

Chani Merrell

Chanimerrell.com
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THEATRE DIRECTOR AND FACILITATOR

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I am a Turkish-Austrian theatre director based in **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'm currently Resident Director on the National Theatre's UK tour of *Handbagged* by Moira Buffini.

Directing

WHALE
By Sam Grant

The Lion and Unicorn Theatre,
Camden.

March 2025
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.

Ralph and Elliot
By Christopher Dean

The Hope Theatre, Islington.

Feb 2023
R&D and 2 Performances.

Little Shop of Horrors
By Howard Ashman and
Alan Menken

The ADC Theatre, Cambridge.

Jun 2021
1 week run.

Assistant/Associate Directing

Handbagged [Tour]
By Moira Buffini

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

Feb-May 2025
4 month run.

Dir. Alex Thorpe.

Bindweed [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 [Tour]</i> By David Greig	Mercury Theatre, Colchester; The Barn Theatre, Cirencester. Dir. Ryan McBryde.	April-June 2024 2 month run.
<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> By Oscar Wilde	Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Dir. Ryan McBryde.	Feb 2024 3 week run.
<i>Sleeping Beauty</i> By Guy Unsworth	Mercury Theatre, Colchester. Dir. Ryan McBryde.	Oct 2023- Jan 2024 3 month run.
<i>That Face</i> By Polly Stenham	Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. Dir. Josh Seymour.	Sept 2023 1 month run.
<i>The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui</i> By Bertolt Brecht	Rose Bruford College, Sidcup. Dir. David Zoob.	Nov 2023 1 week 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

Workshop Facilitator

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 movement and improvisation based work, but have expertise in Shakespeare, Musical Theatre, text analysis, and ensemble building.

Youth Theatre Director

I have extensive experience working with young people, and often gravitate to this work. I am about to direct a second show at Rose Bruford college and I am a visiting director for the Mercury Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre young companies.