCCATA E FUGA

Long duration duo performance
Repertoire: Toccata e Fuga in re minore, BWV 565 [flute] by Johann Sebastian Bach
2017 – Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

WORKS

2010-2017

SUNBATHING IN MY TEARS

Performance in four movements for soprano and electronic orchestra
Repertoire: Sino alla morte and Lagrime mie by Barbara Strozzi, Nova/Minraud
by Olga Neuwirth, Sunbathing by Blaise Ubaldini
2017 – Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}
2018 – EPFL, Lausanne ^{CH}

HEROINE

Solo opera performance
Repertoire: Arias by Georg Friedrich Haendel
2017 – Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

THE SOLDIER'S TALE

Immersive opera based on The Soldier's Tale composed by Igor Stravinsky
Libretto by Charles Ferdinand Ramuz
2013-2014 – Fondation Pierre Arnaud, Lens ^{CH}

KRĀSIS

Urban opera, Monumental video installation
2013-2014 – Funkhaus Berlin, Festival Scènes Valaisannes Sion, Münsterplatz
Bern,
La Bâtie-Festival de Genève ^{CH}

COSÌ FAN TUTTE

Opera buffa in two acts composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
2014 – Ouverture Opéra, Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

HANSEL AND GRETEL

Opera composed by Engelbert Humperdinck
Libretto by Adelheid Wette
2013 – Opéra de Lausanne ^{CH}

THIS IS NOT FOR YOU

Collaboration with performer Jon Sherman
2013 – Philadelphia Fringe Festival ^{USA}

ORFEO ED EURIDICE

Opera composed by Christoph Willibald Gluck
Libretto by Ranieri de' Calzabigi
2012 – Amabilis, Lausanne ^{CH}

ALCINA

Opera seria composed by Georg Friedrich Haendel
Libretto by Antonio Fanzaglia, based on Orlando furioso by Ludovico Ariosto
2012 – Ouverture Opéra, Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

RADAMISTO

Opera seria composed by Georg Friedrich Haendel
Libretto by Nicola Francesco Haym
2011 – Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Winterthur Theater, Kurtheater Baden ^{CH}

MONODRAMAS

ERWARTUNG / NEITHER / LA MACHINE DE L'ÊTRE

(Assistant Director to Michael Counts)
Composed by Arnold Schönberg / Morton Feldman / John Zorn
Libretto by Marie Pappenheim / Samuel Beckett / Antonin Artaud
2011 – New York City Opera, Lincoln Center's Koch Theater, New York ^{USA}

DON GIOVANNI

Opera in two acts composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
2010 – Ouverture Opéra, Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

WORKS

2001-2010

EL CIRCULÒ DE TIZA

The Caucasian Chalk Circle by Bertolt Brecht

Collaboration between Les Mondes Contraires and Collectivo de Mujeres de Matagalpa

2009 – Matagalpa Nicaragua tour ^{NI}

2010 – Théâtre Saint Gervais, Genève, Théâtre Interface, Sion ^{CH}

LA BOHÈME

Opera in four acts composed by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on Scènes de la vie de bohème by Henri Murger

2008 – Ouverture Opéra, Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

PHILOMENA PARADE

Performative street parade

2007 – Oslo Festival ^{NO}

EL MONKEY

The Monkey by Isak Dinesen, Seven Gothic Tales

2006 – Odin Teatret Holstebro, Tilcara, Centro Cultural de la Cooperación Buenos Aires ^{AR}

EMIR ET CADOR

Mask duet performed in theaters and shelter for displaced populations

2006 – Genève and Swiss tour ^{CH}

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO

Commedia per musica (opera buffa) in four acts composed by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

2006 – Ouverture Opéra, Ferme-Asile, Sion ^{CH}

ROMEO ET JULIETTE AU VILLAGE

Romeo und Julia auf dem Dorfe by Gottfried Keller

Collaboration between Les Mondes Contraires and performers, actors, dancers, musicians from Mongolia

2005 – Ulaanbaatar and Mongolia tour ^{MN}

TRANSSIBÉRIEN

Mask trio performed in the trains between Geneva and Ulaanbaatar

2005 – Trans-Siberian train ^{MN}

APPEL EN ABSENCE

Creation

2003 – Théâtre de l'Usine, Genève ^{CH}

SEEP

Creation

2002 – Links Hall, Chicago ^{USA}

A ALMA BOA DE SETZUAN

The Good Woman of Sichuan by Bertolt Brecht

Collaboration between Les Mondes Contraires and Movimento Pró-Criança

2001 – Recife ^{BR}

LA CONTADINA ASTUTA

Creation

2001 – Teatro Reggio Emilia ^{IT}

WORKS

2000-2001

AND SO I MAY RETURN

Creation

2001 – Chicago ^{USA}

CAPSIZE

Creation

2000 – Links Hall, Chicago ^{USA}

TEACHING - COURSES

Basel Academy of Music FHNW – Music and Scene in Transformation (MuST) – Lecturer 2023-2024, Basel ^{CH}
Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK, Department MA Transdisciplinary Studies – Guest lecturer since 2023, Zurich ^{CH}
Hochschule Luzern–Musik – Guest lecturer and mentor in 2022, Luzern ^{CH}
Basel Academy of Music FHNW – Guest lecturer and mentor since 2021, Basel ^{CH}
Glion Institute of Higher Education – Lecturer 2019-2024, Montreux ^{CH}
SMI–Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore – Guest lecturer since 2019, Bangalore ^{IN}
International Theatre School of the Russian Federation – Guest lecturer in 2019, Moscow ^{RU}
Arthaus.Berlin International Training and Research Center – Guest teacher since 2018, Berlin ^{DE}
EPFL–École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne – Guest lecturer since 2014, Lausanne ^{CH}
Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK, Department Music – Guest lecturer and mentor since 2013, Zürich ^{CH}
HEMU–Haute École de Musique – Lecturer 2010-2013, Lausanne, Fribourg ^{CH}

