

HADESTOWN

TEEN EDITION

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DIRECTOR'S NOTE TO THE CVCS COMMUNITY

When selecting this year's musical, I was drawn not just to the beauty of the music and storytelling in HADESTOWN, but to the deeper questions it asks—questions that I believe resonate with all of us.

At its core, this story is a retelling of an ancient Greek myth about Orpheus and Eurydice. Like many great stories throughout history, it explores timeless themes: love that endures hardship, the tension between hope and fear, and the challenge of trusting when the future feels uncertain.

What makes this story especially compelling is its focus on trust. Orpheus is given a chance to lead Eurydice out of darkness, but with one condition: he must trust completely and not look back. It is a simple instruction, yet one that reveals how difficult trust can be when doubt begins to creep in. In many ways, his journey reflects a struggle we all understand—the pull between faith and fear, between moving forward and allowing doubt to take a hold.

Another part of this story that deeply resonates with me is the relationship between Hades and Persephone. Here we see a marriage that has endured a long history but has also grown strained and distant. Both have turned toward empty substitutes—power, control, indulgence—instead of one another, and their relationship stands on the brink of collapse. Yet, in a pivotal moment, Orpheus's song breaks through that hardness. It reminds Hades of why he first fell in love, softening his heart and awakening something long buried.

Out of that renewed remembrance comes an unexpected act of mercy. Hades chooses to give the young couple a chance. In this way, we witness not only the hope of new love, but the possibility of restoration in a love that has been worn down over time. It is a powerful picture of how even the most strained relationships can be stirred toward healing when we remember what first made them meaningful and seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

While this musical draws from mythology rather than Scripture, its themes echo truths that are deeply familiar. It invites us to consider what it means to hold onto hope in difficult circumstances, to persevere when the path is difficult or unclear, and to recognize how easily doubt—and distraction—can pull us away from what matters most.

Our goal in presenting this production is not simply to entertain, but to tell a story that sparks reflection. We hope it encourages you to think about the power of love, the cost of trust, and the importance of pressing forward even when the way is uncertain—and perhaps even to reflect on the relationships in our own lives that could be renewed by remembering what first made them whole. While we believe this is a Cole Valley Christian appropriate production, some of its themes and ideas may be better understood and appreciated by a more mature audience. We also recognize that some of the themes in this story create meaningful opportunities for conversation. For families with younger audience members, this can be a valuable chance to engage together, helping students think through these ideas with wisdom, maturity, and a perspective shaped by faith.

Thank you for supporting our students and for joining us in this story.

— Wes Simmonds

LIST OF THE MATURE THEMES:

The title “Hadestown”

Hades is the Greek god of the Underworld. The Underworld is also referred to as Hades. The term hell is used often in the show referring to the place, not as a curse. The Underworld is a fictional place, invented by Greek mythology, and presented in this story as a coal mine with workers laboring under harsh conditions. There will not be any depictions of demons or a lake of fire. Although, the Underworld, for all intents and purposes, is a place of eternal torment that no one wants to be, paralleling the biblical depiction of hell.

Substance abuse

Persephone is the Greek goddess of spring, vegetation, and new growth. Due to her strained relationship with her husband Hades, she has turned to the bottle for solace. Her character does reference alcohol and drug use and will be depicted drinking from a flask for part of the first act. This depiction of her is ultimately seen as destructive in the show and not glorified. A toast is also given by another character in the first act, accompanied by revelry and dancing.

Marital unfaithfulness

The strain between Hades and Persephone has affected Hades as well. He has acquired a lust for power and money. There is a brief moment in the show that hints toward Hades turning his attention away from his wife toward a human mortal. Although this act is defined as marital unfaithfulness, it is void of any inherent sexual expression. Hades uses his money and power to entice the young human mortal to sell her soul for the promise of food and provision. An act that will land her in the Underworld, working in a factory line for eternity with her fellow mortals.