



Musical Theatre Troupe presents:

HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION

Written by Anaïs Mitchell

March 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th at 7pm

March 8th and 9th at 2pm

This intriguing and beautiful folk opera delivers a deeply resonant and defiantly hopeful theatrical experience. Following two intertwining love stories – that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of immortal King Hades and Persephone – HADESTOWN invites audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. Inspired by traditions of classic American folk music and Bauhaus design, the sung-through musical pits industry against nature, doubt against faith, and fear against love.



A note from the Artistic Director of Theatre, Music & Film

We are so grateful you are joining us on these unceded territories to venture way down deep in this fable of the underworld.

Why go there? Well, for one thing, we get to be among the first in Canada to explore this new teen edition of HADESTOWN. What's more, we get to work on a piece that a lot of our young actors have found so inspiring. More importantly, though, the real value of visiting these underworld myths is that we get to explore what might happen to us when we are fully broken.

The world is filled with complexity that is changing in obvious and shadowy ways faster than any of us can really keep up. Our young people are feeling the stretch between their dreams of what might be, and our concerns for the world that is. There is a lot

happening, a lot of the time. I am grateful to Erika, Eric, Jaren, and December for creating a steady space of safety so our cast can explore this story in these strange times. Creating safe containers for difficult ideas is kinda what we are all about in the Theatre, Film, and Music Program. And this art form helps us take it even further.

Musical theatre - like opera, science fiction, or cartoons - can often make it easier to explore heavy or dark themes, offering beauty to pair with tragedy, and music to accentuate and sometimes resolve the emotional conflicts that show up for the characters and the actors alike.

We own this vital work, because that is what we artists, old and young, must do. We use our work to make sense of our world and ourselves, hoping that some part of this helps you make sense of your world too. Please enjoy the show.

Andy Toth

Artistic Director, Theatre, Music & Film

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I often find myself drawn to narratives that live in the meta space of storytelling. A novel made of letters back and forth, a movie that found footage from camera phones, a musical about storytellers telling the same myth again and again. Why? Humans are compelled to tell stories, and we have for our entire history. To explore a play about storytelling is to explore the deepest of human conditions.

In the rehearsal room we mused heavily around the themes of fate and free will. In a story of gods, goddesses, muses, and capital F Fates, you'd presume it'd be easy to distinguish the two. But when love and duty are mixed in, it gets murkier. All of the characters in the play grapple with what they want to do versus what they have to do. Some find balance, some are compelled to abandon their wife to finish a song, and some fight against the

fate of losing their wife to the above ground world for half the year by building a vast metropolis in the underworld.

And so we continue to tell this story of love, fate, and doubt for another day as we have for millennia. Who knows, maybe this time it will turn out differently.

Erika Babins

Director, Advanced Musical Theatre Troupe



CREATIVE TEAM

Director and Choreographer - Erika Babins

Music Director - Eric Biskupski

Associate Music Director - Andy Toth

Assistant Directors - December Shields and
Sienna Fetigan

Set and Prop Designer - Monica Emme

Costume Designer - Julia Chase

Lighting Designer - Harika Xu

Sound Designer - Spencer Dyer

Stage Manager - Jaren Guerreiro



CAST

Sage Collins

Dalilah Rattlesnake

Cyrus Yekani

Leo Teixeira

Sierra Birarda

Lu Ella Woffinden

Juanita Pardo

Lucia Liberato

Hannah Behnke

Wylie Shufelt

Miri Grad

El Quin Ilay

Georgia Levitan

Jessica Main

Aleksandra Van Looy

Hermes

Orpheus

Eurydice

Hades

Persephone

Fate - Accordion

Fate - Guitar

Fate - Violin/Orpheus Understudy

Worker/Hermes Understudy

Worker/Eurydice Understudy

Worker/Hades Understudy

Worker/Persephone Understudy

Worker/Lore Captain

Worker/Dance Captain

Worker/Fates Understudy



SPRING BREAK AT ARTS UMBRELLA

Spring Break Camps are a great way
to explore the arts and get creative!

Week 1: March 17-21

Week 2: March 24-28



CAST BIOS

Sage Collins (She/Her)

Hermes is a Grade 11 student at IDEAS Alternative High School and has been training in the performing arts for ten years. Hadestown marks Sage's second year in Arts Umbrella's Musical Theatre Troupe and Half-Day Program. Sage is thrilled to be playing the role of Hermes in Hadestown.

Some of Sage's past roles include Marie in Cinderella (Arts Umbrella), Donna in Mamma Mia! (TES Theatre), and Annie in Annie (TES Theatre). Sage has performed with Vancouver Youth Choir and Vancouver CanSing Choir and has trained in dance with Dance Co and Vancouver Tap Company.

