



FILM MOVEMENT®

Presents

THE PARIS OPERA

(L'OPÉRA)

A Documentary by Jean-Stéphane Bron



France, Switzerland / 2016 / Documentary / French with English Subtitles
111 min / DCP 5.1 / 1.85 / Color

Opens October 18th in New York City & October 20th in Los Angeles

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Assets:

Official US Trailer: TBD
Downloadable hi-res images: TBD

SYNOPSIS

Autumn 2015. At the Paris Opera, Stéphane Lissner is putting the finishing touches to his first press conference as director. Backstage, artists and crew prepare to raise the curtain on a new season with Schönberg's Moses and Aaron. But the announcement of a strike and arrival of a bull in a supporting role complicate matters. At the same time, a promising young Russian singer begins at the Opera's Academy. In the hallways of Opera Bastille, his destiny will cross paths with that of Bryn Terfel, one of the greatest voices of his time. As the season progresses, more and more characters appear, playing out the human comedy in the manner of a documentary Opera. But this comedy is set against a tragic backdrop when terrorist attacks plunge Paris into mourning. Even though the show must go on at all costs, there is no end of trouble for the new director. Star choreographer Benjamin Millepied jumps ship soon after taking over as director of ballet at Palais Garnier. Preparations for Richard Wagner's six-hour opera Die Meistersinger reunite the company.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

At times ironic, light-hearted and cruel, encompassing music and ballet, THE PARIS OPERA turns the spotlight on great passions and tells the story of life behind the scenes of one of the most prestigious performing arts venues in the world.

LOGLINE

THE PARIS OPERA is an engaging, behind-the-scenes look at the whirlwind logistics that is needed to put together the breathtaking performances and events at one of the world's most eminent institution.



SELECT PRESS FOR *THE PARIS OPERA*

“Bron relies exclusively on editing to shape his mosaic-like story.... there’s a lot to appreciate here — and not only for opera and classical music buffs but also for the more generally culturally curious.” – Boyd van Hoeij, *The Hollywood Reporter*

“This documentary by Jean-Stéphane Bron, a Swiss director, has the pace, the editing, the appearance, and the mood of a big-production drama....There are certain sequences in this doc that will lift your spirits up to the highest states of feeling that this art can reach.” – Charles Mudede, *The Stranger*

“Probing the backdrop of the Opera de Paris, giving a glimpse of and hearing the tremendous work of all those who work in this prestigious house, is the driving force behind this elegant and harmonious documentary: perfectly in harmony with its subject....It is the whole film that is assembled, mounted and orchestrated like an opera.” – Jacques Morice, *Telerama*

“An exciting work, not to be missed under any circumstances....With a rare mastery, the filmmaker prowls around the scenes of the Opera...” – Olivier de Bruyn, *Les Echos*

“An enthusiastic documentary, which speaks less of the spectacle than of society....Whatever the theme of his documentaries, Jean-Stéphane Bron stunned us by the intelligence of his narrative devices and the power of his gaze....Bron organizes his film in paintings, portraits and genre scenes....the Paris Opera is a metaphor for an ideal republic, where everyone, striving for excellence, contributes to the success of a collective project.” – Antoine Duplan, *Le Temps*

“This film is a gift for all music, opera, and dance lovers... and an invitation to everyone else!” – *Qporit*

“The new documentary by Jean-Stéphane Bron, **THE PARIS OPERA**, is prodigious. From the very first seconds, you can feel the filmmaker's eyes. The editing work is striking....an immersion film, it plunges us into the mazes of an institution that one will never leave.... [It] is an enchanting, captivating journey.” – Stephane Gobbo, *Le Temps*

SELECTED FESTIVALS & AWARDS

2017 Official Selection – Rendez-vous with French Cinema, New York City

2017 Official Selection – San Francisco International Film Festival

2017 Official Selection – COLCOA French Film Festival

2017 Official Selection – Seattle International Film Festival

2017 Official Selection – AFI Docs

Credits

FEATURING

Stéphane Lissner
Benjamin Millepied
Philippe Jordan
Bryn Terfel
Mikhail Tymoshenko
François Hollan

CREW

Director

Jean-Stéphane Bron

Producer

Philippe Martin

David Thion

Co-Producers

Lionel Baier

Ursula Meier

Frédéric Mermoud

Cinematographer

Blaise Harrison

Film Editing

Julie Lena

Sound Editing

Etienne Curchod et Jérôme Cuendet

Sound Mixer

Stéphane Thiébaud

Postproduction Manager

Juliette Mallon

Production

Les Films Pelléas



BIOGRAPHY: Jean-Stéphane Bron, Director

Writer-actor-director Jean-Stéphane Bron, who is mainly a director of documentary films (his first narrative film was the 2006 drama *MON FRÈRE SE MARIE*) was born in 1969 in Lausanne. He graduated from the School of Fine and Applied Arts of Lausanne (ECAL). In 2013, Bron directed *L'EXPÉRIENCE BLOCHER*, a portrait of the controversial Swiss nationalist-populist leader Christoph Blocher, which premiered in Locarno that year, and in 2010, his film *CLEVELAND VERSUS WALL STREET* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival as part of the Directors' Fortnight. He has been nominated for César Award for Best Documentary and has won the Swiss Film Award twice. Bron is a co-founder of the Swiss production company Bande À Part Films, together with Ursula Meier, Frédéric Mermoud and Lionel Baier.



Filmography:

2016 – THE PARIS OPERA – Documentary

2015 – DISORDER – (script collaboration); directed by Alice Winocour

2013 – THE BLOCHER EXPERIENCE – Documentary

2010 – CLEVELAND VERSUS WALL STREET – Documentary

2006 – MY BROTHER IS GETTING MARRIED

1999 – LA BONNE CONDUITE – Documentary

1997 – CONNU DE NOS SERVICES – Documentary

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City, which recently celebrated its 15th Anniversary with a month-long film series at the Museum of the Moving Image. As a company, Film Movement has released more than 250 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide, and last year it had its first Academy-Award®-nominated film, Naji Abu Nowar's THEEB. Film Movement's theatrical distribution strategy has evolved to include promising American independent films, documentaries, and an even stronger slate of foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Melanie Laurent. In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, and Ettore Scola. For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.