



The Forum Theatre, Romiley
Performance Dates:
14th to 17th January 2026

NK Theatre Arts are extremely excited to have the opportunity to bring a youth version of “Hadestown” to the Forum Theatre stage in January 2026. We imagine that there will be a LOT of interest in auditioning for this production so we thought we would put together this Audition Pack to give you all the information you need to make sure that this is the right show for you to audition for AND to make sure that you can give your best possible performance at the Auditions.

In accordance with the licence requirements, all performers must be between the ages of 13 and 19 (inclusive) for all of the performance dates (so up to and including 17th January 2026). Just to be completely transparent - although this is listed as a Teen show, this is the full script and full score with very few (if any) amendments. Please also note that everyone in the cast will be expected to pay a £25 show fee. This covers all rehearsals and a copy of the script for each cast member. Costume will be a combination of things people have already and some things we will need to source - but we will confirm details of that shortly after we are cast.

This is a complex show with tricky harmonies and quite a bit of contemporary and stylised movement - and we want it to be the best that it can be...so we anticipate making a start on rehearsals before the start of the Summer holiday period - but we are also aware that this will mean that the rehearsal period will cover both the Summer holidays and Christmas 2025. We understand that people will have holidays booked and therefore we will have to work around availability to a degree, however we will expect that the final cast commit to attending every rehearsal that they physically can. We expect to be rehearsing on Wednesday evening between 7:30pm and 10pm and on Sunday morning between 10am and 1pm. Not all cast members will be needed for all rehearsals and we will make every effort to get a detailed rehearsal schedule out as soon as possible.

The Story

Hadestown is a reimagining of two Greek myths; the stories of Orpheus and Eurydice and Hades and Persephone. Orpheus was the son of the goddess Calliope and the human king Oeagrus and was extraordinarily gifted in music. He meets Eurydice, a mortal, and falls in love with her. Eurydice is worldly wise and somewhat downtrodden (as opposed to Orpheus who is a hopeful and yet simple lad); hungry and cold and desperate for the return of Spring and Summer. Orpheus tells her that he can bring Spring back with a song that he is writing.

Hades, the king of the Underworld, is married to Persephone. As part of a deal made between the gods, Persephone is supposed to live 6 months of the year in the Underworld with Hades (at which point the world will have Autumn and Winter) and 6 months in the world above (signalling the return of Spring and Summer). However, Hades has grown paranoid and keeps Persephone in the Underworld longer and bringing her back to the Underworld sooner.

Due to the absence of Spring and the short Summer, harvests are low, food is scarce and the world is cold. Eurydice is tempted by the offer of food, shelter and heat provided by Hades and follows him down to the Underworld where she joins his slaves building a wall around the Underworld to keep ‘the enemy’ out. When Orpheus finds out, he goes down to the

Underworld to save her and bring her back. Hades makes it clear that she came down of her own choice and therefore she is not able to return - but then Orpheus sings his song and Hades is persuaded to rethink. Not wanting to be seen as weak, Hades says that Eurydice can return to the world on one condition. As she and Orpheus walk back to the world, he must walk in front and she must walk behind. If they can get to the world without Orpheus turning round, she can stay with him. However, if Orpheus should turn, Eurydice will return to the Underworld forever.

They walk back, the fates constantly taunting Orpheus that he is unworthy and that she is not following. Orpheus reaches the world above and turns to see Eurydice right behind him...but she is still on the road to hell and hasn't set foot out into the world yet. As a result, she is drawn back into the Underworld forever.

The Production Team

Paul Wilson – Director

Paul has been directing musicals for a number of years now. At NK he directed "Return to the Forbidden Planet", "A Night at the West End", "Back to the 80's", "Chess", "Rent" and "Avenue Q" before taking some time away from the Forum to direct at other venues. Away from NK, he has directed "Avenue Q" and "Bad Girls" for Hyde Musical Society and "Rent", "Little Shop of Horrors", "Rock of Ages", "Sweeney Todd" and "The Wedding Singer" for PAP Productions before returning to the Forum in March 2023 with "Murder Ballad". Paul then directed the award-winning production of "Six: Teen Edition" in September 2023, followed by "Rock of Ages" in April 2024. Alongside directing, Paul has designed staging and lighting for numerous productions over the years and has taken on principal roles in productions as diverse as "Beauty and the Beast" and "The Full Monty".

