

Chani Merrell

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THEATRE DIRECTOR

As a director I specialise in **musicals**, working with **students and young people**, and **new writing**; often combining the roles of director and **movement director**. I am currently developing a **new musical for young audiences** called *The Pigeon who Became Prime Minister*, supported by the Arts Council and Queen's theatre Hornchurch.

Directing

<i>Once Upon a Crime</i> Fever Entertainment	Shaw Theatre, Main House.	Mar 2026 3 week run.
<i>FLINCH</i> By Anjeli Chapman	Soho Theatre, Main House.	Jan 2026 R&D and 1 Performance.
<i>The Love of the Nightingale</i> By Timberlake Wertenbaker	Rose Bruford College.	Dec 2025 2 week run.
<i>WHALE</i> By Sam Grant	The Lion and Unicorn Theatre. Queen's Theatre Hornchurch.	March 2025 Oct 2025 1 week runs.
<i>Lord of The Flies</i> Adapted by Nigel Williams	Rose Bruford College.	Nov 2024 2 week run.
<i>Who's Killing our Daughters?</i> By Sophie Huggins	Park Theatre, Finsbury Park.	Sept 2024 R&D and 1 Performance.

Assistant/Associate Directing

<i>As You Like It [Int. Tour]</i> By William Shakespeare	The Handlebards. Dir. Mark Collier.	Apr-Sept 2026 6 month run.
<i>Love and Information</i> By Caryl Churchill	Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Dir. Forest Morgan.	Mar 2026 1 week run.
<i>The Creakers</i> By Tom Fletcher, adapted by Miranda Larson	Musical workshop. Dir. Ryan McBryde.	Mar 2026 1 week run.

***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 Loader

Mercury Theatre, Colchester;
New Wolsey Theatre, Ipswich;
Arcola Theatre, Dalston.

Dir. Jennifer Tang.

May-July 2024

1 month run.

***Midsummer* [Tour]**

By David Greig

Mercury Theatre, Colchester;
The Barn Theatre, Cirencester.

Dir. Ryan McBryde.

April-June 2024

2 month run.

That Face

By Polly Stenham

Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond.

Dir. Josh Seymour.

Sept 2023

1 month run.

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 a creative Practitioner for ATG, delivering schools and workshops in the West End for *Operation Mincemeat*. I've most recently worked as a facilitator 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 HornchurchAlexT@queens-theatre.co.uk**Ryan McBryde**

Freelance Theatre Director

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