

Paolo Fantin

Set design for *La traviata*

Paolo Fantin studied set design and stage technology at the Academy of Fine Arts in Venice. He works in opera and spoken theatre. In 2004 he first worked with the Italian stage director Damiano Michieletto, on Britten's *The Little Sweep*, and since then they have collaborated on projects regularly.

Fantin has been awarded the Abbiati Prize twice: in 2011 for the sets of *Madama Butterfly* in Turin, *Sigismondo* at the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro and *Don Giovanni* in Venice, and again in 2018 when *La damnation de Faust* in Rome won the prize for best production.

He designed the sets for two film projects by Damiano Michieletto: *Rigoletto*, shown at the Rome Film Festival, and *Gianni Schicchi* presented at the Turin Film Festival. Both films were broadcast by RAI.

The production of *Animal Farm* at Vienna State Opera won Paolo Fantin and Klaus Bruns the 2025 Austrian Music Theatre Prize in the category Best Design. In the same year, Fantin received the International Opera Award for Best Designer. He was also production designer of the opening ceremony of the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan and Cortina.

His most recent work includes *Messiah* at the Komische Oper Berlin, *La fille du régiment* at the Bavarian State Opera, *Betrothal in a Monastery* at MusikTheater an der Wien, *Il nome della rosa* at La Scala Milan as well as *Lohengrin* and *West Side Story* at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma. He has designed the set for *La traviata* on the lake stage in 2026 – the first time he has worked for the Bregenz Festival.