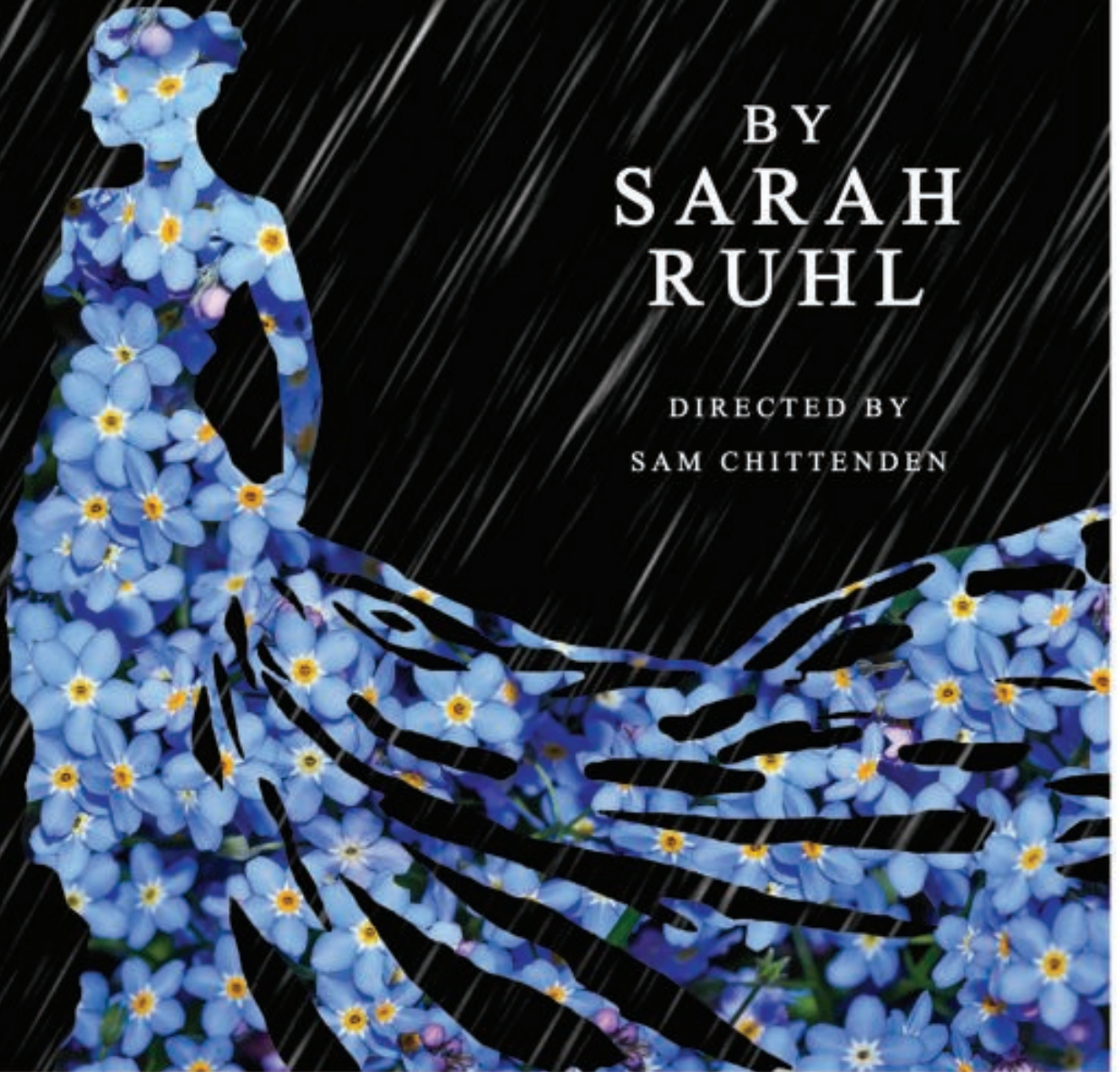


# EURYDICE

BY  
SARAH  
RUHL

DIRECTED BY  
SAM CHITTENDEN



NEW  
VENTURE  
THEATRE

Bedford Place,  
Brighton BN1 2PT

Friday 20th - Saturday 28th June 2025 at 7.30pm  
Matinee: Sun 22nd June at 2.30pm

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Registered Charity No. 268607

This amateur production of 'Eurydice' is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.



# Eurydice

Paula Vogel says that “Reading a Sarah Ruhl play is a little akin to falling in love”, and she’s not wrong. I was first introduced to the award-winning American playwright’s work by my daughter-in-law (or belle fille, as the French have it) and went on to direct her play ‘The Clean House’ at the NVT back in 2016.

Ruhl’s work is lyrical, surprising, disarmingly funny and, usually, heart-breaking. She also provides the most astonishingly poetic stage directions I’ve encountered, describing these as “love letters to her collaborators”.

