

Chani Merrell

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THEATRE DIRECTOR

I am a Turkish-Austrian theatre director based in **London and Essex**. As a director I specialise in **musicals**, working with **young people**, and **new writing**; often combining the roles of director and **movement director**. I've just finished as Resident Director on the National Theatre's UK tour of *Handbagged* by Moira Buffini.

Directing

[Upcoming] The Love of the Nightingale
By Timberlake Wertenbaker

Rose Bruford College.

Dec 2025
2 week run.

WHALE
By Sam Grant

The Lion and Unicorn Theatre.
[Upcoming] Queen's Theatre
Hornchurch.

March 2025
Workshops and 1 week run.

Lord of The Flies
Adapted by Nigel Williams

Rose Bruford College.

Nov 2024
2 week run.

Who's Killing our Daughters?
By Sophie Huggins

Park Theatre, Finsbury Park.

Sept 2024
R&D and 1 Performance.

Wivenhoe
By Samuel Fisher and
Bea Svistunenko

Mercury Theatre Studio, Colchester.

Jan 2024
R&D and 1 Performance.

Little Shop of Horrors
By Howard Ashman and
Alan Menken

The ADC Theatre, Cambridge.

Jun 2021
1 week run.

Assistant/Associate Directing

The Creakers Musical
By Tom Fletcher, adapted by
Miranda Larson

Workshop and R&D Phase.
Dir. Ryan McBryde.

Aug 2025

Handbagged [Tour]
By Moira Buffini

National Theatre UK Tour in
partnership with TNP theatres and
Queens Theatre, Hornchurch.

Dir. Alex Thorpe.

Feb-May 2025
4 month run.

***Bindweed* [Tour]**
By Martha LoaderMercury Theatre, Colchester;
New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich;
Arcola Theatre, Dalston.May-July 2024
1 month run.

Dir. Jennifer Tang.

***Midsummer* [Tour]**
By David GreigMercury Theatre, Colchester;
The Barn Theatre, Cirencester.April-June 2024
2 month run.

Dir. Ryan McBryde.

Sleeping Beauty
By Guy Unsworth

Mercury Theatre, Colchester.

Oct 2023- Jan 2024
3 month run.

Dir. Ryan McBryde.

That Face
By Polly Stenham

Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond.

Sept 2023
1 month run.

Dir. Josh Seymour.

Education & Training**MFA Theatre Directing**

Birkbeck College, London

2022-24

Meisner Technique

Rose Bruford College, London

2023

Ballet, Tap, and Modern Dance

ISTD distinctions to a teaching standard.

Teaching and Facilitating

I am an experienced facilitator and teacher working in School, Theatre, Drama School, and Community Group settings. I've most recently worked for The National Theatre, Orange Tree Theatre, The Mercury Theatre, Rose Bruford, and Cambridge University. I often specialise in dance, movement, and improvisation based work, but have expertise in Shakespeare, Musical Theatre, text analysis, and ensemble building. I am a visiting director for the Mercury Theatre Young and Adult Companies.

Referees**Alex Thorpe** Creative Director at Queen's Theatre HornchurchAlexT@queens-theatre.co.uk**Ryan McBryde**

Freelance Theatre Director

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