

Dear Friends,

In 2006 I reached out to the Old Labor Hall to see about renting it for the rehearsals and initial production of a new DIY community "folk opera" called "Hadestown". The Hall seemed spiritually right for a piece that contained a lot of Depression-era imagery as well as themes of industry and labor. If I remember right, I put a deposit down and started selling tickets to the show before it even existed-- it was basically a handful of songs scribbled in a notebook! I started working with director/designer Ben t. Matchstick, who pulled together a gorgeous local cast and readied the show with just two weeks of rehearsal, and arranger/orchestrator Michael Chorney, who worked at a similarly furious pace to ready the music and the musicians. It was a complete leap of faith on the part of everyone involved, including the Old Labor Hall, and I don't think the thing could have been born any other way. The rest is some kind of history, as "Hadestown" finally landed on Broadway in the spring of 2019 after a long and winding path of development. I'm forever grateful to the folks at the Old Labor Hall for giving us our first home, and also grateful that in addition to their passion for history, they also have a keen interest in "the now"-- in helping to foster what is vital today in the community they serve. Sending love and gratitude to this wonderful organization. – Anais Mitchell, May 18, 2002