

The classical myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is one that can be told simply: A young man named Orpheus falls madly in love with an equally young woman named Eurydice. On the day of their wedding, Eurydice is bit by a poisonous snake, killing her and instantly transporting her to Hades, or the underworld. Orpheus, being the world's greatest musician, plays music so sad and mournful that he manages to soften the heart of Hades and is granted permission to bring Eurydice back to the land of the living on the condition he trusts Eurydice will follow him back to the earth's surface and not look back at her as they make their ascent. Moments before they reach the Earth's surface, Orpheus turns back to make sure Eurydice is still with him. In this moment, Orpheus loses Eurydice forever and she is transported back to Hades for a second, more permanent time.

To tell the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is a simple task; to understand and interpret its story, however, is another feat altogether. Sarah Ruhl's *Eurydice* is a modern re-imagining of the classical story that gives a voice to the myth's voiceless female character. With Ruhl's character and plot additions, we are provided with a new, yet relatable layer of complexity that explores the relationships between memory, grief, language, music, and death.

In this production, we emphasize Ruhl's departure from many of her contemporaries' realistic playwriting style; to imagine this work as taking place in our own world would do the piece an injustice. Surrealism recognizes that any attempt to imitate the world around us comes off as exactly that -an imitation. By using strange juxtapositions, elements of surprise, and non-sequitur, surrealists attempt to tap into the unconscious and reveal profound truths we would otherwise remain ignorant of within rational, logical restraints. As an audience member, I ask that you leave your expectations of what a play should and should not be at the door and experience this production with an open heart and an open mind.

