

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
DRAMA & THEATRE PROGRAM

Eurydizé

A PLAY; BY SARAH RUHL
DIRECTED BY JESSICA ABDALLAH



APRIL 3 – APRIL 5 2024 @ 7:30

MORRICE HALL THEATRE

3485 MCTAVISH STREET

MONTREAL QUEBEC H3A1Y1

Director's Note

Whether you realize it or not, you probably already know the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice. Orpheus, with the help of his superhuman musical abilities, compels the Lord of the Underworld to return his new bride, Eurydice, to the world of the living. But there's a catch: Orpheus must walk away from the Underworld and trust that Eurydice is behind him; if he looks back then he will lose her again. At its heart, the myth is about being patient and keeping one's faith.

I love Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* because, while it pays tribute to the heart of the original myth, it also succeeds at finding its own voice in order to take the story even further. This play is so much more than just a reimagining of the classic Orpheus and Eurydice myth: it is a refreshing opportunity to hear from a female protagonist so often overshadowed; it is a beautiful exploration of love, loss, grief, and the memories we cling to; and, it is a powerful love letter from a woman to her father.

Ruhl wrote the play in 2003 because she wanted to keep having conversations with her father who had passed away when she was a teenager. She weaved together parts of the myth with memories of her father, memories of young love, and memories of the journey we must all take when we lose someone who means the world to us. Her protagonist, Eurydice, loses love twice - first her father and then Orpheus - and is faced with the struggle to discover who she is without them. In its use of poetry, images, movement, and sound, *Eurydice* delightfully challenges not only the artists working on it, but also the people who see it, to search beyond the surface and reimagine the possibilities.

This play is both poetic and everyday - both mythic and mundane - because isn't that true for all human existence. The emotions we feel as humans when faced with love and loss, don't they feel mythic and mundane all at once?

JESSICA ABDALLAH

A decorative background featuring a pattern of blue teardrop shapes scattered across a white field, framed by a thin black border.

Production Team

DIRECTOR JESSICA ABDALLAH

PRODUCTION MANAGER CORINNE DEELEY

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR KEITH ROCHE

SET AND PROP DESIGN CLAIRE MACAULAY

WARDROBE MANAGER CATHERINE BRADLEY

COSTUME DESIGN

STUDENTS IN COSTUMING FOR THE THEATRE II

PUBLICITY COORDINATOR KIMBERLY HÖNIG

STAGE MANAGERS MADELEINE BUTLER & HONGXUAN LU

WARDROBE ASSISTANT STANIMIRA (SUNNY) KATSEVA

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

KIMBERLY HÖNIG

COSTUME SHOP ASSISTANT ELSA DI PAOLA

DEPARTMENT CHAIR ERIN HURLEY



Cast



HANAKO BRIERLEY AS **EURYDICE**

KIT CARLETON AS **ORPHEUS**

FRANCESCO CREMONINI AS

LORD OF THE UNDERWORLD

CECILY HOYT AS **LOUD STONE**

MARINA LI-POOK-THAN AS **BIG STONE**

ATTICUS O'ROURKE RUSIN AS **LITTLE STONE**

BRAEDEN WILLIAMS AS **FATHER**





Stage Scenery and Lighting Class

SET/PROPS

BIANCA BLETTE

GIA SILVA

EMMA SVOISKI

LAURA VOERMANN

TOM XARDEL

SOUND

JULIETA QUINTEROS AMAT

JOHN STATHOPOULOS

JOIA TAVARES

LIGHTING

EMMA BARBIERI

AVA CISTERNAS

COSTUMING

ZEYNEP DENIZ ALSANCAK

MOMO BURNS-MIN

LEENA DEMERS

MAHALIA DIANTREE

MAGALIE GOYETTE


KIMBERLY HÖNIG

STANIMIRA (SUNNY) KATSEVA

CÍRDAN MONTEITH

RHIANE PRIYANKA PERSAUD

OLIVIA REEVE



Biographies

Jessica Abdallah (Director) is a theatre director, creator, and educator based in Tio'tia:ke/Montréal. She is a graduate of Acting at John Abbott College, Theatre & Development at Concordia University, and the University of Alberta's MFA in Directing. Directing credits include *Other Worlds* (Geordie Theatre), *What Rough Beast* (Theatre Ouest End/Tantalus – Centaur's Brave New Look), *The One* (Hopegrown), *Squawk* (Geordie Theatre), *TUMIT* (Akpik Theatre), and *Sedna: Goddess of the Sea* (Tableau D'Hôte Theatre). Jessica is the Creative Director of Geordie Theatre School and teaches public classes at the National Theatre School. She is incredibly proud of the amazing team behind *Eurydice*!

