

Chani Merrell

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THEATRE DIRECTOR

As a director I specialise in **musicals**, working with **young people**, and **new writing**; often combining the roles of director and **movement director**. Last year, I was the Resident Director on the National Theatre's UK tour of *Handbagged* by Moira Buffini.

Directing

FLINCH
By Anjeli Chapman
Soho Theatre, Main House.
Jan 2026
R&D and 1 Performance.

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.
Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.
March 2025
Oct 2025
1 week runs.

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.

Assistant/Associate Directing

The Creekers 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.

<i>Bindweed</i> [Tour] By Martha Loader	Mercury Theatre, Colchester; New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich; Arcola Theatre, Dalston.	May-July 2024 1 month run.
	Dir. Jennifer Tang.	
<i>Midsummer</i> [Tour] By David Greig	Mercury Theatre, Colchester; The Barn Theatre, Cirencester.	April-June 2024 2 month run.
	Dir. Ryan McBryde.	
<i>Sleeping Beauty</i> By Guy Unsworth	Mercury Theatre, Colchester.	Oct 2023- Jan 2024 3 month run.
	Dir. Ryan McBryde.	
<i>That Face</i> 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 am a creative Practitioner for ATG, delivering schools and workshops in the West End for *Operation Mincemeat*. I've most recently worked for The National Theatre, The 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 Hornchurch	AlexT@queens-theatre.co.uk
Ryan McBryde	Freelance Theatre Director	ryan@ryanmcbryde.com