

Biography: Jocelyn Pook

Jocelyn Pook is one of the UK's most versatile composers, having written extensively for stage, screen, opera house and concert hall. She has established an international reputation as a highly original composer winning her numerous awards and nominations including a Golden Globe, an Olivier and two British Composer Awards.

Often remembered for her film score to *Eyes Wide Shut*, which won her a Chicago Film Award and a Golden Globe nomination, Pook has worked with some of the world's leading directors, musicians, artists and arts institutions – including Stanley Kubrick, Martin Scorsese, the Royal Opera House, BBC Proms, Andrew Motion, Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack and Laurie Anderson.

Pook has also written film score to Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino, which featured the voice of countertenor Andreas Scholl and was nominated for a Classical Brit Award. Other notable film scores include *Brick Lane* directed by Sarah Gavron and a piece for the soundtrack to *Gangs of New York* directed by Martin Scorsese.

With a blossoming reputation as a composer of electro-acoustic works and music for the concert platform, Pook continues to celebrate the diversity of the human voice. Her first opera *Ingerland* was commissioned and produced by ROH2 for the Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio in June 2010. The BBC Proms and The King's Singers commissioned to collaborate with the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion on a work entitled *Mobile*. *Portraits in Absentia* was commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and is a collage of sound, voice, music and words woven from the messages left on her answerphone. She has received critical acclaim for her song cycle *Hearing Voices*, which was premiered in December 2012 by the BBC Concert Orchestra and singer Melanie Pappenheim at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Pook graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1983, where she studied the viola. She then embarked on a period of touring and recording with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack, Laurie Anderson and PJ Harvey and as a member of the Communards.

She also tours extensively with The Jocelyn Pook Ensemble, performing repertoire from her albums and music from her film scores.

Pook won an Olivier Award for the National Theatre's production of *St Joan*, and for her music-theatre piece *Speaking in Tunes* she won a British Composer Award. She won a second British Composer Award for her soundtrack to *DESH*, which accompanies Akram Khan's dance production of the same name. Pook has also composed scores for television shows and commercials, and was nominated for a BAFTA for Channel 4's *The Government Inspector* (Dir: Peter Kosminsky).

In 2014 Pook composed the score for a new dance piece *Lest We Forget* choreographed by Akram Khan for English National Ballet to mark the

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centenary of the First World War, as well as the score for *King Charles III*, a new play by Mike Barlett being performed at Wyndham's Theatre, London. Both *Lest We Forget* and *King Charles III* won Sky Arts Awards in 2015 for their productions.

Pook has chaired and been a judge on various panels including the British Composer Awards, Ivor Novello Awards and BBC Proms Young Composers Competition.

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