Ceri Graves – Musical Director

Ceri has been Musical Directing 'big shows' for several years now and started out right here at NK! Previous MD credits for NK include shows such as "Shrek", "School of Rock" (District 1 NODA winner), "Rock of Ages" and one of the North West premieres of "SIX-teen" (for which she won both the District 1 and Regional NODA's). Other shows include "Dogfight" for SMAOS, "Elf the Musical" for Urmston Musical Theatre and most recently she got to MD her bucket list show "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" for Sale Nomads. Ceri is very excited to be coming back to NK and doing yet another ground-breaking teen show!

Jenny Wilson – Choreographer

Jenny started dancing at the age of 5 and first experienced the world of Amateur Dramatics at the age of 10, joining Mossley AODS for their annual pantomime, before taking part in her first in her first adult musical with Mossley at the age of 17. Jenny studied Dance and Physical Theatre at Salford University and developed a real passion for contemporary dance, a genre which we are hoping to bring to life in this show. She is no stranger to the stage and has performed in musicals with a number of local Societies over the past 30 years, including Ashton Operatic Society, Dukinfield Operatic Society, PAP Productions and of course NK Theatre Arts. Jenny joined NK Theatre Arts as a Dance tutor back in 2001 and was part of the tutoring team for almost 10 years. During that time, she was involved in choreographing a

number of shows, including “The Wiz”, “Honk!”, “Guys and Dolls” and “Bugsy Malone”. After a long break Jenny recently returned to the society that first sparked her interest in Musical Theatre to take part in Sister Act with Mossley AODS. Jenny is delighted to be part of the production team for Hadestown and in particular is excited to be making a return to NK Theatre Arts.

The Auditions

We are going to run the auditions in two batches between **11am and 5pm on Sunday, 6th July 2025**. Both sessions will take place in Studio 2 at the Forum Theatre, Romiley, SK6 4EA. Once you have registered for the auditions (see below) we will confirm the time of your audition and will also provide you with copies of the tracks we will be using for the auditions (both with and without guide vocals), song lyrics etc.

Batch 1 auditions will run (roughly) between 11am and 1:30pm (depending on numbers). We will provide a quick introduction to the production team and will then do a piece of group choreography with Jenny - all auditionees will be expected to participate in the Group Choreography.

We will then do individual auditions for the following characters: Orpheus, Eurydice, Hades, Persephone and Hermes.

Batch 2 auditions will run (roughly) between 2pm and 4:00pm (again, depending on numbers). There will be a second run of the group choreography with Jenny before we do singing auditions for the ensemble and the Fates.

If you want to be considered for ensemble only, you will only need to attend the afternoon session. The precise timing will be confirmed closer to the date when we have a good handle on the numbers.

If you want to be considered for any of the principal roles (**OTHER THAN THE FATES**) and ensemble, you will only need to attend the morning session and will only need to prepare one of the audition pieces.

If you want to be considered for any of the principal roles **AND** one of the Fates, you will need to prepare both the principal role piece **AND** the Fates piece and you will be required for both the morning and afternoon sessions. We will try to push your morning audition towards the end of the session so that it minimises the amount of time you have to wait. Please see the comments below in relation to the Fates vocal audition.

To help you prepare, the Broadway Cast Recording of Hadestown is available on YouTube by following this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcZhliPR2E4UFVQ1tSFDpiPpd1V0v277M>

The Broadway Cast Album is also available on Spotify. Please take the time to listen to the music and practice with the backing tracks that we will send you when you register - we

want you to be able to give of your best at the auditions so the more you can 'perform' the better! Think about the character that you are auditioning for - and try and show some of your interpretation of that character in the audition - as there is no script in Hadestown, the singing and movement auditions will be your only chance to show us what you have got!