Emma Barbieri (Lighting) is a U2 student studying English Cultural Studies, Communication Studies, and Italian Studies. *Eurydice* is Emma's first theatrical production and she is thrilled to be joining the English Department's incredible cast and crew this semester.

Bianca Blette (Set/Props) is a U1 student studying English, Drama & Theatre. Her past theatre experiences include being the assistant stage manager for *An Enemy of the People* put on by the English department last semester. She is thrilled to be working on this production and hopes that you enjoy the show!

Catherine Bradley (Wardrobe Manager and Resident Costume Designer) has worked with 28 different Canadian theatre, film, and television companies in her long career. She has worked on all but one Department of English mainstage production since 1988, taking one semester off in 1997 to welcome their child, Neil. Catherine thanks her colleagues and her amazing students, past and present.

Hanako Brierley (*Eurydice*) is a musical performer with roots in both Canada and Japan. She has been active on the local concert circuit since the summer of 2022, as a guitarist for the indie rock band Lucy's Delirium and as a folk singer for her own material. She enjoys partnering with dancers and is currently contributing live music for Material Stargazer, an intergenerational performance project. Last fall she played Kyoko Tanaka-Goto in the play *Mizushobai* at the Segal Centre, which sparked a passion for theatre and acting.

Momo Burns-Min (Costuming and Hair & Makeup) is a U3 English, Honours Drama & Theatre student. She co-designed makeup for last year's *Good Morning Townville* and is thrilled to do the same for *Eurydice*. This is her first time working in costume for a McGill English Department production. As an actor, Momo has performed with the McGill English Department, the Pennsylvania Shakespeare Festival, and the Thrown Stone Theatre Company. Earlier this semester, she debuted her original play, *18tpy*, with Tuesday Night Café Theatre.

Madeleine Butler (Stage Manager) is in her final semester at McGill studying History and Geography. Prior to this she has participated in the Classics department's production of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* and *The Odyssey* as an actor, frequents workshops with SSMU's improv club, and writes stand-up comedy on the side. This is her first time as a stage manager and plans to pursue opportunities in theater production post-graduation, alongside her job at a web app startup.

Kit Carleton (Orpheus) is a U1 English, Drama & Theatre student from Winnipeg, Manitoba. Some of his past credits include *Hair* (Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society), *Tuck Everlasting*, and *The Prom*.

Ava Cisternas (Lighting) is a first year U0 student planning to study Psychology. She loves being involved in theatre both on stage and behind the scenes! Some of her past theatre credits include *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat*, *Spamalot*, *Fame: The Musical* and *The Sound of Music*. Ava also has experience working as a director and choreographer at a children's and youth theater company. She has directed productions such as: *Oklahoma*, *Xanadu*, and *We Will Rock You*. Ava is thrilled to be a part of the lighting team for this year's phenomenal production of *Eurydice*!

Francesco Cremonini (Lord of the Underworld) is a U3 English, Drama & Theatre student minoring in Sociology, World Cinemas, and Hispanic Studies. His previous Moyses Hall roles include Jerry in *Good Morning Townville* and Morton Kiil in *An Enemy of the People*. He is excited for his role in *Eurydice* and hopes you find the Lord of the Underworld...interesting.

Leena Demers (Costuming) is a U3 student studying Honours Art History and Sociology. After costuming for *An Enemy of the People*, Leena is thrilled to be back in the costume shop (3.0) for *Eurydice*. She is an avid lover of fashion and designs clothing in her free time. Leena hopes to get more involved in costuming after McGill.