Sage would like to thank her directors and instructors for their support and encouragement. Enjoy the show!

Dalilah Rattlesnake (She/Her)

Orpheus has loved performing her whole life. Her journey in musical theatre began at the age of six with Lights Up Musical Theatre Schools, where one of her favorite roles was Bert Healy in Annie Jr.

For the past three years, Dalilah has been a member of the Musical Theatre Troupe at Arts Umbrella. Her Arts Umbrella credits include the role of the Reader in The Secret Garden and Featured Ensemble in Cinderella. This year, Dalilah is thrilled to explore and play the role of Orpheus in Hometown.

We hope you enjoy the show!

Cyrus Yekani (She/Her/Hers)

Eurydice is an actor, singer, and dancer living in beautiful Steveston Village, BC. She has been studying voice and piano at the Rowena Bridson Music Studio since 2014 and has been a member of the Arts Umbrella Musical Theatre Troupe since 2019. Notable performances with Arts Umbrella include Children of

Eden, 13, Tuck Everlasting, and Jasper in Deadland.

Cyrus was also part of the cast of Electric Girl at Vancouver Young Actors Studio before the production was shut down due to COVID-19. She extends her thanks to this amazing cast and the directors for all their hard work. I hope you enjoy the show!

Leo Teixeira (He/Him)

Hades is a Brazilian-Canadian performer and musician passionate about exploring the intersections of various creative fields. He studies at the VSO School of Music and is a member of the Karen Flamenco dance studio. At Kitsilano Secondary School, Leo actively participates in the music and film programs and serves as the leader of the school's music council. In 2024, he wrote, directed, and acted in the winning video for the national CCHOS youth video contest.

A pianist, singer, and percussionist, Leo performs with several ensembles, ranging from jazz bands to early music groups. His previous Arts Umbrella credits include James and the Giant Peach, Tuck

Everlasting, The Secret Garden, and Cinderella. Leo extends heartfelt thanks to his mentors, castmates, collaborators, and audience members for their support and inspiration.

Sierra Birarda (She/Her/Hers)

Persephone is a singer, actor, and dancer from Vancouver, British Columbia. She has been a student at Arts Umbrella for the past seven years and has been part of the Professional Half-Day Training Program in Performing Arts and Musical Theatre Troupe for the last two years.

At Arts Umbrella, her previous shows include Quest, The Addams Family, and Love and Information.

Sierra is currently training at Vancouver Academy of Music in the Classical Voice Department, alongside her studies at Arts Umbrella.

Thank you for supporting young artists—enjoy the show!

Lu Ella (She/Her)

Fate

Accordian has loved dancing and singing since she could walk and talk. The joy and freedom she feels when performing are the most wonderful experiences she has ever had. Lu Ella has been training at Lights Up and Arts Umbrella for the past nine years and is thrilled to be part of the Half-Day Professional Training Program in Musical Theatre at Arts Umbrella.

Some of her favorite roles include Lucy in Charlie Brown, the Musical and one of the Three Blind Mice in Shrek the Musical. She is over the moon to be performing in Hometown this year. Lu Ella also assists with early learning musical theatre classes and finds supporting young people as they explore their passion for this art form incredibly rewarding.

Juanita Pardo (She/Her)

Fate

Guitar is an actor and musician based in Vancouver, BC. She is thrilled to join Arts Umbrella's production of Hometown: Teen Edition.

Previously, Juanita made her musical theatre debut as Charlotte in Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella and has appeared in various commercials in Colombia.

As a versatile performer, Juanita regularly sings with the Vancouver Youth Choir's VOICES ensemble, with whom she has performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall, The Orpheum, and the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts. Additionally, Juanita has been playing guitar for five years, is self-taught on bass, and has gained skills in recording, mixing, and mastering.

Looking ahead, she hopes to build a career in the music industry while continuing to grow as a musical theatre artist.

Lucia Liberato (She/Her)

Fate

Violin/Orpheus Understudy is a musical theatre performer from Vancouver, BC. She has been attending Arts Umbrella since 2020 and joined the Musical Theatre Troupe in 2021.

Over the past three years, Lucia has performed as Hugo in Tuck Everlasting, Mary Lennox in The Secret Garden, and Taylor in The Quest. She is very excited to resurrect her violin for her role as a Fate in HADESTOWN. She thanks her teachers, family, and friends for their support.

Hannah Behnke (They/Them)

Worker/Hermes Understudy has been taking musical theatre classes with Arts Umbrella for around eight years, and this is their third year in the Musical Theatre Troupe.