If you wish to audition for one of the Principal roles, we would ask that you prepare the following:

Orpheus (Tenor with strong falsetto - D3-C5 (opt Eb5) guitar playing optional)

Orpheus is a simple lad with a phenomenal talent for music. He always strives to see the best of the world and look to how things could be rather than how things actually are.

Audition Song: Epic II - the full song

Eurydice (Mezzo-Soprano - F#3 - D5)

Eurydice is a world weary girl who has no roots and has not settled down anywhere - she is hungry, she's cold but she's no mug.

Audition Song: All I've Ever Known - First verse and chorus (from "I was alone" to "I don't wanna go back to the lonely life" before Orpheus starts singing).

Hades (Bass - F2-C#4)

Hades is the King of the Underworld. He's a little paranoid, certainly on the path to dictatorship, authoritarian and somewhat deal obsessed (you could liken him very much to the current US President). He does soften towards the end of Act 2 - although he still has to display control and order.

Audition Song: Hey Little Songbird - First two verses (from the start to "Hey, nobody sings on empty" before Eurydice starts singing)

Persephone (Mezzo-Soprano/Alto - C3-B4)

Persephone is a good time girl but also Queen of the Underworld. Whilst she loves (or, at least, loved) Hades she finds the grind of being in the Underworld somewhat depressing and looks for ways to help deal with it. She is happier up in the real world in the Summer - however, she loves Hades even if she is concerned about what he has become.

Audition Song: Livin' It Up On Top - First two verses and choruses (from "Well it's like he said I'm an outdoor girl" to the end of the chorus before Hermes starts singing)

Hermes (Any - scored for Tenor - C3-B4 but can be pitched up)

The Messenger of the Gods is also the narrator of the show and is intended to be played either by a male or female - and, as a production team, we are not expressing a view either way and will gladly see auditions from either boys or girls. Whilst Hermes is outwardly very supportive of Orpheus, it is not really clear where his (or her) loyalties lie. What Hermes does do - a lot - is break the 4th wall and talk directly to the audience.

Audition Song: Road To Hell - From the start through to "Almighty Mister Hades"

The Fates (1 of each of Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Alto - E3 - D5)

The Fates comprise three female characters who, collectively, act as the conscience of various characters throughout the show. The Fates are responsible for Eurydice's descent to Hadestown, the conditions imposed by Hades attached to Orpheus' and Eurydice's

departure from Hades town and, ultimately, the doubt that causes Orpheus to turn and look behind. Consequently, the Fates are absolutely fundamental to the story.

Audition Song: Chips Are Down - the second half of the song after the instrumental break (starting "Take if you can, Give if you must" to end)

When you complete your audition registration for the Fates, you will be asked to identify whether you feel that you are top, middle or bottom vocally. We will then send you the Fates harmony lines to listen to in advance of the auditions. The Fates auditions will run as a group - Ceri will run through the three harmony lines with the whole group at the start and we will then audition in varied groups of three to find the best balanced group we can.

Ensemble

The Ensemble can number anywhere from 6 to roughly 16 people and will switch from residents of the world 'on top' and workers in the Underworld. They will be required to sing, dance and move in a contemporary style, act and (occasionally) move set(!).

Audition Song: Chant

NEXT STEPS

You need to complete an audition registration form - the link for which should be on the email that accompanied this Audition Pack. You can also access the audition registration form through the NK Theatre Arts website (<https://nktheatre.co.uk/>) or directly at <https://form.jotform.com/251344098452054>. The deadline for completion is 5:00pm on Friday 27th June - although the earlier you complete the form, the earlier you will be sent the audition materials to help with preparation. Once received, we will send you the additional audio files and both the lyrics and sheet music for the auditions.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to reach out to Paul by email: Paul@nktheatrearts.org.uk