

# VALERIA PERBONI

## Director/ Assistant Director

Pronouns: She/Her

Contact details:

valeriaperboni@gmail.com

(+44) 07366328693

Location:

London

Mantova/Verona

*Valeria Perboni is an award-winning synaesthete performer, artist and director. Valeria developed her practice at the intersection between art and neuroscience research, particularly dedicating her time to the investigation of multisensory artistic practice, embodied art and synaesthesia in opera.*

### Experience

Stage Director, Set Design and Video design, **Normansfield Theatre**, Turandot, March 2025, conductor: Alice Farnham

Stage Director, Set Design and Choreography, **Instant Opera**, Normansfield Theatre, Puccini's Tabarro & Donizetti's Rita, October 2024

Stage Director, **Opera Greenwich**, La Boheme, St Alfege Church, August 2024

Stage Director, Light Design and Choreography, **Guildford Opera**, Aida, May 2024

Stage Director, UK (South East) Tour, **Amick Productions**, La Boheme, 2023.

Stage Director, **St Alfege Church** Greenwich, Suor Angelica, 2023.

Stage Director, Set Design and Choreography, **Normansfield Theatre**, London, La Traviata, 2023.

Revival Director, **Mycenae House & Trinity Laban**, Ariadne auf Naxos, 2023.

Stage Director, Light Design and Choreography, **Hoxton Hall**, Macbeth, 2023.

Staging Consultant, **Teatro Bibiena**, Alberto di Saviola, 2022.

Stage Director, **Normansfield Theatre**, London, Lucia di Lammermoor, 2022.

Assistant Director, **Arena di Verona Opera Festival**, Turandot, 2022.

### Other Selected Professional Experience

**Artistic Director**, **Opera Greenwich**, leading the Artist Development Programme and the Greenwich Theatre residency 2025.

**Immersive Director**, Multisensory and Immersive experience, SYN, Brunel University London, 2022.

**Artist in Residence**, Brunel University London, 2023.

Founder of Nine Lyrae Ltd and Creator of SYN The Synaesthesia Room© (Second Prize at Cannes Film Festival XR Showcase). SYN - The Synaesthesia Room© is an immersive experience based on the neurological condition of synaesthesia, that transforms neurodiversity into art, facilitates wellbeing by using multisensory, immersive approaches to sensory awareness and deep listening.

Guest Lecturer in Multisensory Art and Wellbeing. *Valeria has created the Synaesthesia Workshop©, using synaesthetic meditation techniques.*

**Producer and Curator**, OXO Tower, International Synaesthesia Art Exhibition “A Taste of Synaesthesia”, October 2023.

**Workshop Leader, Voice and Acting Coach**, Scorbibande Metropolitane, Torino, September 2023.

## **Training**

**Masters in Opera Directing**, Verona Opera Academy, 2022.

**MSc in Music Psychology and Neuroscience**, Goldsmiths University of London, 2019-2020.

**MA in Musical Theatre**, Royal Academy of Music, London, 2017-2018 (DipRAM award for Outstanding Performance)

**BA Music and Opera Studies**, Conservatoire Lucio Campiani, Mantova, Italy, 2012-2016.

**Diploma in Foreign Languages** (English (bilingual), French (highly skilled), German (highly skilled)), 2015.

## **Masterclasses**

Lorenzo Mariani (Opera Directing)

Stefania Bonfadelli (Opera Directing – Comedy)

William Orlandi (The Stage Space in Opera)

Gianmaria Aliverta (Opera Directing)

Lorenzo Cutuli (Set design for Opera)

## **Skills**

German language (highly proficient) – French language (highly proficient) – Italian (native) – Piano accompaniment – Assistant directing - Sight reading – Musical Analysis – Academic writing – Microsoft suite – Adobe Suite - Movement direction - Financial management and budgeting.

