

Yaron Abulafia

Netherlands-based Yaron Abulafia is a visual artist and researcher specializing in lighting and space design for performance. Over the last 25 years, Abulafia has designed internationally over 250 performances, including opera, theater, and dance, as well as performative installations, concerts, and live TV shows. He has designed in numerous large-scale opera and theatre houses like:

Het Muziektheater Amsterdam, the Deutsche Oper and Komische Oper in Berlin, Sadler's Wells and Royal Opera House – Covent Garden (London), Monaco Dance Forum, Grand Theatre Luxembourg, Poly Theatre Beijing and Shanghai International Dance Centre, National Operas of Poland, Czech Republic and Israel.

Collaborations include: Het Nationale Ballet Amsterdam, Nederlands Dans Theater, Stuttgart Ballet, Staatsballett Berlin, English National Ballet, Shanghai Dance Theatre, Rambert Dance Company, Ballet BC in Vancouver and Compañía Nacional de Danza in Spain, to mention but a few.

Abulafia has gained international reputation as an innovative performance designer whose poetic use of light as scenography creates a unique visual dimension. The vivid painterly and sculptural qualities of his work explore the dramaturgical role light plays in contemporary performance.

Abulafia holds a PhD in Performance and Theatre Studies from The State University of Groningen, the Netherlands. He is the author of *The Art of Light on Stage: Lighting in Contemporary Theatre* (2016), published by Routledge with a foreword by Romeo Castellucci. The book release was followed by 23 book launch events in opera houses, national theatres and festivals around the world. It is the first-ever book on state-of-the-art trends in lighting design for contemporary 'postdramatic' performance, approaching lighting design from semiotic and phenomenological perspectives, with reference to cognitive studies and the arts.

Dr. Abulafia was a curator for the exhibition *WORLD STAGE DESIGN* (WSD) in Calgary Canada 2022, and has been introduced as one of 15 international ambassadors of the *Prague Quadrennial for Performance Design and Space* (the largest global event celebrating excellency in design for performance, scenography and theatre architecture). He served as a jury member in the PQ 2019 edition and WSD 2013. Abulafia often teaches at institutions around the world.

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