

National Theatre

12 November 2018

Production images released for *Hadestown* at the National Theatre

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Music, lyrics and book by **Anaïs Mitchell**
Developed with **Rachel Chavkin**
Olivier Theatre
Press Night 13 November, in rep until 26 January

Following record-breaking runs at New York Theatre Workshop and Canada's Citadel Theatre, *Hadestown* comes to the National Theatre prior to Broadway.

In the warmth of summertime, songwriter Orpheus and his muse Eurydice are living it up and falling in love. But as winter approaches, reality sets in: these young dreamers can't survive on songs alone. Tempted by the promise of plenty, Eurydice is lured to the depths of industrial Hades town. On a quest to save her, Orpheus journeys to the underworld where their trust in each other is put to a final test.

Celebrated singer-songwriter **Anaïs Mitchell** and director **Rachel Chavkin** have transformed Mitchell's acclaimed concept album into a genre-defying new musical that mixes modern American folk music with vintage New Orleans jazz to reimagine a sweeping ancient tale.

'Inventive. Beguiling. Luminous. Spellbinding.' – *New York Times*

The cast includes **Sharif Afifi, Reeve Carney, André De Shields, Rosie Fletcher, Amber Gray, Beth Hinton-Lever, Carly Mercedes Dyer, Eva Noblezada, Seyi Omooba, Gloria Onitiri, Patrick Page, Aiesha Pease, Joseph Prouse, Jordan Shaw** and **Shaq Taylor**.

Directed by **Rachel Chavkin**, with set design by **Rachel Hauck**, costume design by **Michael Krass**, lighting design by **Bradley King**, sound design by **Nevin Steinberg** and **Jessica Paz**, choreography by **David Neumann**, musical direction and vocal arrangements by **Liam Robinson**, orchestrations and arrangements by **Michael Chorney** and **Todd Sickafoose**, with **Ken Cerniglia** as dramaturg. *Hadestown* US casting by **Stewart/Whitley**, UK casting by **Jacob Sparrow**.

'Hadestown will be your next musical theatre obsession' – *Vogue*

Produced in association with **Mara Isaacs, Dale Franzen, Hunter Arnold** and **Tom Kirdahy**
Co-conceived by **Ben t Matchstick**

***Hadestown* Original Cast Recording**, as recorded live from New York Theatre Workshop, is available to [download now](#). *Hadestown* received its world premiere at New York Theatre Workshop on 23 May 2016.

Hadestown will transfer to Broadway in 2019, with casting to be confirmed.

Talks and Events

[Director Rachel Chavkin and Writer Anaïs Mitchell on *Hadestown*](#) – Mon 12 November, 6pm

[Histories of the American Musical](#) – Fri 30 November, 7pm

[The Heroine's Descent with Marina Warner](#) – Fri 14 December, 6pm (captioned)

[Modern Myths: Orpheus, Eurydice and Us](#) – Tue 22 January, 6pm

Reeve Carney, André De Shields, Amber Gray, Eva Noblezada and Patrick Page are appearing with the support of UK Equity, incorporating the Variety Artistes' Federation, pursuant to an exchange programme between American Equity and UK Equity.

ENDS

For images, please [click here](#).

For further information, please contact Emma Hardy

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About the National Theatre

At the National Theatre, we make world-class theatre that is entertaining, challenging and inspiring. And we make it for everyone.

We aim to create work for the widest possible audiences with new plays, musicals, reimagined classics and new work for young audiences. Our productions are seen in the West End, on tour throughout the UK, on Broadway, internationally, and in collaborations and co-productions with partners around the world. Through NT Live, we broadcast some of the best of British theatre to over 2,500 venues in 65 countries.

In 2017–2018, we opened 20 productions in our three theatres on London's South Bank. On top of that, we toured more work across the UK than at any other point in our history, with ten productions visiting 52 venues in 44 towns and cities. Worldwide, 3.3 million people bought tickets to our award-winning productions, and a further 4.7 million people engaged with us through our free work, learning and participation activity, and in-depth digital content.

Our extensive learning and participation programme opens up theatre to adults, families and young people across the UK. We support drama and creative education in schools through our performance and writing programmes like Connections, New Views and Let's Play. Over 58% of UK state secondary schools have signed up to our free streaming service, *On Demand. In Schools* since launching in 2015. Public Acts, our new initiative to create extraordinary acts of theatre and community, launched in 2017 in partnership with eight visionary community organisations and the Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.

The National Theatre is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

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