Tessa Bremner OAM DIRECTOR

In 2014 Tessa Bremner received an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of a lifelong career in the performing arts including opera, theatre, and education. Over the years she has received an Australia Council Music Board Grant to study the training of young singers in Britain, France and Spain, a scholarship to research Russian Theatre Design (ANU School of Modern Languages) and a scholarship to research Russian Opera (University of Adelaide, Music Department). Many of her productions over the years have received awards.

Tessa began her theatrical career as a singer, dancer and actor in London’s West End, on TV and in film. She played many character roles, her favourite being Old Min in musical *The Matchgirls*. In Australia she danced with the Australian Dance Theatre and was a mime, singer and choreographer with New Opera in Adelaide. She was a Resident Producer, Director and choreographer with the Australian Opera, Victoria State Opera and State Opera of South Australia.

She is a Co-Founder of Co-Opera for which she has directed Witches and Demons, Pagliacci (Australia and Singapore), Magic Flute (Australia and Europe), La Bohême, Carmen, The Marriage of Figaro (Australia and Europe), Madam Butterfly, A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Tosca, Don Giovanni (Australia and Asia), The Portrait, Acis and Galatea (Australia and Asia), La Traviata and Eugene Onegin.

Tessa’s passion, apart from directing opera, is the training of young singers in the art of operatic stagecraft. Her work with Co-Opera has provided the opportunity to put into practice her training methods providing the young professional singers she has directed with the elegance, character, poise and understanding of movement and emotion required to succeed in this most difficult of career choices.