

**PARK AVENUE
ARMORY**



**PIERRE AUDI
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

A critically acclaimed director and artistic director, Pierre Audi was appointed Artistic Director of Park Avenue Armory in 2015. He also serves as the Artistic Director of the Dutch National Opera, a position he will hold until September 2018, when he will take over as General Director of the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

Audi's career trajectory has been characterized by both reinventing the classics and supporting groundbreaking new work. He founded the Almeida Theatre which, under his direction, established an international reputation for producing provocative new plays and musical commissions, introducing a vast number of then-living composers to the U.K., from John Cage, to Alfred Schnittke and Arvo Pärt, and mounting for the first time in the U.K. works by Robert Wilson, Deborah Warner, Simon McBurney, and Robert Lepage, among others.

Appointed as head of the Dutch National Opera in 1988, Audi was the youngest opera leader at the time and today is the longest serving in the world. He helped transform the company into one of the most cutting-edge and successful in Europe, with a commitment to commissioning new work and building new audiences for the art form. Among the numerous critically acclaimed performances are his staging of Wagner's *Ring* cycle, in which the theater was completely remade to set the orchestra in the middle of the stage, his now-classic cycle of three Monteverdi operas, *Vespers*, and madrigals, some of which were subsequently presented at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the Sydney Festival, and the Los Angeles Opera. He has also established a large repertoire of contemporary musical theater works, including world premieres by Tan Dun, Kaija Saariaho, Wolfgang Rihm, Louis Andriessen, and Pascal Dusapin. His staging of Rossini's final opera, *Guillaume Tell*, had its Metropolitan Opera debut in October 2016.

From 2004 to 2014, Audi served as Artistic Director of the Holland Festival, presenting works in music, dance, theater, and visual art by such artists as William Kentridge, John Baldessari, Tacita Dean, and Ryoji Ikeda; directors Peter Sellars, Sam Mendes, and Ivo van Hove; choreographers Mark Morris, William Forsythe, Lemi Ponifasio, Akram Khan, Mikhail Baryshnikov, and Anne Teresa de Keersmaeker; and contemporary composers John Adams, Nico Muhly, and Louis Andriessen. Audi has also worked as guest director at a number of opera and theater companies, including the Metropolitan Opera in New York, the Paris Opera, the Ruhrtriennale, the Salzburg festival, and the Vienna State Opera.

He has received numerous awards for his work, including the Leslie Boosey Award for his contribution to British Musical Life, the Prize of Holland's Theater Critics for his directing of Shakespeare's plays and Monteverdi operas, and The Netherland's state prize for the arts, the Johannes Vermeer Award. Audi was knighted in the Order of the Dutch Lion in 2000, and was made Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur in 2006 in France.