

Ed Madden

Director / Writer

Represented by:

Jessica Stewart

Ed Madden is a director and dramaturg, working primarily with new writing. He is from Bristol and based in London. His production of [Sarah Power's](#) new play, [Welcome to Pemfort](#) recently completed its run at Soho Theatre to excellent reviews. His work also includes the premieres of Jack Bradfield's play [The Habits](#) (2025) at Hampstead Theatre; Sophia Chetin-Leuner's play [This Might Not Be It](#) (2024); Marek Horn's plays [Octopolis](#) (2023) and [Yellowfin](#) (2021); and Sam Steiner's plays [A Table Tennis Play](#) (2019) and [Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons](#) (2015-17), and his dance-theatre and opera work has been seen at the Royal Ballet and Welsh National Opera.

Ed is Associate Dramaturg at the National Theatre, having previously been Resident Director at the NT Studio in 2024.

He has theatre projects in development with Francesca Moody and Jessie Anand. For screen, he is co-writing original feature drama [The Ending](#), with Tessa Ross and Sarah Esberg producing.

THEATRE - AS DIRECTOR

| DATE | PRODUCTION (ROLE) | COMPANY | PROJECT DETAILS |
|------|--------------------|--------------|---|
| 2026 | WELCOME TO PEMFORT | Soho Theatre | <p>by Sarah Power</p> <p>Cast: Sean Delaney, Debra Gillett, Ali Hadji-Heshmati, Lydia Larson</p> <p>"Power's shattering new play uses a living history event to grapple with the stories we tell about - and to - ourselves, and question what happens when the past cannot be shaken off... Madden lets the scripts silences sit, laying out the revelations and their consequences and waiting as we make our minds up about them." - The Guardian</p> <p>"Madden has a strong track record for stewarding thrilling new work, and this is no exception. His sensitive production features four excellent performances... This may not be the play I thought I was getting, but it's certainly one I won't soon forget." - WhatsOnStage</p> <p>"Madden's production is nuanced and sensitive... On the surface Welcome to Pemfort is a naturalistic drama about quirky rural folks. And it's a good example of that! But scratch that surface and it's got a core of steel - an unflinching look at the human condition that's only cosplaying as cute." - Time Out</p> <p>"The nerdy atmosphere is brilliantly and subtly evoked in Madden's wonderful production, and the script by Sarah Power is full of deft, realistic touches... The writer and the director are destined to hit the heights." - The Spectator</p> |

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| 2025 | THE HABITS | Hampstead Theatre | by Jack Bradfield |
| | | | <p>Cast: Debra Baker, Jamie Bisping, Sara Hazemi, Ruby Stokes, Paul Thornley</p> <p>"Never having played Dungeons & Dragons, I can't vouch for the accuracy of Jack Bradfield's play... But it's genuinely entertaining... The performances are superb too. The characters don extravagant costumes towards the end, but long before that Ed Madden's tightly drilled production has presented us with the tics and grievances of a group who find meaning in stories governed by flights of imagination and rolls of the dice." - The Times</p> <p>"Madden's excellent production is both entertaining and gripping, proving how acting, as well as game-playing, is a collective activity. On designer Alys Whitehead's table-and-chairs set, where Laura Howard's lighting and Max Pappenheim's cinematic music evoke steep mountain sides and deep caverns, the actors reign supreme... The result is a funny, tender and quietly inspiring evening. I left the theatre imagining other ways of life." - Arts Desk</p> <p>"The production has incredible timing - both comic and dramatic... It's just bloody good theatre" - Broadway World</p> |
| 2024 | COSI FAN TUTTE | Da Ponte Festival | <p>Music by Mozart Libretto by Da Ponte</p> |
| 2024 | THIS MIGHT NOT BE IT | Bush Theatre | <p>by Sophia Chetin-Leuner</p> <p>Cast: Denzel Baidoo, Debra Baker, and Dolly Webb</p> <p>"Set against the backdrop of the UK's deepening mental health crisis, this timely character piece focuses on the resilient, exhausted workers keeping our underfunded NHS functioning... Madden's measured staging handles the play's serious subject matter with finesse, while teasing out every bit of its dry gallows humour." - The Stage</p> <p>"The relationship between [Angela, played by Debra Baker] and Denzel Baidoo's naive, hot headed, increasingly-disillusioned Jay is beautifully drawn in Ed Madden's subtly directed production. Each tentative step they take towards each other is observed with a quiet, touching truth." - The Telegraph</p> <p>"The setting is an NHS mental health clinic, but the beauty of this piece is that it speaks in a universal language about the way people find ways of co-existing in an office where space is tight and time is short. Small gestures are magnified, resentments fester." - The Times</p> |
| 2023 | THE LIMIT | Royal Opera House, Linbury Theatre | <p>Adapted from Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Lemons Choreography by Kristen McNally Music by Isobel Waller-Bridge Text by Sam Steiner</p> <p>* Nominated for the National Dance Award for Best Modern Choreography</p> <p>"Beg, steal and borrow to get a ticket... The manner in which the movement and text interpreted and interpenetrated one another was itself a revelation. I have never before witnessed anything of that kind and at that level of intensity." - Dance Europe</p> <p>"Sam Steiner's play, set in a world of rationed speech, lends itself to movement, and the dancers here also retain the dialogue, fusing the forms with quiet grace" - The Guardian</p> <p>"A deft, witty staging." - Independent</p> <p>"Dialogue, dance and music fuse effortlessly as the couple ride the changes in life and love... Hayward and Campbell as you have never seen them... A super 70 minutes of theatre, dance theatre, call it what you will" - Seeing Dance</p> |