## **Publications**

Paper: Synaesthetic Emergence: Investigating the Factors Facilitating Synaesthetic States in Non-Synaesthetes through Participatory Arts – co-written with Dr Dominik Havsteen-Franklin, 2024.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311983.2025.2454113>

*This article was presented by Valeria at the International Synaesthesia Conference at Oxford University in May 2024.*

Essay: Alberto di Saviola, ‘azione patria’ di Lucio Campiani, in *Lucio Campiani*, a cura di Licia Mari, LIM, 2020, ISBN 9788855430203.

Articles: Boogie with the Brain – Goldsmiths University of London, 2020.;

The Synaesthesia Room – International Synaesthesia Conference, Granada 2022.

## **Upcoming Projects**

Stage Director, The Magic Flute, Opera Greenwich, Greenwich Theatre, June 2025.

Stage Director, Pearl Fishers, Guildford Opera, June 2025.

Stage Director, *The Murderous Delusions of Gavrilo K*, by Kevin Rodgers, world premiere, Tete a tete Festival, The Cockpit, September 2025.

Director, *Opera Prelude Immersive Production strand*, Arcola Theatre, September 2025.

## **Bio**

Valeria started her career as a performer (singer and actress) in Italy, while studying Piano accompaniment and Opera Studies (BA) at the local Conservatoire where she studied classical piano, classical singing, jazz singing and musical theatre. She graduated in 2016 and her thesis *Fratellanza a teatro* (a work on the role of Mantova's main opera theatre in the musical and historical events of the Italian Risorgimento) won an award for best dissertation, and was subsequently published by LIM.

In 2018 she completed her MA in Musical Theatre at the **Royal Academy of Music** and received the DipRAM award for Outstanding Performance. Since then, she has been performing both on stage and on screen in London and internationally for amongst others the Barbican Centre, BBC, Channel 4, Abbey Road and BBC Radio.

Valeria holds a master's degree in **Music Psychology and Neuroscience** (MSc, Goldsmiths University of London) and has been working as a music psychologist and music consultant for companies like BBC Sounds, Institute of Contemporary Arts and her own business, Nine Lyrae.

Valeria started shifting her focus to directing in 2018, firstly as a theatre facilitator and movement director, then moving into experimental immersive new media and immersive film, with her project *The Synaesthesia Room* being amongst only 6 finalists at Cannes Film Festival XR Development Showcase, and then expanding to one of her oldest passions: opera.

In 2021 she started an MA in Opera Directing with Verona Opera Academy, which allowed her to work with and learn from internationally recognised directors, and over the summer 2022 Valeria was assistant director for the Zeffirelli production of *Turandot* at the **Arena di Verona Opera Festival**, where she had the pleasure to work with world-renowned artists such as Anna Netrebko, Yusuf Eyvazov, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Oksana Dyka, Maria Teresa Leva, Ruth Iniesta, Riccardo Fassi, Carlo Bosi and more.

In 2022 she directed a production of *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Instant Opera, which marked Valeria's directorial debut in the UK, and she has since then been invited back to directed their next productions: *La Traviata*, in 2023, double bill *Tabarro* and *Rita*, in 2024, and *Turandot* in 2025.

In 2023, Valeria directed amongst others Verdi's *Macbeth* at Hoxton Hall for Uncovered Opera, Suor Angelica for Opera Greenwich's debut production and *La Boheme* for Amick Productions' London and South East tour. She also worked as 2023's Artist in Residence at Brunel University London, where she focused on multisensory art and neurodiversity, culminating with the International Synaesthesia Art Exhibition at OXO Tower in central London, which Valeria produced and curated, and where she exhibited some of her own multisensory work. In May 2024, Valeria presented her article "*Synaesthetic Emergence: Investigating the Factors Facilitating Synaesthetic States in Non-Synaesthetes through Participatory Arts*" at the International Synaesthesia Conference at **Oxford University**.

Since January 2024 Valeria works as Creative Projects Coordinator at the University of Westminster curating a vast programme of live performance events, while she continues her directing and singing work.