

# HADESTOWN

## TEEN EDITION

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## How To Be Involved

This information should hopefully answer any questions you may have about being involved in our production of *Hadestown* which we are delighted to be performing at The Halifax Playhouse on the **28th October - 31st October 2026**.

### About The Show:

*Hadestown* is a powerful musical that mixes Greek mythology, folk music, jazz, and emotional storytelling into a modern and visually stunning theatre experience.

At its heart, it is a story about: love, hope, sacrifice, fear and trust.

It mixes love stories, music, and tragedy in a world inspired by the Great Depression and New Orleans jazz clubs.

The musical intertwines two Greek myths:

- **Orpheus and Eurydice** — a young couple whose love is tested when Eurydice is drawn into Hadestown, an underground industrial world ruled by Hades.
- **Hades and Persephone** — an older, fractured marriage that mirrors and contrasts the younger couple.

The musical is narrated by Hermes, while The Fates act like voices of fear and doubt.

Even though the story is tragic, the musical leaves audiences feeling hopeful because it reminds us why people continue to love, dream, and tell stories.

This musical is not a traditional musical, there are no big company 'dance' numbers. It is very much rooted in ancient Greek theatre, using the Greek chorus technique of storytelling. This means the company is very much involved throughout the piece as observers, commentators and participators. They spend a lot of time on stage watching and supporting the storytelling, through vocals and defining the space and energy. The company will be required to act through song and undertake movement.

For the principal roles they too rarely leave the stage, never in the case of Hermes and the Fates. It is important auditionees understand the piece before committing to the workshop to ensure they wish to be part of the project.

There is a significant level of focus, stamina and team work going to be needed to be part of the cast.

We are excited to introduce our fantastic production team:

Director - Yvonne White

Assistant Director - Rachel Hillas

Musical Director - Ben Smith

Musical Assistant - Ben Hinchliffe

Vocal Coach - Sarah Brown

Movement Coordinator - Becki Thompson

### **Commitment:**

If you are successful in gaining a place in this production, please don't underestimate the commitment that will be required of you. Rehearsals will begin in June and will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays 6:30 - 9:30pm, and Sundays 11am - 2pm. All participants will need to be available during these times throughout the rehearsal period, although company members will not be needed at all 3 rehearsals each week to begin with. A rehearsal schedule will be issued so you know exactly when and for how long you will be needed each week. If you can't make the required rehearsal days you will not be able to audition.

If you can't make a rehearsal for any reason such as illness you must notify us as soon as possible in advance. If no notification of an absence is provided a strike will be issued, there is a '3 strikes and out' rule, which means you will be asked to leave the production. Repeated last minute notification of absence may also result in a strike.

It is expected that you don't take any time off from rehearsals during the final month (October), as this is very close to the show and full commitment is required. Authorised absences during this period will only be permitted for educational purposes.

For the week of the show you will be required to keep free the Sunday as there may be various calls that day, Monday evening for the technical rehearsal, Tuesday evening for the dress rehearsal and then all of the show calls.

***If you cannot make all of these calls during show week and all full rehearsals in the lead up to the show during October, you are unable to participate in the show and should not audition. If notification of absences in this period are declared after casting you will be asked to leave the show.***

Attendance is essential to allow the wider creative teams to be able to undertake their roles and to support your fellow cast members. Being part of a show is fun and very rewarding but it is also lots of hard work!

You will also be expected to learn words and practice in your own time in order for us to move forward quickly.

Please ensure you have also read the HATY Handbook - <https://www.haosproductions.com/policies-procedures>

to ensure you understand what is expected of members of HATY to make sure we are the right society for you.

### **Cost:**

You need to be a member of the society in order to be in the show, annual membership for HATY costs £15.

There are lots of costs incurred when putting on a musical, including the rights to put it on, rehearsal space, costumes, sound and lights to name a few. There is a production donation to be part of the show to contribute to some of these costs; this is £125.

We know this can sound like a lot but it works out at approximately £7 per week for rehearsals. This can be paid in monthly instalments of £25 or up front all in one go.

If this cost would be a concern for any participant then please speak with us, this shouldn't be a reason to not be involved.

### **How do we get involved?**

To be involved in this production you will need to audition. To be able to audition you will need to be aged 11 by show week (25/10/2026) and no older than 18 on the final performance date.

We want to try and include as many young people as possible, but due to the venue size we will need to limit the number of young people involved. Therefore for this production we are only able to accept 35 into the cast.

HATY has other activities, concerts and productions running throughout the year that are open access and don't require an audition process.

### **How do I get a chance to audition?**

REQUEST a password from [jane@haosproductions.com](mailto:jane@haosproductions.com) in order to review the audition material. Please look carefully at the roles on the web page to decide which part you wish to audition for as you can only audition for 1 role in your individual audition. You can also tell us which other roles you would like to be considered for.

