

Kapitolina TSVETKOVA

STAGE DIRECTOR, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, VISUAL ARTIST, SCENOGRAPHER
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Born in 1992 in Chelyabinsk (Russia), Kapitolina is a French citizen of Russian origin, a stage director, visual artist, and artistic director based in Strasbourg. Her work spans experimental forms of opera, music theater, performance, and installation, emphasizing themes and questions such as ecofeminism, memory, heritage, and research into new narratives and pushing boundaries of opera and pluridisciplinary *Art Total*.

Kapitolina began as a child performer in her father's puppet theater company, White Goat, and as a clown in *Slava's Snowshow* by Slava Polunin. Trained as an opera director at the Saint Petersburg Conservatory, she worked with renowned directors and companies such as Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Dimitris Papaioannou, Dmitri Chenyakov, and Katie Mitchell. She has contributed to large-scale productions, including the Sochi Winter Olympics and the Fête des Vignerons 2019. Since 2012, she has focused on creating her own experimental works in music theater and collaborating with contemporary composers such as Ole Hübner, Léo Collin, Huihui Cheng, Dmitry Kourliandsky, and ensembles like Bruch, HANATSUMiroir, and Opera Lab Berlin.

Kapitolina immigrated to Europe in 2014, but her 2017 production *Kolodetz* (a political and poetic opera critiquing bureaucratic and societal issues) and involvement in Kirill Serebrennikov's Platforma project made it impossible for her to continue working in or return to Russia, marking a turning point in her career.

A winner of an international opera directing competition, Kapitolina has been an associate artist of *Musiktheater NOW* and the *Aix-en-Provence Academy*. These affiliations have reinforced her dedication to the evolution of music theater and the creation of innovative, experimental works.

After working across puppet theater, circus, the events industry (as assistant choreographer of the Olympic Games ceremonies and associate choreographer of the Fête des Vignerons 2019), animation (as scriptwriter and director of several award-winning short films), and opera (as stage director and set designer for contemporary opera productions, and assistant director and movement director at theaters such as the Mariinsky Theatre, Deutsche Oper, Zurich Opera, and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), Kapitolina's recent work has focused on her personal experimental artistic practice.

Kapitolina works across different mediums to create multi-sensory and multi-dimensional installations and performances, in which space, object, and body strive to coexist and interact on equal terms. Her projects often involve cross-disciplinary research, collaborating with specialists from scientific and technical fields, including biologists, chemists, and perfumers, to explore speculative and multi-sensory experiences. Notable works include the science-art project *Plant Opera* and the research-based artwork *Cauda* (a tail's tale).

TRAINING

2018-2020
Haute École des arts du Rhin, Strasbourg (HEAR) DNSEP (Master of Arts): Visual Arts, Fine arts

2017-2018
Haute École des arts du Rhin, Strasbourg (HEAR) Master of arts, M1: Scenography

2016-2017
The Higher Professional School of Graphic Arts of the City of Paris (EPSAA); Visual arts

2009-2014
St. Petersburg Conservatory; Specialization (Bachelor + Master) "Opera and musical theatre directing"

LANGUAGES: Native Russian; fluent in English and French (native-level); intermediate Spanish (B1).

UPCOMING PROJECTS

[premiere 19, 20, 21 June 2025]
Stage director, set designer and writer for **Plankton** (composer Leo Collin), Totem and CNZ production
<https://cnz.ch/plankton> <https://kollektivtotem.com/>

[premiere end November 2025]
Stage director, set designer and writer for **Breathing mountain**, commission Césaré Reims, Festival Musica, dispositif national Chameleon

[premiere September 2026]
Stage director, writer, designer for **Mie** (composer Celeste Gatier, performer Luise Ahl)
Festival Musica, Kassandra collective, TBD

AWARDS, PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS

[2021 and 2024] Associate artist of the Venice Theater Biennale Academy

[2023-2024] Associate artist MusicTheatreNow and associate artist of Musik Theater Tage Wien
mtnow.org mttw.at

