

St. Andrew's School Presents

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION



by Anais Mitchell

Produced by Special Arrangement with Concord Theatricals

February 2026

Director's Note and Dedication

In 2019, *Hadestown* won 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical. It also won over the hearts of millions; this cast, crew and I count ourselves among them. Why? The music? The mythology? The message? All of the above. Something magical happens when an ancient story is told through the language of Jazz and the Blues, reflecting more modern times. The relevance becomes palpable.

While there are layered political, moral and social themes in this musical, I will leave those for you to ponder on your own - and I hope you will. For now, let's consider the words Hermes speaks before the final song:

"Cos here's the thing: to know how it ends, and still begin to sing it again as if it might turn out this time. I learned that from a friend of mine"

It is a message of hope and resilience. Essential to the human spirit, our ability to pick ourselves up and dust ourselves off so we can try again, is what keeps us going. Without hope and resilience, we grow afraid to live, afraid to fail, afraid to love. *Doubt comes in* and we grow too wary to *sing it again*. When we lose hope, may there always be someone there to take our hand and walk beside us - and to quote the musical one last time - *show the way*.

In a sense my mother showed me the way to the power of theatre, sparking my love for the stage at 8 years old. She was the first props master for the now renowned Glimmerglass Opera in Cooperstown, New York. I started in the children's chorus and then worked my way through every backstage crew I could until I was old enough to join the adults on stage again. I sat at the elbow of many directors, taking notes for them. It was her years of dedication to this growing company that gave me these amazing opportunities, and I am forever grateful. I am personally dedicating this production to her.

Thank you, mom.

Dinah O'Brien Matthers

September 1929 - January 2026