Mahalia Diantree (Costuming) is a U3 student studying GSFS (Gender, Sexuality, Feminism & Social Justice), Philosophy and Art History. She has always had a love of the theatre, attending summer acting camps in her youth such as Vancouver's Bard on the Beach 'Young Shakespeareans.' Nowadays, you'll be more likely to find her in the audience or doing work somewhere behind the scenes. This year, she was beyond excited to be in the costume shop creating looks for the character Orpheus.

Magalie Goyette (Costuming, Crew Head) is a U4 student majoring in English, Drama & Theatre and Psychology. She previously worked as Stage Manager on *Pomona* and *Good Morning Townville!*, as well as being part of the costuming team for *An Enemy of The People*. She is incredibly excited to get back to working with costumes for this production of *Eurydice*.

Kimberly (Kiki) Hönig (Costuming and Hair & Makeup) is a U4 student combining a major in Classics with minors in World Cinemas and English, Drama & Theatre. Aside from her studies, she takes part in the English Department plays, Arts Undergraduate Theatre Society, and the Classics Journals. Always involved in all different aspects of theatre and film from a young age, she is interested in storytelling cross-culturally. She is thrilled for this semester's production and to be involved in theatre at McGill!

Cecily Hoyt (Loud Stone) is a U1 student majoring in Psychology with a minor in French. This is her first production at McGill, but previously she's been in *Shrek the Musical*, *Curtains*, and *The Trail to Oregon!* In her free time, Cecily can be found crying over photos of her cats or ranting about Oscar Wilde.

Stanimira (Sunny) Katseva (Wardrobe Assistant & Costuming) is a U3 student majoring in Psychology and minoring in Education and English, Cultural Studies. After costuming for *An Enemy of the People* last semester, Stanimira is delighted to be back in the costume shop both as a part of the costume crew and as assistant to the Wardrobe Manager for *Eurydice*. She looks forward to working on many more shows as a part of her future career in costuming.

Marina Li-Pook-Tham (Big Stone) is a 1L student currently working to complete a law degree. Marina is incredibly grateful for this opportunity to perform as a large geological formation -- a dream role -- and hopes to graduate to the role of Bigger Stone in a future production.

Hongxuan Lu (Stage Manager) is a U1 student studying English, Drama & Theatre. This is her first-time joining McGill's theater community and her first time participating in the production of a play as a stage manager. Her past theatre experience includes *A Dog's Heart* and *A Chicken and a Rabbit in the Same Cage* (Jining Confucius International School). She can't wait to show you this amazing work from the entire cast and crew!

Claire Macaulay (Set/Props) is a professional interdisciplinary designer. She is a graduate of The National Theatre School of Canada in Set and Costume Design, with a background in graphic design. Her theatre credits include *Cabaret* (NTS), *Sexual Misconduct of the Middle Classes* (Centaur Theatre), *Everything Lost Everything Shone* (NTS) and *Midsummer Night's Dream* (NTS). She has also contributed to productions at Imago Theatre, Rideau Vert, and Duceppe.

Círdan Monteith (Costuming, Crew Head) is a second-year student in English, Drama & Theatre and Religious Studies. Growing up in a theatre community, Círdan has been interested in artistic storytelling from a young age. Círdan has been involved in productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Young Frankenstein*, and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, she has created costumes for *An Enemy of the People* and *18tpy*. Círdan has really enjoyed the process of costume creating for this play and is grateful for everyone involved in the production.

Atticus O'Rourke Rusin (Little Stone) is in their third year as a History Major and Microbiology and Immunology Minor. They began acting at McGill in the McGill Drama Festival and then in the McGill Classics Play production of *Phaedra*. They are so excited to be a part of this show and to join so many incredibly dedicated and creative people to put it all together.

Rhiane Priyanka Persaud (Costuming) is a graduating Honours student in Religious Studies with a minor in Art History from McGill University. She is passionate about all forms of visual art including painting, sewing, sculpture and fibre arts. An intense interest in fashion history is a guiding force in her life. She is thrilled to be part of the costume team for *Eurydice*.

Julieta Quinteros Amat (Sound) is a U3 student of Secondary ELA Education. She has been participating in theatre since middle school and recently directed the AUTS production of *Legally Blonde*, alongside more than a dozen other productions throughout middle and high school. This is her first time working on the sound for a show and she is extremely looking forward to learning this new skill and aspect of theatre.

