

No. R-14. House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical *Hadestown* and the Vermont theatrical youth ensembles now staging exhilarating teen performances.

(H.C.R.9)

Offered by Representatives Chapin of East Montpelier, Birong of Vergennes, Casey of Montpelier, Cordes of Bristol, Donahue of Northfield, Goslant of Northfield, LaMont of Morristown, McCann of Montpelier, McGill of Bridport, Mihaly of Calais, North of Ferrisburgh, and Yacovone of Morristown

Offered by Senators Hardy, Perchlik, and Watson

Whereas, shortly after New Haven's Anaïs Mitchell graduated from Middlebury College in 2004, she completed the original minimalist version of the future Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Hadestown*, a modern rendition of the Greek legend of Orpheus's ultimately futile journey into the underworld of Hades to return Eurydice, his wife, to the world of the living, and

Whereas, in 2006, Anaïs Mitchell; Lincoln's Michael Chorney, orchestrator; Montpelier's Ben T. Matchstick, co-creator; and other theatrically talented Vermonters premiered *Hadestown* at the Old Labor Hall in Barre, and in 2013, Anaïs Mitchell, in collaboration with Broadway director Rachel Chavkin, Michael Chorney, and others began revising *Hadestown* for greater theatrical glory, and East Montpelier's Robinson Morse has been an on-stage performing musician with the show since at least 2019, and

Whereas, on April 17, 2019, the dream became a reality when *Hadestown* debuted to rave reviews at Broadway's Walter Kerr Theater, and in June of 2019, the creators' unusual perseverance was recognized when *Hadestown* received eight Tony Awards (Broadway's highest accolade and the most any show won that year), among which were Best Musical, Best Direction of a Musical (Rachel Chavkin), Best Original Score (Anaïs Mitchell), and Best Orchestrations (Michael Chorney and Todd Sickafoose), and

Whereas, the young thespians of Peoples Academy in Morrisville and the nonprofit Very Merry Theatre in Burlington recently performed a new teen version of this Vermont-created and Tony Award-winning show, and

Whereas, under the leadership of U-32 Middle and High School Performing Arts Director Erin Galligan Baldwin, and the unique guidance of Anaïs Mitchell and Ben T. Matchstick, an ambitious U-32-Montpelier High School joint presentation of the teen production is currently being staged at U-32, and

Whereas, Vermont youngsters' presentation of the teen version of *Hadestown*, with the support of the musical's creators, is an unusual theatrical event worthy of celebration, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors the Vermonters who created the Tony Award-winning musical *Hadestown* and the Vermont theatrical youth ensembles now staging exhilarating teen performances, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Anaïs Mitchell, Michael Chorney, Ben T. Matchstick, Rachel Chavkin, Robinson Morse, Peoples Academy, the Very Merry Theatre, Erin Galligan-Baldwin, U-32 Middle and High School, and Montpelier High School.