As well as being a Ruhl fan, I’ve also long been fascinated by Greek myth, especially those involving the underworld - a more ambiguous and liminal space than heaven or hell - and in the tale of Orpheus, writer of the saddest music ever heard, who attempts to rescue his dead bride, only to fail at the last moment. This is beautifully captured in Rilke’s poem Orpheus, Eurydice, Hermes, even though, like in many other versions, Eurydice does come across as something of an object of Orpheus’ affections than a young woman in her own right.

Ruhl’s Eurydice is made of feistier stuff, and the characters she meets a little unexpected, even for the Underworld. Alongside the not-so-classical lovers, we meet a devoted father, a mysterious and menacing seducer, a petulant toddler, and a surprisingly down-to-earth chorus.

Ruhl’s play combines comedy, pathos, music, and beautiful imagery in a fizzing cocktail of magic realism. We have had enormous fun bringing out its physicality and humour, alongside an exquisite tenderness, and I’ve been blessed with an incredibly talented team (both cast and designers/crew) who have thrown themselves into the challenge. In particular, Steve Hoar’s beautiful original music helps to create the shifting moods.

With echoes of Beckett and Alice in Wonderland, Eurydice is a dreamlike and lyrical meditation on love, grief, memory, and the spaces between waking and sleep, life and death.

We hope you enjoy it, and that you, too, fall a little in love with Sarah Ruhl and her characters.

**Sam Chittenden - Director**

## CAST

Eurydice : Leila-May Lewis-Dupuy

Orpheus : Maria Veness

Father : Andy Clawson

A Nasty Interesting Man / Lord of the Underworld : Andy Hoggarth

Little Stone : Maria Sturt

Big Stone : Nadine Rayburn

Loud Stone : Sophoulla Gibson

## MUSICIANS

Piano : Steve Hoar

Violin and Clarinet : Romy Elliott

Addenda:

### MUSICIANS

Violin: Soumen Basak

## CREATIVE TEAM

Director : Sam Chittenden

Musical Director : Steve Hoar

Assistant Director : Jeremy Crow

Stage Manager : Moon Berglind

ASMs : Claudia Ezraeelian, Bryony Weaver, Gaby Bowring

Set design : Rob Punter

Set construction Lead : Simon Glazier

Set construction and painting : Simon Glazier, Tomasz Baraniecki, Tabitha Fawcett-Fry,

Leah Mooney, Annie Shepherd, Dan Tranter, George Walter

Costume : Sam Chittenden, Karen Hindmarsh

Costume/hair/makeup assistance : Tabitha Fawcett-Fry

Hair & makeup : Flea Traini-Cobb, Samantha Howard

Lighting design : Sabrina Giles

Lighting rigging & operation : Sabrina Giles, Chris Dent, Carrie Hynds

Sound design : Sam Chittenden

Sound operation : Ewan Cassidy, Joanna-Joy Salter, Carrie Hynds

Sound recording: Alistair Lock

Poster & programme : Tamsin Mastoris

Photography : Strat Mastoris

Marketing & publicity : Elysa Hyde

Props : Sam Chittenden, Aidan Scanlon

Choreography assistance : Becki Chandler

Health and safety : Ian Black

Best Boi : Roughton Gibson

### CREATIVE TEAM

ASM: Natalie Sacks-Hammond

Sound operation: Leah Mooney



### **Leila-May Lewis-Dupuy (Eurydice)**

Leila studied at East 15, and is a physical theatre graduate. In her time there, alongside learning aerial, puppetry, movement and more, she doubled as costume designer, seamstress and makeup designer. Since graduating, she has worked with companies such as Les Enfants Terribles, and has appeared in a couple of short films : 'The R.I.P Man' and 'Casey's Place P.O.P.' New to Brighton, she is excited to return to the stage and appear in 'Eurydice', her first play at NVT.



### **Maria Veness (Orpheus)**

This is Maria's first NVT production. They made their professional debut performing in the 'Peter Pan Christmas Panto' (2018) at the Attenborough Centre for Creative Arts. They attended Roedean School for 7 years, and their performing highlights there include playing Paris in 'Romeo and Juliet', Lord Alphonso Lanier in 'Emilia', Mme Thénardier in 'Les Miserables', and Prof Callahan in 'Legally Blonde'. They also played Titania in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at BOAT with the Young Actors Group. They joined Apollo Theatre Arts in 2023, where they are training in singing, acting, and dancing. Their highlights at Apollo include playing Anna of Cleves in 'Six', and Paulette in 'Legally Blonde'. They are very excited to be playing the role of Orpheus in this stunning play, and hope you enjoy it as much as they have enjoyed the process.



### **Andy Clawson (Eurydice's Father)**

Originally from Texas, Andy recently made his UK stage debut as Warbucks in 'Annie' at The Old Market. Other roles: Romeo - 'Romeo and Juliet', Howie Newsome - 'Our Team', Beralde - 'The Imaginary Invalid', Jesse Kiplinger - 'Plaza Suite', and Blanche DuBois - 'A Dragcar Named Desiree' (A Parody). He was a founding member of a sketch comedy show called The Dawnview Crew. He has also performed stand-up in several clubs, including The Comedy Store London. Andy is incredibly happy and honored to make his NVT debut in 'Eurydice'.