Previous roles include Mary Lennox in The Secret Garden and the Wizard in The Quest. They are thrilled to continue their musical theatre journey

through the wonderful programs offered at Arts Umbrella. Thank you to everyone involved in making these shows possible. Enjoy the show!

Wylie Shufelt (They/Them)

Worker/Eurydice Understudy is a young performer based in Vancouver, BC. They have been a student at Arts Umbrella since 2022. Roles they have played during their time here include: Ilona Ritter in an in-concert reading of *She Loves Me*, The Reader in *The Secret Garden*, and Gabrielle in *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*.

Other credits include: Dr. Frank N. Furter in *The Rocky Horror Show* with TES Theatre Company, Bella Swan in *My 108-Year-Old Boyfriend* from *Biology Class* (aka *Twilight: The Musical*), and Jane Doe in *Ride the Cyclone*, both with Bugs Backyard Theatre.

They are thrilled to be involved in this production of *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, playing a Worker and understudying Eurydice.

Miri Grad (She/Her)

Worker/Hades Understudy has been involved in musical theater since the age of three, when she took her first class at Arts Umbrella. She is currently a student in the Musical Theatre Half-Day Program at Arts Umbrella.

Her credits with Arts Umbrella include Alice by Heart (Queen of Hearts). Other credits include Shrek Jr. (Donkey), Matilda Jr. (Bruce), and The Sound of Music (Max Detweiler) with Delta Youth Theatre.

Miri extends her gratitude to everyone involved in this production and to her family and friends for their unwavering support.

El Quin-Ilay (They/Them)

Worker/Persephone Understudy is a student in the Arts Umbrella Pre-Professional Half-Day Program for three years. Their previous performances with AU include Jasper in Deadland and The Quest.

Prior to joining the Pre-Professional Program and Musical Theatre Troupe, El was a part of Dance Express and Wonderland Theater.

Huge thanks to everyone at Arts Umbrella for all their incredible work. Enjoy the show!

Georgia Levitan (She/Her)

Worker/Lore Captain is thrilled to have returned to Arts Umbrella's Theatre School after first taking a Musical Theatre course here when she was just six years old. Since then, she has performed in Metro Theatre's production of Cinderella (2017) and has gone on to study at Carousel Theatre for Young People and Playhouse Studio.

Georgia has been a member of the Sir Charles Tupper Theatre Company since 2022. She plans to continue studying theatre next year as she enters post-secondary education.

Jessica Main (She/Her)

Worker/Dance Captain is a 14-year-old actress, singer, and dancer who has been part of the Professional Half-Day Program and troupes at Arts Umbrella for two years. She is currently playing a Worker in Hometown but has also performed as Young Cinderella and as an Ensemble member in Cinderella, a Featured Role in Love and Information, and as Jojo/Boy in Seussical at Arts Umbrella.

Other credits include Portia in Something Rotten Jr., The Duke of Weselton in Frozen Jr., Veruca Salt in Willy Wonka Jr., Curly in Peter Pan Jr., Martha Cox in High School Musical 2 Jr., and Jetsam in The Little Mermaid Jr. at Studio West Dance Co.. Jessica has also appeared as Mini Godfairy in Cinderella the Ballet, Gummy Bear and Golden Goose in Willy Wonka the Ballet, and a Baby Elephant in The Lion King Ballet at Deas Island Dance Co.. She has been doing musical theatre since she was six and has 13 years of dance experience at Studio West Dance Co. and Deas Island Dance Co..

Jessica hopes you enjoy the show!

Aleksandra Van Looy (she/Her)

Worker/Fates Understudy

Aleksandra Van Looy is thrilled to be joining the Arts Umbrella family for her senior year. With a background in opera training, she recently attended the Bel Canto Tuscany Opera Program in the summer of 2024. In musical theatre, she has performed as Smitty in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (2023) and the Baker's Wife in *Into the Woods* (2024) with Burnaby Mountain Theatre. Aleksandra is excited to continue pursuing both theatre and opera as she moves forward in her career.



Advanced Theatre Troupe & Half-Day Professional Training Program Auditions

Auditions taking place on June 14, 2025



CREATIVE TEAM BIOS

Erika Babins (She/They)

is director, choreographer, and theatre educator originally from the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee and Mohawk nations and currently residing and working on the traditional and unceded lands of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) peoples.

Having just celebrated their ten year anniversary at Arts Umbrella, the shows that stand out in their heart include: Cinderella, Godspell, Oklahoma!, and Tuck Everlasting.

