

John Gardyne BA (Hons) Exon, MA (Shakespeare Studies) York, Dip Theatre Studies (Wales)



Head of Public Engagement – Trinity College London

John Gardyne was born in Northumberland England, studied English Literature at Exeter University and subsequently gained an MA in Shakespeare Studies at York University studying under the eminent Shakespeare scholar Professor Brian Gibbons.

He trained as a theatre director at the Sherman Theatre Cardiff and was then appointed

Assistant Director of the Orange Tree Theatre Richmond for two years, during which time he directed *The Orange Box*, tours of *Macbeth* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and acted as dramaturg and co-director of the world premiere of Rodney Ackland's *Absolute Hell*, revived at the National Theatre in April 2018.

Since then he has worked extensively as a director of plays, musicals and operas for many leading companies in the UK and abroad, including the Royal National Theatre Studio, the Covent Garden Festival, Welsh National Opera, Glyndebourne Opera, in regional theatres and in the West End. Credits include *Dames at Sea* (Ambassadors Theatre West End), *Talk to Me* (National Theatre Studio), *Trial by Jury*, *The King and I* (Covent Garden Festival), the first London revival of Kander and Ebb's *The Rink* (Orange Tree), *Rent* and *Peter Pan* (Theatro sa da Bandeira, Porto) *Cinderella* (Queen's Theatre Barnstaple), revivals of *La Boheme*, *La Traviata* and *Beatrice and Benedict* (WNO) and *New Year* (Glyndebourne – assistant director to Sir Peter Hall). He also produced and directed the European premiere of Stephen Sondheim's musical adaptation of Aristophanes' *The Frogs* at – and in – a west London swimming pool with an all-singing, all swimming cast of sixty.

He writes extensively for the stage and radio, twice winning the London Radio Playwright's Award for *Nightscape* and *Playing Drums for Lou Reed*. As a lyricist/ librettist he has worked with Carl Davis on the musicals *Pilgrim's Progress* and *Peace*; with Nick Bicat and David Hare on *The Knife*; and with Matthew Miller on *Bernice Bobs her Hair*, *The Bees Knees* and *The Selfish Giant*. Other writing includes *Going Round*, a short comic opera with Nick Bicat (Drill Hall London/ Sky Arts) and a pantomime version of *Beauty and the Beast* (Chipping Norton Theatre).

John has worked extensively in the field of drama and music education, and has taught and directed at most of the leading drama schools, music conservatoires and university theatre departments in the UK, including RADA, GSA Conservatoire, the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester Metropolitan University and Trinity College of Music.

In January 2005 John was appointed Chief Examiner in Drama and Speech subjects for Trinity College London providing academic leadership for Trinity's drama qualifications for 70 examiners and 50,000 candidates per annum across 25 countries worldwide. During this

period he launched Trinity's International Playwriting Competition which to date has generated over 1000 scripts from new and emerging writers from all over the world. Since then he has also held the posts of Head of Drama and Performance and Lead Academic – Drama and Performance.

As Trinity's drama academic and industry specialist, he continues to develop and promote the college's work in assessing performance and professional training. In recent years he has led seminars and conferences on all aspects of drama and drama education in the UK, Ireland, Hong Kong, China, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina and many countries throughout Europe. Recent projects have included a multi-cast production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Emirates Airlines Literature Festival in Dubai and a tri-lingual Shakespeare performance project with English language students from Italy and Russia.

As lead assessor for Trinity's Professional Performing Arts Diplomas he is responsible for course validation and quality assurance at 24 colleges in the UK which provide vocational professional training in dance, acting and musical theatre on behalf of the UK government's DaDA (Dance and Drama Awards) funding stream. In this role he also provides the colleges with ongoing guidance and consultancy on course design, curriculum development and assessment methodologies. In November 2018 he was appointed to the Board of the Council for Dance, Drama and Musical Theatre.

His publications include *Producing Musicals – A Practical Guide* (Crowood Press). He has edited four volumes of Musical Theatre repertoire for Faber Music's *Sing!* Collection with Luise Horrocks and four volumes of plays from Trinity's International Playwriting Competition.

In April 2021 John was appointed to the newly-created post of Head of Public Engagement. In this role he is additionally responsible for developing an international programme of live and digital events to provide new performance opportunities for children, young people and students which will support and embody Trinity's over-arching academic, professional and charitable principles.

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