[2021-2022] Associate artist of Aix en Provence Festival (mentored my Kattie Mitchell)

[2022] Impuls neue musik, Kulturstiftung Stuttgart, Fonds Transfabrik funding and scholarships for creation of Kassandra

[2022] Grand-Est scholarship for creation of object and research Cauda

[2021] AIC Ministry of Culture of France Grant and HEAR Graduate Project Grant grant for creation of sculpture Mue[t]

[2021] Associate artist of the CHIMÈRES program, Ministry of Culture of France supported by the Lieu unique, the Théâtre Nouvelle Génération, CND

[2020] XXLumideco Contemporary Art Grant for the installation/activated sculpture "Alice"

[2020] Kouriokhin contemporary art prize for "Plant Opera" nominated "Art-Science"
<http://www.kuryokhin.net/en>

[2014] National Theater Prize "Golden Mask"; Long list "Asteroid 62" (director, scenographer, artist)

[2013] NANOopera International Opera Directors Competition; Laureate and Prize of the Karlsruhe Opera Theater for "Lulu", A. Berg

[2012] International Festival of Digital and Experimental Arts, PLATFORMA, Moscow; Best performance with "Human Voice" (director, set)

SELECTED PAST AND TOURING PRODUCTIONS AS STAGE DIRECTOR AND SET DESIGNER

[premiere 7, 8, 9 December 2023]
Set design and artistic collaboration for **Ça disparaît**, illusionist duo performance. Coproduction: La Villette, Scène National de Cavaillon, Le Totem
<https://www.stupefy.fr/a-disparat->

[premiere 24 May 2023, TBD future dates]
Staging, set design, concept for music theatre **Thealogy** (composer Huihui Cheng); Ensemble BRUCh, Köln, Germany

[2023; touring France, Japan, Chili]
Scenography, objects and staging
Baby opera PTTKT; Hanatsu Mirror Production
<http://www.hanatsumiroir.fr/ptitecouti/>

[December 2021 and touring]
Scenography, objects and staging **Kassandra project**, opera by Huihui Cheng, Anna Korsun, Katharina Roth
Bijloke Summer Academy 13-22 December 2021; premieres: Kunstraum Stuttgart, MTTW, Vienna; OperaNow Graz
kassandracollective.com

[2-14 mai 2022 and on tour]
Stage designer and stage director in biome with Clément Debras
Projet Georges Aperghis - Récitations; Académie T&M, Théâtre de Nîmes <https://academie-theatre-musique.com/recitations/>

[June 2020 and on tour]
Opera "Alice", sound installation with activation
Set designer / sculptor, stage director
Hanatsu Miroir, Strasbourg, France [video trailer](#)

[June 2019; November 2019]
Scenography, sculptures and staging for the performances **What's Up 6** and **SA4** for the contemporary music and theatre company Hanatsu Miroir, Espace K, Strasbourg, France

[April - October 2019]
Scenography, sculptures, performer for **The Machine and Nothing Lasts Forever**, a physical theater and puppet performance; Stuttgart, Germany; Fitz Festival, October 5-6, 2019, TJP Giboulées Festival 2020

[July | December 2018]
Scenography, objects and staging for a new opera **Fish and Boar** (co-created with Ole Hübner) Stanislavsky Opera; Moscow, Russia

[May 2018]
Scenographer and performer for **Public bodies**
Tehran Theater Festival 2018; Tehran, Iran

[January - March 2015]
OperaLab Berlin - staging, sculptures, scenography for **Objectarium**
Akerstadtpalast, Berlin, Germany

[August - December 2013]
Staging, sculptures, scenography for **Opera Asteroid 62** (composer D. Kouriandski) OPERgruppa, Moscow, Russia

VARIOUS CURATORIAL AND ARTISTIC DIRECTION (OR TEAM LEADING) PROJECTS

[2018 and on-going]
Artistic director, stage director
Interdisciplinary project "Plant opera"; Archstoyanie festival, Kalt, Longevity festival, Biennale Saint-Omer, KAB Paris;
<https://www.plant-opera.com>