## **Andy Hoggarth (A Nasty Interesting Man / Lord of the Underworld)**

Andy Hoggarth is a theatre-maker, actor, writer, and musician. He is the founder of theatre company All Greek To Me, where he has written, directed and performed in two plays adapted from Greek mythology, 'The Minotaur' and 'The Odyssey'. Previously, he acted in the NVT production 'Measure 2 Measure', directed by Sam Chittenden. Other theatre credits include 'Gold!' With Hull Truck Theatre and 'The Gruffalo' with Tall Stories. Andy is a teacher of drama and acting, believing passionately in the power of theatre to transform lives.



## **Maria Sturt (Little Stone)**

Maria has most recently appeared in a production of 'Annie' with PTC Arts Academy CIC. Some of her other credits include: Glyndebourne's world premiering opera 'Uprising' as a featured soloist and a promenade adaptation of 'Romeo and Juliet' in the Brighton Festival with ThirdSpace Theatre. Maria currently trains at BN1 Arts on the musical theatre course and is in a contemporary dance company called Entasi. She has absolutely loved rehearsing for 'Eurydice', her first production at NVT, and she hopes it's one of many.

## **Nadine Rayburn (Big Stone)**

A writer and actor who has recently moved to the Brighton area, Nadine is excited to appear in her first NVT production. She is to appear in the band Kyros' new music video entitled 'Human Eyes'. Notable theatre roles include Rosalind in 'As You Like It' (dir. Phillip Bird) and Beatrice in 'The Changeling' (dir. Nick Hutchinson.) Notable short film roles include Brenda Weatherbee in 'Trying for a Second' (dir. Ruby Soudant), Rhian in 'Limbo' (dir. Eva Cohen), and Mara in 'Hallowed Ground' (dir. Jamie Simiele.) She attended LAMDA and SUNY Purchase for her drama education.





## Sophoulla Gibson (Loud Stone)

Sophoulla has been working in theatre from a young age both in Cyprus and in the UK. She studied Drama at GCSE and A Level before landing her first role in 'LUNA', a feature film set in Brighton, currently in post-production. She appeared as a witch in the NVT production of 'Macbeth' directed by Steven O'Shea. She is also currently involved in songwriting, poetry and musical performance.



## Sam Chittenden (Director)

Sam is an award-winning playwright and director, creating intimate and lyrical theatre with largely female-driven narratives. She has directed a number of previous productions at NVT, including Shelagh Stephenson's 'An Experiment With An Air Pump' in 2024, and Sarah Ruhl's 'The Clean House' back in 2016. Her musical 'Clean' won Best New Play and Outstanding Show at Brighton Fringe. She has been nominated for an Edinburgh Fringe Infallibles Award (Sary), selected for Fringe Encore 2019 at SoHo Playhouse, NYC (Metamorphosis) and nominated for Fringe Encore 2024 (Chemistry). Sam is also a coach and mentoring trainer, and loves being in a learning environment with a bunch of creative people.

## Steve Hoar (Musical Director)

Steve first worked at NVT as Musical Director and composer on 'A Christmas Carol' in 2015. Since then he has provided music here for 'Dick Barton' and 'Blood Wedding' and has twice collaborated with Sam Chittenden, first on Sarah Ruhl's 'The Clean House' and then on last year's 'An Experiment with an Air Pump'. He has also worked with Slurring Words Theatre on 'The Pillowman' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Steve works as a piano tutor and sings with Brighton Voices. He is also a Friend of the Brighton Philharmonic and encourages you to support your local orchestra!



25th July - 2nd August 2025  
In the Theatre Upstairs

**Short Plays 2025**  
a set of short plays by directors  
new to the NVT





## THANK YOU

To all the creative team who have worked so tirelessly to create this production. Special thanks to Gladrags, and our Box Office and Front of House volunteers, and everyone else who keeps our theatre running. Without you there would be no show.





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## Supporting The New Venture

We all need a little 'care and maintenance' from time to time and our lovely Grade II listed theatre is certainly no exception. Whether it's fixing the roof or upgrading equipment it is all increasingly expensive. So any donation you can make to help keep the New Venture alive and kicking will be hugely appreciated, and you can do it either via the donations box by the fireplace in the bar, or using the Donate Button on the homepage of our website - [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk)

## Contacting the NVT

For ticket information only, call the Box Office - 01273 746118. To book tickets or for other information check our website at [www.newventure.org.uk](http://www.newventure.org.uk). All other enquiries 01273 808353

## NVT Acting Class

Monday evenings at 7.30pm for all levels of acting skills. It will cost you just £5 per session (£2.50 for NVT members) First visit is FREE! See website for details.

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## Membership

Company membership - £15 a year. Full participation, discount on tickets & newsletter. Student/Unwaged - £10 a year. As above... *Proof of status is required.*