

EURYDICE

by Sarah Ruhl

A Note from the Dramaturge: Eurydice Reconsidered

Eurydice, by Sarah Ruhl, premiered at the Madison Repertory Theatre in September 2003, but the story of Eurydice and Orpheus is much older. Orpheus is first mentioned in a two-word fragment from the Greek poet Ibycus dating from the sixth century B.C.E; however, the most influential stories of Orpheus and Eurydice come to us from Latin sources: Virgil's *The Georgics* (written between 37 and 31 B.C.E.) and Book Ten of Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (written between 1 and 8 C.E.). In these versions, Orpheus, the most skilled musician in the world, falls in love with Eurydice. On their wedding day, as she dances at the reception, Eurydice is bitten by a serpent, dies, and descends to the underworld. Distraught by the loss of his wife, Orpheus follows Eurydice to the land of the dead on a quest to bring her back to life. Once there, Orpheus sings a song so sad that it makes the entire underworld weep, and Hades agrees to let Eurydice follow Orpheus out of the underworld, but with a catch: Orpheus may not look back at Eurydice until they get to the surface of the Earth. At some point in their journey, of course, Orpheus turns around and Eurydice dies a second, this time irreversible, death. In Virgil and Ovid, Eurydice is a minor character, a woman who never speaks but serves as the inspiration for Orpheus. Sarah Ruhl, conversely, amends this oversight and makes Eurydice the central figure in her own story. Ruhl's play offers a thoughtful meditation on the nature of loss, the power of memory, and the meaning of love. By giving Eurydice back her voice, Ruhl offers a heroine who is compelling, funny, and smart, and we can see why Orpheus would risk everything to get her back. While Ruhl's version of the story remains, more or less, the same as its Latin inspiration, *Eurydice* demonstrates why this myth, and these characters, have continued to inspire authors and artists for 2,500 years. For other literary versions of the story, check out Rainer Maria Rilke's poem "Orpheus. Eurydice. Hermes" (1904), and Margaret Atwood's Orpheus and Eurydice cycle of poems (1976-1986).

CAST

Kailey Burkhardt

Carl Bonebright

Charley White

Chad Burkhardt

Bakari Prigg/Kaylie Miller

Laura Martin/Kaylie Miller

Logan Osborn

EURYDICE

FATHER

ORPHEUS

NASTY INTERESTING MAN

LOUD STONE

LITTLE STONE

BIG STONE

UNDERSTUDIES

Laura Martin (April 9)

Bakari Prigg (April 10)

EURYDICE

NASTY INTERESTING MAN

PRODUCERS

Karen Baker

David Harwell

Dr. Chad Allen Thomas

Samantha Smith

Samantha Bowles

Akeyla Chatman

Johnna Doty, Jesse Pate, Alva Pope

Ronnie Foreman

Ivy Buchanan, Jordan Searcy

Ron Harris

Diana La Chance, Kaylie Miller

Donna Lamp

Director

Producer/Set Designer/
Technical Director

Dramaturge

Stage Manager

Asst. Stage Manager

Asst. Stage Manager

Sound Designer

Lighting Designer

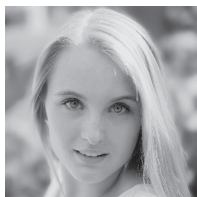
Run Crew

Costume Designer

Marketing

Box Office/Administration

CAST



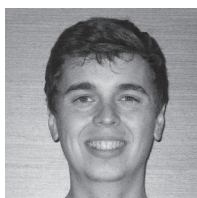
KAILEY BURKHARDT – EURYDICE

Kailey is a senior double majoring in theatre and English; she is also the president of Alpha Psi Omega, UAH's national honorary dramatic fraternity. Past productions include *Spoon Lake Blues*, *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, and most recently *Beckett in the Blackbox*. Technical credits include props for *How to Succeed in Business* and *The Laramie Project*, and costumes and light board operator for *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She earned her first professional credit last summer assistant stage managing for an off-Broadway production that partnered with UAH at the Cherry Lane Theater in NYC. She thanks Karen, Harwell, and the entire production team for their tireless dedication to the program. Most of all she thanks her husband Chad for his unconditional love and support. Enjoy the show!