[June – November 2016]
«*Alice. The Return to Wonderland*» –
Artistic Director of the interactive exhibition | Script HelloComputer, Moscow / Vienna / China / Spain
<https://hello-park.io/en/projects/chedzhudo>

[April - August 2019]
Associate choreographer, assistant director, showcall, teams coordinator for the *Fête des Vignerons*; Confrérie des Vignerons, Vevey, Switzerland
<https://www.fetedesvignerons.ch/media/les-extraits-du-spectacle-2019/>

[June - September 2017]
Assistant mass movement director (to Bryn Walters) mass movement team coordinator, Opening ceremony of Asian Olympic Games; BWS - Ashgabat, Turkmenistan

[May 2016 – Present]
Artistic Director, TXORI Animation
Projects: *Tim Legend - Hope* [Music Video] [2017] Co-director, Assistant Animator; *BlueSound Inc.* [Music Video] [2015] Director; *Pa* [Animated Short Film] [2015] Director, Concept | Screenplay; *La Colina* [Animated Short Film] [2015] Director, Concept

[2012 - 2013]
Curator of contemporary music and music theatre program; Center for Contemporary Performing Arts Skorohod - St. Petersburg, Russia <https://skorohod.me/>

[2011 - 2013]
Re:music festival, Microtonal music festival and many more curating and producing projects
<https://en.remusik.org/>

[December 2011 – March 2013]
Artistic director, co_OPERA_tion – Independent collective of composers, conductors, directors, and artists promoting opera and the arts to the masses. Key works include – «*Human Voice*» (Opera Theater), «*La Serva Padrona*» (Opera/Physical Theater).
St. Petersburg, Moscow

VARIOUS LARGE SCALE PRODUCTION EXPERIENCES

[July-August 2023] Assistant Director (to Dimitri Chernyakov) on **AUS EINEM TOTENHAUS**
<https://2023.ruhrtreffen.de/en/programme/aus-einem-totenhaus/98>

[January 2023-March 2025] Assistant Director (to Dimitri Chernyakov and Joël Lauwers) on **Tsar Saltan**, Opéra National du Rhin may 2023, La Monnaie Bruxelles december 2023, Teatro Real Madrid 2025.

[January 2023-March 2024] Assistant Director (to Katie Mitchell) on **La Voix Humaine**, Opéra National du Rhin

[March - May 2015]
Movement director and assistant director for **La Traviata** (to David Hermann), Zurich Opera, Zurich, Switzerland

[2014-2015]
Stage manager and tour assistant producer for **Primal Matter** (Dimitris Papaioannou) and **Sutra** (Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui)
<https://www.east-man.be/fr/14/18/Sutra>
<https://www.dimitrispapaioannou.com/en/recent/primal-matter>

[September - November 2014]
Post-production assistant director (Ilia Khrjanovski) for **DAU**
Phenomenon Films - London, United Kingdom
www.dau.com

[August - September 2014]
Assistant director (to David Hermann) and movement director for **Orestia** of Iannis Xenakis;
Deutsche Oper - Berlin. Germany

[June - July 2014]
Assistant director (to David Hermann), "Boris Godunov" Badisches Staatstheater movement - Karlsruhe, Germany

[March 2013 - March 2014]
Assistant mass movement director (to Nathan Wright) CSA, Fivecurrents, Balich World Wide - 2014 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Sochi; Sochi, Russia
<https://fivecurrents.com/>

[March 2013 - March 2014]
Assistant director, Aerial and acrobat coordinator Balich World Wide Shows /Finzi Pasca- 2014 Olympic Closing ceremony and Paralympic Opening and Closing Sochi; Sochi, Russia
<https://www.balichwonderstudio.com/>

[June 2011 - July 2012]
Compagnie Finzi Pasca - "Aida", "Requiem", "Rain", "Pagliacci"
Assistant director (to Daniele Finzi Pasca)
Mariinsky Theater, Teatro San Carlo Napoli
finzipasca.com