COMPLETE the online Expression of Interest Form (EOI). This electronic form is available on each of the character pages. **Deadline is 9pm Wednesday 10th June.**

SEND a recent photograph of your face only (headshot) to [jane@haosproductions.com](mailto:jane@haosproductions.com). This is needed for the audition panel paperwork so needs to look similar to how you will look on the day. **Deadline is 9pm on Wednesday 10th June** so we have enough time to prepare details ahead of audition day.

CHECK EMAILS for your invitation to a workshop on the morning of Saturday 13th June 2025. Everyone wishing to be in the production needs to attend the workshop. You will also be provided with a solo audition time later in the day if you are auditioning for a named principal.

### **Is There a Chance to Practice Before the Auditions?**

All the audition material and rehearsal aids will be available online by visiting <https://www.haosproductions.com/whats-on> and clicking on the show. There by clicking take part you will be able to find the audition parts for each of the characters to be able to practice at home before you attend your audition.

Drop in sessions will be available as follows for anyone who would like an opportunity to speak with the production team if they have any questions and also have the chance to sing through the audition songs and learn the dance before the day. These are not mandatory so if you feel happy to practice the material at home this is fine, but is there if you would find it helpful.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Wednesday 27th May	6:30 - 8:00
Wednesday 3rd June	6:30 - 8:00
Wednesday 10th June	6:30 - 8:00

### **What happens on the audition day?**

#### The Workshop: For All

Everyone who would like to be considered to take part in the show will need to attend the workshop on the morning of **Saturday 13th June**. If we have not received your expression of interest form and photograph before the deadline on the 10th June you will not be able to attend the workshop.

You need to ensure that you arrive on time, we won't be able to wait for people to start as there is a tight schedule for the day.

We will sing through the number provided and practice the movement. It is advisable that you know the song before attending in order to be able to add in the movement and perform it to the best of your ability. Once learnt you will perform in small groups to the audition panel. Ensure you wear clothing and footwear that allows for movement.

## Extended Workshop: The Fates

There will be an extended workshop for **ALL** those wanting to be considered for one of The Fates. **Everyone who has expressed interest for this role on their EOI needs to attend to be considered - even if also auditioning for one of the principals later in the day.** Those auditioning need to be aware they may be asked to perform on their own and not just part of a group in the workshop and some of the workshop will be audio recorded. You will be expected to sing in harmony as part of the session. If you are auditioning for a Fate **only** you will not need to attend an individual audition later in the day.

There will be a small amount of audition material provided prior to the Fates' workshop but there will also be material presented on the day. This will allow the team to assess musicality and natural ability to pick up and confidently sing harmonies.

## Individual Auditions: Identified Principal Roles

Individual auditions will take place after the workshops from approximately 11:30am. You will have an individual time slot of 8 minutes to come and perform the audition pieces for your chosen character. We will expect that you are familiar with the audition piece you have chosen to perform.

You can only audition for one character but can put down on your expression of interest form if you would also like to be considered for any other roles. There will be just you and the audition panel in the room for your individual audition.

## **Who are the audition panel?**

The people on the audition panel will be there throughout the workshop and the individual auditions watching you and making notes about how they think you have got on. After individual auditions on Saturday the panel will then discuss everyone they have seen and make the difficult decision of casting the show.

Auditions can be scary and people can get very nervous, but try not to worry; the audition panel understand this and all of them have been in the same position as you on a number of occasions. They will try and support you and try to help put you at ease.

Other members of the committee will be there to meet and greet you on the day.

## **What are the panel looking for?**

We are looking for a cast who work hard, try their best, practice and really want to work with us. We all want to enjoy the process so are looking for individuals who are supportive of others and want to work together as part of a team. This is a hobby for all the adults involved in the production too, volunteering their time to make the production happen and we want this to be a fun experience for all involved.

For the audition we are looking for performers who are strong storytellers, who understand the story they are telling and connect emotionally to the lyrics. You should be interesting to watch, conveying the emotion of the piece being represented at that time. Ensure you have clearly read the character descriptions and show us this in your audition.

In individual auditions try and give yourself something to do during the song - what would your character be doing as they are singing? How would they stand and move? What expressions would they be displaying?

We are there to support you and want you to do well. Just go for it!

### **How are decisions made about casting?**

Roles will be offered to the candidate who best portrays the requirements of the role on the day of the auditions, meeting the specification and who are compatible with any other associated casting.

Where a clear decision cannot be made between two or more equally capable candidates, loyalty, support, commitment to the society and previous behaviour will be taken into consideration.

For more details about casting please see the HATY Casting Principles document available in the policy and procedure section on the HAOS Productions website -

<https://www.haosproductions.com/policies-procedures>

### **When will I find out if I was successful?**

The audition panel will make their decision about casting at the end of the audition day. As per the HATY casting principles document there will be a period after casting has taken place before any decisions will be communicated via email.

If for any reason the audition panel are unable to cast a specific part they hold the right to ask others outside of the audition day to take this role.

### **What if I can't make the audition day?**

Unfortunately if you are unable to make the audition day you will not be considered in the initial round of casting. However if you still submit your expression of interest form and we are unable to cast the full company you may be considered.

If you have any further questions please email [haty@haosproductions.com](mailto:haty@haosproductions.com)