

**HUGH WOOLDRIDGE**  
Director and Producer  
[www.hughwooldridge.com](http://www.hughwooldridge.com)

As a freelance director Hugh Wooldridge has directed theatre and television productions throughout Europe, Africa, Japan, Australia, Canada and the United States: in England he has been a resident director with the Haymarket Theatre, Leicester, the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead and the Prospect Theatre Company at The Old Vic Theatre, London.

For The Old Vic Company he directed the world premieres of the Graham Collier / Malcolm Lowry Jazz Suite *Under A Volcano* and *The Undisput'd Monarch Of The English Stage* with Gary Bond portraying David Garrick: for the Royal Ballet he directed *The World Of Giselle*. Other world premieres include the Charles Strouse opera, *Nightingale*, with Sarah Brightman at the Buxton Opera Festival; Francis Wyndham's *Abel And Cain* (Haymarket, Leicester); the Donald Campbell / Robert Pettigrew musical *Blackfriars' Wynd* (Lyceum, Edinburgh); David Wood's *There Was An Old Woman* and *Nutcracker Sweet* (Haymarket, Leicester); Mike Read's musical about the life of Rupert Brooke, *Young Apollo* (Thorndike, Leatherhead); Deborah Moggach's *Double Take* (Minerva, Chichester) and the British premieres of Richard Crane's *Decent Things* (Bush Theatre, London) and David Ives's *All In The Timing* (Playhouse, Nottingham).

He directed and lit the original award-winning *Jeeves Takes Charge* at the Lyric Hammersmith; the first productions of the Andrew Lloyd Webber and T. S. Eliot *Cats* (Sydmonton Festival), and the Andrew Lloyd Webber / Don Black song-cycle *Tell Me On A Sunday* with Marti Webb at the Royalty Theatre; also Lloyd Webber's *Variations* at the Royal Festival Hall (later combined together to become *Song And Dance*) and Liz Robertson's one-woman show *Just Liz* compiled by Alan Jay Lerner at the Duke of York's Theatre, London.

Whilst the Associate Head of Music for the ITV's Television South (TVS), he was responsible for many music and light entertainment programmes including *The A-Z of Music* with Richard Stilgoe and his own *Showcase* series. The latter featured, amongst others, Nigel Kennedy, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Paul Jones, Benjamin Luxon, Rod Argent, Julian Lloyd Webber and Sarah Brightman.

In 1987, for his own company The Jolly Good Production Company, he co-produced with Liz Robertson and directed *An Evening With Alan Jay Lerner* at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London with Placido Domingo and a host of stars which raised funds for Cancer Research (available on CD). This event was remounted in March 1988 at the Opera House, Manchester with Richard Harris.

In October 1989, he wrote and directed *An Evening With Alan Jay Lerner* at the New York State Theatre, Lincoln Center starring Julie Andrews, Liza Minnelli, Robert Goulet, Sally Ann Howes, Rudolph Nureyev, Leonard Bernstein and many others.

Subsequently he has been responsible for numerous, major, fund-raising events including *The Night of 1000 Voices*, originally a Gala Concert celebrating the centenary of NODA and now an annual event at the Royal Albert Hall, London; *DANCEPOWER*, a celebration of World Dance for the Red Cross at the London Palladium; *Comedy Tonight* with the leading UK comic artistes at the Royal National Theatre for The Roy Kinnear Trust; *Around The World* at the Royal Albert Hall, London with Elaine Paige and Michael Flatley and his then, newly-formed, *Riverdance*, for The Royal National Institute for the Blind; the 125th Anniversary of the Red Cross with Shirley Bassey; the *Ira Gershwin Centenary* celebration at the Royal Albert Hall, London in aid of Mencap - *Who Could Ask For Anything More?*; and more recently in New York the inaugural *Bernard Jacobs Award For Excellence In Theatre* which was presented to James Nederlander.

Other diverse theatre productions have included the European premiere of U.S. playwright Dennis McIntyre's *Split Second* at the Lyric Hammersmith; two multi-media productions of Dylan Thomas' *Under Milk Wood* (Plymouth, Liverpool and U.K. Tour); the first major revival of Howard Barker's *Claw* (repeated with the Final Year 2005 students at RADA); a U.K. tour of Noël Coward's *Present Laughter*; his own Musicals' Revue *The Ones That Got Away* at the Almeida Theatre and the Barbican Centre (where it was featured as part of the Leonard Bernstein Festival); *The Fabulous Singlettes* at the Comedy Theatre; the annual spectacular concert performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar* introduced by Sir Tim Rice at the Barbican Centre, London; the European Tour of *The Rocky Horror Show* starring Clive Carter and Anita Dobson; and, as UK Associate, the long-running West End production of Jerry Zaks's *Smokey Joe's Cafe* (the Prince of Wales Theatre).