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| 2023 | OCTOPOLIS | Hampstead Theatre | by Marek Horn |
| | | | Cast: Jemma Redgrave, Ewan Miller |
| | | | "Ed Madden's superb production is sensitive to both the thrilling ideas and shifting emotions of the play." - The Arts Desk |
| | | | "Marek Horn's brilliant, intellectually demanding play... Madden's production is energised... Redgrave fascinates as the bereaved academic, Miller brings fierce intelligence to his role." - The Mail |
| | | | "Horn's cerebral writing is fascinating to listen to... An engrossing night with some superbly observed performances from Redgrave and Miller." - WhatsOnStage |
| | | | "It can be funny, touching, and surprising, but fascination, here, is the priority...Madden directs the piece with an intellectual creativity, turning a very on-the-pagescript into something living and breathing." - Broadway World |
| | | | "Where better than Hampstead to watch the interplay of cutting-edge science with emotional intensity and philosophical unanswerables?" - Libby Purves |
| 2021 | YELLOWFIN | Jessie Anand Productions / Walrus / Southwark Playhouse | by Marek Horn |
| | | | Cast: Nancy Crane, Nicholas Day, Joshua James, Beruce Khan |
| | | | * Nominated for five Off-West End Awards, including for Best New Play and Best Director. |
| | | | "Ed Madden's traverse staging of Horn's interval-free text swims by beautifully... This world premiere run of the play is urgent, astute and persuasive." - The Times |
| | | | "Madden's tidy production allows Horn's skilful wordplay to take centre stage... The climactic moments are superbly well constructed, leading to a delicious denouement. I guarantee you'll never look at a tin of tuna in quite the same way" - WhatsOnStage |
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| | | | "A rare glimpse of that vanishing species: the play of ideas." - The Telegraph |
| | | | "Sharp, tangy and truly hilarious... Much credit goes to director Ed Madden for showcasing and framing these performances with finesse, [finding] dynamism in exquisite pacing and in Pappenheim's sound world." - Exeunt |
| | | | "Smart, funny, scary: an absolute bream of a play. An ace cast in a diamond production." - David Jays |
| 2019 | A TABLE TENNIS PLAY | Walrus / Underbelly Cowgate, Edinburgh Festival Fringe | by Sam Steiner |
| | | | Cast: Beth Holmes, Euan Kitson and Rosa Robson |
| | | | "Heartsore drama, vivid theatricality... In Ed Madden's production, every minute feels beautifully considered, and his cast smash it out of the park. " - Sunday Times |
| | | | "Madden's production remains largely abstract; a perfect counter for characters that are so vividly drawn... An absolute ace." - WhatsOnStage |
| | | | "In Ed Madden's beautifully judged, brilliantly acted production, a play that takes its time comes up like a bruise." - Fest |
| | | | "You want to hang on to every last word." - Telegraph |

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| 2018 | A NUMBER | The Other Room, Cardiff | by Caryl Churchill Welsh premiere Cast: Brendan Charleson and Stevie Raine "Madden's subtle production... Deftly directed and performed." - The Stage "A poised presentation of this beautifully thoughtful tale" - British Theatre Guide "More pertinent, more perceptive, and more powerful than ever." - The Reviews Hub |
| 2017 | THE WORLD'S WIFE | Welsh National Opera / Taliesin Arts Centre / Mavron Quartet | Music by Tom Green Libretto by Carol Ann Duffy Cast: Amanda Forbes and the Mavron Quartet "This stunning one-woman show... Skilfully directed by Ed Madden." - The Arts Desk "Simply staged... Amanda Forbes brilliantly turns from Medusa's fury to Anne Hathaway's tenderness to Salome's vampy vacuum cleaner cabaret." - The Times "An intimate experience, painting the sharp wit and emotional push-me-pull-you of Duffys' poetry... Sensitively wrought." - The Stage |
| 2015-2017 | LEMONS LEMONS LEMONS | Warwick Arts Centre / Zoo Southside, Edinburgh Festival Fringe / Roundabout at Summerhall / UK Tour | by Sam Steiner Cast: Beth Holmes and Euan Kitson "I don't even want to think about how young this company is... About as promising as debuts get." - Time Out "Beautifully choreographed by director Ed Madden." - The Guardian "An intelligent, confident, beautifully formed piece of theatrical metaphor... Madden's subtle, effective production." - Fest |

THEATRE - AS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

| DATE | PRODUCTION (ROLE) | COMPANY | PROJECT DETAILS |
|------|-------------------|---|--|
| 2022 | LEOPOLDSTADT | Sonia Friedman Productions / Longacre Theatre, Broadway | By Tom Stoppard Dir. Patrick Marber |
| 2021 | HABEAS CORPUS | Menier Chocolate Factory | By Alan Bennett Dir. Patrick Marber |
| 2021 | LEOPOLDSTADT | Sonia Friedman Productions / Wyndham's Theatre | By Tom Stoppard Dir. Patrick Marber |
| 2019 | TARTUFFE | National Theatre | By Molière adapt. John Donnelly Dir. Blanche McIntyre |
| 2018 | THE WINTER'S TALE | Shakespeare's Globe | By William Shakespeare Dir. Blanche McIntyre |
| 2016 | THE CHILDREN | Royal Court | By Lucy Kirkwood Dir. James Macdonald |

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| 2016 | THE RIVALS | Bristol Old Vic / Glasgow Citizens / Liverpool Everyman | By Richard Brinsley Sheridan Dir. Dominic Hill |
| 2016 | THE IPHIGENIA QUARTET: AGAMEMNON/CHORUS | Gate Theatre, Notting Hill | By Caroline Bird / Chris Thorpe Dir. Christopher Haydon / Elayce Ismail |

FEATURE FILM

| PRODUCTION (ROLE) | PROJECT DETAILS |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| THE ENDLING | Co-writer In development |
