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# Directing Eurydice

Julia Elise Wells

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## **DIRECTING EURYDICE**

An honors paper submitted to the Department of Theatre and Dance  
of the University of Mary Washington  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Departmental Honors

Julia Elise Wells

April 2016

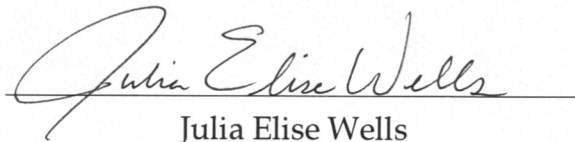
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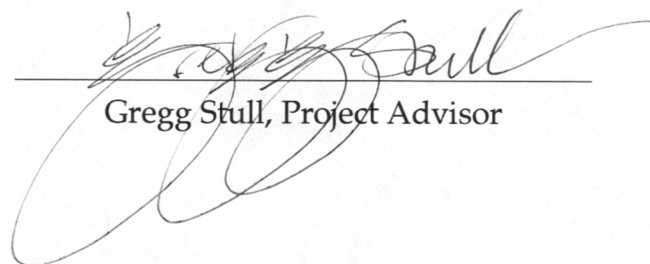
Julia Elise Wells  
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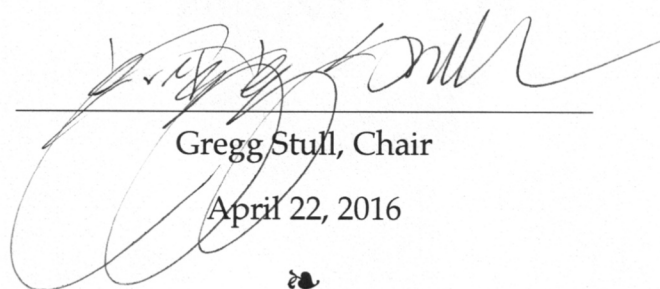
*Directing  
Eurydice*  
by Sarah Ruhl

submitted to the Department of Theatre & Dance  
in fulfillment of THEA 482: Senior Project

  
Julia Elise Wells

  
Gregg Stull, Project Advisor

AWARDED HONORS IN THEATRE, 2016

  
Gregg Stull, Chair  
April 22, 2016



UNIVERSITY OF  
MARY WASHINGTON

Department of  
Theatre and Dance



## Committee

The Studio 115 Committee is dedicated to the education of our students through expanding their knowledge of the theatrical process. We seek both to provide a professional and structured environment, and to create opportunities parallel to those created by Klein Theatre and UMW Theatre through challenging material.

<b>Chair:</b>	Vanessa Borg*
<b>Communications Director:</b>	Ford Torney*
<b>Play Curator:</b>	Rob Di Leo*
<b>Production Assistant:</b>	Angel Cowen
<b>Technical Director:</b>	Alexander Taggart
<b>Master Electrician:</b>	Sophia Gutkowski
<b>Sound Engineer:</b>	Mo Gresham*
<b>House Manager:</b>	Lily Olson
<b>Members:</b>	Erin Becker, Kenneth Bellamy*, Jamie Broadhead, Jackie Filicko*, Megan Khaziran, Grace Kreider, Cynthia Mullins

**Advisors to the Committee:**

Gregg Stull, Helen Housley, Julie Hodge,  
Kevin McCluskey, Cate Brewer,  
and Taryn Snyder

# EURYDICE

By Sarah Ruhl



December 2, 3, 4  
7:30 pm



"That's how you get deathless, *volchitsa*. Walk the same tale over and over, until you wear a groove in the world, until even if you vanished, the tale would keep turning, keep playing, like a phonograph, and you'd have to get up again, even with a bullet through your eye, to play your part and say your lines."

—Catherynne M. Valente, *Deathless*

## Cast

Eurydice	Maggie Murphy*
Father	Stephen Nickens*
Orpheus	Alexander Newton
Lord of the Underworld	Margaret Lewis*
Big Stone	Fox Showalter
Little Stone	Sellam Birhane
Loud Stone	Mo Gresham*

This performance will not feature an intermission.

## Acknowledgements

Tom Broadhead, Edie Broadhead, Michelle Wells, Brianna Crane, Gregg Stull, Helen Housley, Cate Brewer, Julie Hodge, Kenny Horning, Jon Reynolds, Taryn Snyder, UMW Theatre



## Production Staff

<b>Director</b>	Julia Wells * °
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Angel Cowen
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Elise Trommer
<b>Sound Designer</b>	Mo Gresham*
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Andrew Baynard
<b>Scenic Designer</b>	Jamie Broadhead
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Kodi McCall
<b>Makeup Designer</b>	Liz Kump*
<b>Composer</b>	Isun Malekghassemi
<b>Light Board Operator</b>	Joey Sebesky
<b>Sound Board Operator</b>	Zach Tuman
<b>Run Crew</b>	Toren Spaulding
<b>House Managers</b>	Lily Olson, Cynthia Mullins

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The rehearsal process for *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl; on left, *Eurydice*, played by Maggie Murphy, and director Julia Wells blocking on the set's tape down.



Some of the crew from the *Eurydice* production: left to right, Angel Cowen, stage manager, Jamie Broadhead, set designer, Julia Wells, director.



On left, Margaret Lewis portraying Lord of the Underworld as the Child while watching Eurydice (Murphy) learn to read again.





“Ooh—say that again. It’s nice.” Eurydice (Murphy) on the right being teased by the Lord of the Underworld (Lewis).



Alex Newton portraying Orpheus as he writes letters to his dead love, Eurydice.



“Wait—remember this melody.” Orpheus (Newton) passes on his melody to Eurydice (Murphy).



Father, played by Stephen Nickens, gives Eurydice advice on her wedding day through letters from the Underworld.



“Orpheus never liked words. He had his music.” Eurydice (Murphy) explains what it is to be loved by an artist.



Father (Nickens) dances alone in the Underworld on his daughter's wedding day.



The set of *Eurydice*, designed by Jamie Broadhead, featured the upper-world, to the left, the elevator that brought people to the land of the dead, and the Underworld itself, on right. The lighting design by Andrew Baynard was heavily used in order to show which part of the world the characters were in.



Broadhead's design of the String Room that Father builds Eurydice in the Underworld. The chandelier was at the end of a specially installed pulley system and the set behind it was hollow, allowing actors to both move through it unseen and climb on top of it.



From bottom left to far right: Fox Showalter as Big Stone, Morgan 'Mo' Gresham as Loud Stone, Maggie Murphy as Eurydice, and Sellam Birhane as Little Stone. The make-up designs for the Stones was created by Liz Kump, the costumes by Kodi Mccall.





“So step quietly. And don’t cry out.” Father (Nickens) prepares Eurydice (Murphy) to leave the Underworld with her husband, Orpheus.



“Tell me another story of when you were little.” Eurydice (Murphy) and Father (Nickens) reminisce about what it was like to be alive together.



“I look straight ahead. That’s all?” Orpheus (Newton) and Lord of the Underworld as Teenager (Lewis) discussing the deal to get Eurydice back.



“We live with the dead people in the land of the dead.” Little Stone (Birhane) echoes her and the three stones’ story.



Father, Stephen Nickens. Lighting design, Andrew Baynard.



"I hear him at the gates! That's his music!" Eurydice (Murphy) discovering Orpheus's arrival at the gates of the Underworld.



“You startled me.” Orpheus (Newton) and Eurydice (Murphy) say good-bye to each other after Eurydice causes her husband to look at her, breaking the Lord of the Underworld’s deal, keeping Eurydice in the Underworld.



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