Olivia Reeve (Costuming) is a U3 student majoring in Political Science with minors in Communications and English, Cultural Studies. Previous experience includes being the costume designer for TNC's *The Russian Farce*. She is very excited to be working with a larger team for this production and is looking forward to seeing you all there!

Gia Silva (Set/Props) is a U2 student studying a double major in English, Drama & Theatre and Sociology. She has been acting in theatre productions since she was eight years old with her first ever role as Abu, the monkey and Aladdin's sidekick, in *Aladdin*. Some of her other past theatre credits include *Into the Woods*, *Greece*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Matilda*. She is eager to try her hand at Stage, Scenery, and Lighting and cannot wait for everyone to see our show come to life!

John Stathopoulos (Sound) is a U3 student studying Secondary Education in Mathematics. His past theatre experience is as Set Crew & Backstage Hands in *An Enemy of the People* performed last semester. John is excited for a new challenge in theatre, hoping to wow the audience with impressive sound choice and design.

Emma Svoiski (Set/Props) is a U3 student studying Marketing. After being part of the Department production of *An Enemy of the People* last semester, she is excited to be back in the Stage, Scenery, and Lighting class for this upcoming production.

Joia Tavares (Sound) is a U0 student planning to study Political Science. She has theatre experience from majoring in Drama at an Ontario Regional Arts High School, Cawthra Park, where she stage managed their production of *Concord Floral* and acted in several student written plays. She was also involved in an extracurricular musical theatre program, Innovative Arts, where she acted in *Legally Blonde*, *Into the Woods*, *The Sound of Music*, and *School of Rock*. Joia is beyond excited to continue her passion for theatre at McGill running audio for *Eurydice*.

Laura Voermann (Set/Props) is a U3 English, Drama & Theatre major. She has had a passion for theatre since she was a child, and her favourite role ever has been Genie in *Aladdin*. She hopes everyone enjoys the show and is looking forward to seeing it come to life.

Braeden Williams (Father) is a U1 student studying Biology. Past theatre credits include acting in *Radium Girls*, *Mamma Mia*, and *Legally Blonde*, and directing for *Treasure Island*. Braeden would like to thank their own father for being such an inspiration to them. The love a father has for their child is a truly special thing and bringing this character to life has been such an honour.

Tom Xardel (Lighting & Sets/Props) is a U2 student double majoring in Political Science and Drama & Theater. Some of his past theater credits include lighting design for *Enemy of the People* which ran in Fall 2023.

A Warm Farewell to Corinne Deeley

Today marks a significant moment as we bid farewell to Corinne Deeley, who has served as our Production Manager at McGill University for an incredible two decades. As she embarks on a new chapter in her journey, it is only fitting that we take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for her unwavering dedication and remarkable contributions to our community.

Corinne's impact over the years has been immeasurable. Her tireless efforts behind the scenes have enriched the experiences of countless students, faculty, and staff. Through her guidance, expertise, and boundless passion, she has played an integral role in shaping the vibrant tapestry of our university's artistic endeavors.

Beyond her professional achievements, Corinne has been a source of inspiration and mentorship to many. Her kindness, generosity, and genuine care for those around her have left an indelible mark on our hearts. Whether it was offering a helping hand during a challenging project or sharing her invaluable insights, Corinne has consistently gone above and beyond to support the growth and success of others.

Thank you, Corinne, for your twenty years of dedication, passion, and friendship. May the road ahead be filled with endless opportunities and joyous moments.



Special Thanks

Our profound gratitude goes to the people who made this production possible.

Michael Slack and Floriane Vachon, National Theatre School
of Canada

Erin McDonagh

Brian De Sousa

Lillian Lazarek

Joan Abdallah and Samantha Abdallah

Geordie Theatre

Myrna Wyatt Selkirk

The Harry Anderson Theatre Support Fund

The Lieblein Harrod English Support Fund

Thornton Sherwood Live Theatre Fund

Imago Theatre

Professor Lisa Shapiro, Dean of Arts

The Faculty of Arts for their continued support.