His most recent productions have been *An Evening With Tim Rice* (Henley Festival and Holder's Festival, Barbados introduced by Tim Rice); the Variety Club stellar tribute to lyricist Don Black; a celebration of 350 years of Jewish Music with Michael Ball, Maria Friedman and Michel Legrand (the new Roundhouse); the workshop production of the screenplay of the Andrew Lloyd Webber movie, *The Phantom Of The Opera*; the live, stadium-event, version of BBC TV's *Robot Wars* also a full-scale revival of the Rice / Lloyd Webber musical *Evita* featuring a cast of 125 (Grand Theatre, Leeds).

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An international Millennium Musicals' Celebration for the Bayerischer Rundfunk Orchester (Gasteig, Munich); the UK Tour of the Rodgers and Hammerstein revue, *Something Wonderful*; Noël Coward, *The Centenary Celebration* (Savoy Theatre, London); a major revival of *Peer Gynt* for Orchestra, Chorale, Dancers and Acting Company in Chicago (the first such production since 1876); *Sondheim Tonight*, a gala celebration of the music of Stephen Sondheim (Barbican Centre); *The Royal Anniversary Gala* celebrating the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness The Prince Philip (Royal Festival Hall); *Jack In Review* for Sir Cameron Mackintosh (London Palladium); the all-star Gala, *BAM Salutes Sondheim* at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York; *The Richard Rodgers Awards and The 50th Anniversary Gala Concert* for the Civic Light Opera in Pittsburgh celebrating the talents of Mary Martin, Julie Andrews, Stephen Sondheim, Hal Prince and Lord Andrew Lloyd-Webber; the international *Gala Concert For Hal Prince* starring Len Cariou in Munich, Germany (also available on CD); and two all-star revivals of *Rebecca* for the Du Maurier Estate.

Hugh Wooldridge created and directed the original production of *The Music Of Andrew Lloyd Webber* (also seen in the Prince Edward Theatre, London and the London Palladium; and the Irish, North American and Scandinavian productions); the U.K. Tour of *The Magic Of The Musicals* starring Marti Webb (also seen at the London Palladium); the 20th Anniversary Tour of *Jesus Christ Superstar – In Concert* starring the original Jesus, Paul Nicholas, in England and two full scale, American productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* which have toured throughout Europe; and the 150th Anniversary celebrations of Thomas Cook Ltd in the presence of the late Princess of Wales.

Hugh Wooldridge created *SEASONS*, a spectacular work for the percussionist Evelyn Glennie which features words specially written by Christopher Fry spoken by Dame Judi Dench, Jeremy Irons, Robert Powell and Imogen Stubbs. This work was also performed by Denmark's the Safri Duo at the Royal Albert Hall, London. He wrote the format for, and was the Creative Consultant to, BBC's *Challenge Anneka*.

His production of his own Alan Jay Lerner revue, *The Night They Invented Champagne* was seen in Cape Town and Johannesburg; and the UK production re-titled *Almost Like Being In Love* completed a season at the Royal National Theatre, London with Sian Phillips, John Standing, Clive Carter, Anita Dobson and Anna Francolini; most recently he adapted and directed *Chess in Concert* at the Royal Albert Hall with Josh Groban, Idina Menzel, Adam Pascal and Marti Pellow ([www.chessinconcert.com](http://www.chessinconcert.com)). This was aired by PBS in the US and internationally in Spring 2009; in London and the UK, *Chess in Concert* was the first musical theatre concert to be shown in mainstream cinemas.

In May 2010 he devised and directed the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary production of *The Night of 1000 Voices* featuring Kerry Ellis, Philip Quast, Adam Pascal and the Queen composer and guitarist, Brian May ([www.thenightof1000voices.com](http://www.thenightof1000voices.com)). He is currently preparing an Argentinean rock oratorio, *El Futre*, and a new play for UK production in the Autumn of 2010.

Hugh Wooldridge is a member of The Dramatists' Guild (U.S.) and The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (U.S.), and The Directors' Guild of Great Britain (U.K.).

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*Selection of CDs available:*

*CHESS IN CONCERT (REPRISE 517635-2); AN EVENING WITH ALAN JAY LERNER (OCRC12); THE MUSIC OF THE NIGHT (CDP7486392); THE MAGIC OF THE MUSICALS (QTVCCD013); AN EVENING WITH HAL PRINCE (DOCRC2); SONDHEIM TONIGHT (CDTER2 1250); THE NIGHT OF 1000 VOICES (NODA). Publication: THE STILL POINT*

*DVD*

*CHESS IN CONCERT (REPRISE 7599-39992-4)*

For more information, please visit - [www.HughWooldridge.com](http://www.HughWooldridge.com)

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