Favourite directing and choreography credits outside of Arts Umbrella include: [title of show] (Play on Words Productions and First Impressions Theatre), Jasper in Deadland and Cry-Baby (Awkward Stage Productions), and The It Girl (DNP)

Eric Biskupski

Eric has been a devoted performer in Vancouver since youth, and is thrilled to bring this drive and experience to Arts Umbrella. Cutting his teeth early with Vancouver Opera's children chorus and the BC Boys Choir, Eric completed his musical studies at Mount Allison University in Voice, Drama, and English. Since then, his work with internationally lauded ensembles musica intima and Vancouver Chamber Choir have given him a nuanced perspective of the voice's capabilities, and his time with local companies Fighting Chance, Metro Theatre, and Amplify Theatre have taught him how passion can make magic happen on stage. When not on stage, Eric works as a composer and arranger for choral and musical theatre works, as well as gets to ruin his voice with his beloved bands SubTop, Fun Park, and Plus Guests.

December Shields (She/Her)

is excited to be working behind the table as the assistant director on Hometown. A graduate of

the Half Day Professional Training Program in Performing Arts at Arts Umbrella, December's past favorite credits include Lily Craven in The Secret Garden and Ella in Cinderella.

Raise your cups and enjoy your trip to the underworld!

A huge thank you to Amber and everyone who made this year come together—let's go way down underground!

Sienna Fetigan (she/her)

is thrilled to be a part of Hadestown this year! She has been in the Arts Umbrella MT program since 2019 and is taking on a new role as Assistant Director. She has previously been in: Tuck Everlasting, Secret Garden, Cinderella and 13 the Musical. Outside of Arts Umbrella, she has been in Matilda the Musical (Arts Club). A huge thank you to Erika Babins and Andy Toth for all of their guidance through the years. Enjoy the show!

Monica Emme (She/Her)

is a set designer, props and puppet creator, and general maker, currently based in Vancouver.

Monica holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Toronto Metropolitan University and a diploma of Stagecraft and Event Technology from Douglas College.

Monica get to instruct the next generation of theatre creators as a stagecraft instructor at Arts Umbrella.

Some favourite recent credits include: Set design for Snow White (Carousel Theatre for Young People), Cinderella, Alice by Heart, and The Quest (Arts Umbrella); production design for The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee, The Old Man and the Old Moon (Arts Umbrella); Props for Peace Country (Rice & Beans Theatre), My Little Tomato (vAct & Zee Zee), In My Day (Zee Zee Theatre), Messiah (Pacific Theatre), and Oz (Carousel Theatre for Young People).

Julia Chase (She/Her)

grew up in a small town in Northern California, later graduating with a Bachelors in Costume Design for Theater, Film, and Dance from Humboldt State University in 2009. From there she moved to Los Angeles, where she found work in a variety of costume related jobs. From making pillows and ball gowns, to heading the Snoopy mascot workroom and creating a dress out of trash bags that now resides in the Rock and Roll history museum, she has done a little of everything.

She is active in the Costume Designers Guild (IATSE 892) as co-chair of the Sustainability Committee and is always seeking new avenues to create a better future for her profession and the film industry in general.

Julia has recently graduated with an MFA in Theatre Design and Production from UBC. She enjoys sewing, researching history, and taking day trips with her partner Jordan, and their dog Serenity.

Julia is very excited to be working with the amazing staff, crew, and students at Arts Umbrella!

Harika Xu

Harika is a lighting and projection designer, graduated from UBC Theatre Design and Production Program. Lighting designs include: Mom's the Word (Theatre Northwest), Clean/Espejos (Newworld Theatre), So Damn Proud (Holy Crow Arts), Done/Undone (Bard on the Beach), Madama Butterfly (Burnaby Lyric Opera). Assistant lighting design: Bad Parent (vAct, LD Gerald King). Projection designs: Irreparable Harm? (Heart of the City Festival), Chimerica, ENRON (United Players), harikaxu.com

Spencer Dyer (He/Him)

is a technician, musician, and sound designer who is honoured to be able to work bringing the amazing artistic works and performances of others to life. Starting out in community theatre in his hometown of Squamish, BC, Spencer grew a fondness for the medium (especially musicals) that would blossom forth to the rest of his life. With time, his interests grew away from performing, and more towards the backend: the satisfaction of figuring out a tricky puzzle, and the joy of facilitating creation. Spencer hopes to continually learn and grow, possibly even create works of his own, and hopefully leave the world a happier and more friendly place than he found it."

Jaren Guerreiro (He/Him)

is an emerging stage manager, performer, and theatre creator. A graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts' Studio Ensemble Program, Jaren developed a deep appreciation for all aspects of theatre creation. He is committed to continually honing his craft and is thrilled to return to Arts Umbrella for his second musical production.

Select stage management credits include Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (CTORA), The Quest (Arts Umbrella), Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (CCPA), and Secret Love in Peach Blossom Land (CCPA).



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