TEACHING - MODULES AND WORKSHOPS

2015-2025

The Witness Openlab – Since 2018 [Full list of venues and occurrences](#)
ORLANDO The Future Is Fluid – Goethe Institut Max Mueller Bhavan, 2023 Bangalore ^{IN}
ORLANDO Building Integral spaces – Imphāl University and Ukhrul, 2023 Manipur ^{IN}
Design Ecologies – Zurich University of the Arts ZHdK, Department Design, 2022, Zürich ^{CH}
ORLANDO The Future Is Fluid – Festival Santiago a Mil, 2019 Santiago ^{CL}
ORLANDO The Future Is Fluid – MITsp, 2019 São Paulo ^{BR}
ORLANDO The Future Is Fluid – FIBA-Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires, 2019 Buenos Aires ^{AR}
Laboratory work on The Witness – Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, National School of Drama, 2019 Bangalore ^{IN}
ORLANDO talk – Alice Boner Institute, 2019 Varanasi ^{IN}
Masterclass – International Theatre School of The Russian Federation STD Festival Artmigration, 2019 Moscow ^{RU}
Masterclass – International Theatre School of The Russian Federation STD, 2019 Moscow ^{RU}
Investigation et élaboration d'un dispositif scénographique – LAPIS/EPFL+ECAL lab, 2017 Lausanne ^{CH}
Les stratégies musique-corps-espace – Ferme-Asile, 2017 Sion ^{CH}
Le Masque Neutre – Ferme-Asile, 2017 Sion ^{CH}
Sublime et réalisme, traitement spatial des musiques baroques et contemporaines – LAPIS EPFL/ENAC, Conférence Fire 3, 2016 Lausanne ^{CH}
De la respiration à l'installation – EPFL + ECAL lab. Conférence Fire 3, 2015 Lausanne ^{CH}

TEACHING - MODULES AND WORKSHOPS

2002-2013

The Tragic Space / Expressive masks – Performers House, 2013 Silkeborg ^{DK}

Ateliers Femmes – Maison du Monde, 2010-2011 Monthey ^{CH}

Ateliers Femmes – Ville de Genève et Camarada, 2009-2011 Genève ^{CH}

Ateliers Femmes – Centres accueil CEFAM, Camarada, F-Information, 2008 Genève ^{CH}

Performance and Politics – Colectivo de Mujeres de Matagalpa, 2008 Matagalpa ^{NI}

Introducción a la pedagogia Lecoq – Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2007 Buenos Aires ^{AR}

The Body in the Poetic Space – De Kalb Northern Illinois University, 2002 Chicago ^{USA}

Epic Theatre – Movimento Pro-Criança, 2002 Recife ^{BR}

CO-PRODUCERS, SUPPORTERS, PARTNERS, CATALYSTS

Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council, DDC-Direction du Développement et de la Coopération, Artlink SüdKulturFonds, CNC-Centre National du Cinéma et de l'Image animée, Canton du Valais, République et Canton de Genève, Kanton Bern, Loterie Romande Vaud, Loterie Romande Valais, Pour-cent culturel Migros, DRAC-Direction Régionale des Affaires Culturelles Grand Est, Ville de Genève, Stadt Zürich, Stadt Bern, Ville de Sion, Burgergemeinde Bern, Commune d'Anniviers, Anniviers Tourisme, Commune de Vandoeuvres, Ernst Göhner Stiftung, HEAR-Haute Ecole des Arts du Rhin, Accélérateur de Particules Strasbourg

ZHdK-Zürcher Hochschule der Künste, Hochschule für Musik FHNW Basel, EPFL-Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, ECAL-Ecole Cantonale d'Art de Lausanne, HEMU-Haute Ecole de Musique, Arthaus.Berlin International Training and Research Center, Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design Technology in Bangalore, National School of Drama in Bangalore, International Theatre School of the Russian Federation in Moscow, Movimento pro criança Recife, Colectivo de Mujeres Matagalpa

Links hall Chicago, Centro Cultural de la Cooperación Buenos Aires, Stadttheater Schaffhausen, Winterthur Theater, Kurtheater Baden, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Opéra de Lausanne, La Ferme-Asile Sion, Funkhaus Berlin, Théâtre de l'Usine Genève, Théâtre Saint Gervais Genève, The Kitchen New York, Dock 11 & EDEN***** Berlin, Zürich Gessnerallee, BNM - Ballet National de Marseille, gmem-CNCN-Marseille, Goethe Institut Max Bhavan Bangalore, Museum Rietberg Zurich, Museum Tinguely Basel, Nachom Arts Foundation

Fringe Festival Philadelphia, La Bâtie-Festival de Genève, Festival Scènes Valaisannes, Regionale 19 Strasbourg, Rotterdam O. Festival, Santiago a Mil Festival, FIBA-Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires, Mostra Internacional de Teatro de São Paulo, THEATRUM: Re-Formation Moscow, The European Nomadic Biennial Manifesta 13 Marseille, Sonic Matter Festival Zurich