CARL BONEBRIGHT – FATHER

Carl is thrilled to return to the boards after a long break. His last performance was with Theatre Huntsville's production of *Enchanted April*. In his spare time, he enjoys baking unhealthy treats and brewing mead. He is also grateful for the support of his wife, Marcy, and two live wires pretending to be well-behaved children, Seamus and Charlie.



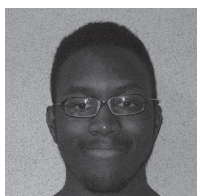
CHARLEY WHITE – ORPHEUS

Charley is a junior physics student with a concentration in applied and theoretical physics who hopes to do research and teach after completing graduate school. This is his first performance on stage; however, he has always enjoyed making skits with friends. He enjoys running, watching movies, and eating healthy.



CHAD BURKHARDT – NASTY INTERESTING MAN

As a 2014 alumni, Chad is thrilled to be returning to the UAH stage. His past roles include Owen in *Where the Great Ones Run*, LeRoy in *A Bright New Boise*, and Picasso in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He also assistant directed the university's production of *All My Sons* in 2013. Chad would like to thank Karen Baker for the opportunity to return to the stage, the cast and crew for all of their hard work, and his wife Kailey for her inspiration. He also thanks you, the audience, for supporting UAH Theatre.



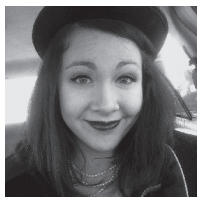
BAKARI PRIGG – LOUD STONE/NASTY MAN UNDERSTUDY

Bakari is in his third year at UAH, and he is double majoring in theatre and English education. This is his fifth production with UAH Theatre; previously he appeared in *Anything Goes*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* (as Bud Frump), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (as Robin Starveling), and various characters in *The Laramie Project* including the role of Moises Kaufman. During the summer of 2015, Bakari had the opportunity to make his directing debut at his high school alma mater, Oakwood Adventist Academy, here in Huntsville. He is thrilled to be a part of a wonderful cast and crew, as well as the fantastic people who appreciate the arts enough to be involved as much as they are. Other than acting, Bakari has spent the past decade pursuing the art form of puppetry.



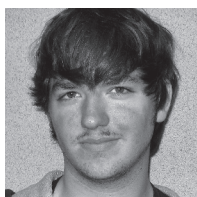
LAURA MARTIN – LITTLE STONE/EURYDICE UNDERSTUDY

Laura is a sophomore pursuing a degree in English and theatre at UAH. Laura performed throughout her high school days, first with her high school and then with Northeast Alabama Community College. This is Laura's third production at UAH and her first time on stage here. She looks forward to the next few years working and learning with the cast and crew of future UAH productions.



**KAYLIE MILLER – LITTLE STONE/LOUD STONE/
MARKETING DIRECTOR**

Kaylie is a sophomore majoring in marketing and theatre at UAH. This is her first time on stage with UAH Theatre. In past UAH productions, she has assisted with costumes and makeup for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and served as marketing director of *The Laramie Project* and *You're Gonna Love Tomorrow*. She is president of the Charger Theatre Club. Being Little Stone and Loud Stone in *Eurydice* has "rocked."



LOGAN OSBORN – BIG STONE

Logan Osborn is a senior and one of the first Theatre Majors at The University of Alabama in Huntsville and is excited to once again be a part of UAH Theatre. He has participated in a number of the previous shows, both on and off stage and has loved all the experiences that they have offered. Just this past fall he was part of the first student run production to take place at UAH. After graduation he hopes to continue his Theatre career, and would like to thank his friends and family for their continued support.

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PRODUCERS



KAREN BAKER – DIRECTOR

This is Karen's second year with UAH Theatre. She received her MFA in directing at The University of Alabama. Some of her favorite directing projects include *City of Angels*, *Children of Eden*, *Fefu and her Friends*, and *The Baby Dance*.



DAVID HARWELL – PRODUCER/SET DESIGNER/TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

David is the associate professor of theatre at UAH. He received his BFA in theatre at the University of Montevallo and his MFA in scene design from the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, in 1991. After many years of working in professional theater in NYC, Boston, and regionally, he is happy to be back in Huntsville, his hometown. David started the UAH Theatre in 2005 and serves as its director.



DR. CHAD ALLEN THOMAS – DRAMATURGE

Dr. Chad Allen Thomas is an assistant professor of Shakespeare and dramatic literature in the English Department at UAH. His work with UAH Theatre has included directing *The Laramie Project* (20015), *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2015), *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* (2014), *The Tempest* (2012), and *The Comedy of Errors* (2011), as well as acting in *All My Sons* (Joe Keller, 2013). His most recent role was acting Macbeth for Rocket City Shakespeare in January.



SAMANTHA SMITH – STAGE MANAGER

Samantha is a senior theatre major with a minor in English. This is her debut as a stage manger for UAH Theatre. Some of her previous shows include *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Macbeth*, *Jailbait*, and *The Nutcracker*. She is married to the love of her life, David Smith, and thanks him for his love and support.



SAMANTHA BOWLES – ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Samantha is excited to be part of *Eurydice* as her second production at UAH. She is a mechanical engineering and theatre double major at UAH. Samantha would like to thank Karen Baker for giving her this opportunity to be a part of this production.



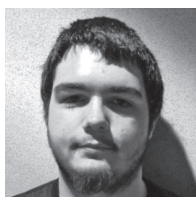
AKEYLA CHATMAN – ASST. STAGE MANAGER

Akeyla Chatman is a Sophomore Nursing Major with a minor in Spanish. This is her first theatre production outside of high school and she is very excited to participate in future events with the University of Alabama in Huntsville theatre program. She thanks her friends and family for support.



JOHNNA DOTY – SOUND DESIGNER

A graduate of the University of Montevallo in music, Johnna earned a sound design MFA from Boston University in 1994. She has worked professionally in NYC and regionally, and was an Assistant Professor at the City University of New York - Borough of Manhattan Community College. A native of Florence, Alabama, she now resides in Huntsville and teaches at UAH.



JESSE PATE – SOUND DESIGNER

Jesse is a junior music technology major from Weaver, AL. He has performed with the Alabama Youth Symphony Orchestra, Etowah Youth Orchestra, and the Huntsville Youth Symphony Orchestra. At UAH, he plays with the wind ensemble. He also played trombone in the orchestra of UAH Theatre's production of *Urinetown* in 2013.



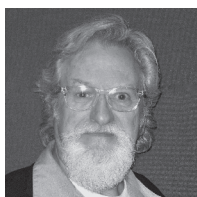
ALVA POPE – SOUND DESIGNER

Alva is a sophomore music tech major from Tuscaloosa. She plays the French horn in the UAH wind ensemble. This is Alva's first production with UAH Theatre.



RONNIE FOREMAN – LIGHTING DESIGNER

Ronnie is a Junior Computer Engineer major. Ronnie grew up in Huntsville, went to Sparkman High, participated in drama and graduated in 2007. After graduation Ronnie served 6 years in the Navy to pay for college. Four years of service was on the aircraft carrier, USS George Washington.



RON HARRIS – COSTUME DESIGNER

Ron was last seen on the Wilson Theater stage in Mark Robert's *Where the Great Ones Run*, and in Steve Martin's *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. He also designs costumes for Fantasy Playhouse Children's Theater and Arab Musical Theater. His most rewarding and enlightened new endeavor is teaching drama for special needs students at Merrimack Hall where ANYONE who loves to perform can shine.



Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Fall 2014 - UAH Theatre

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All My Sons
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