

OYY get off yer couch and into a swampy seat at Mission Viejo's "Shrek The Musical" **4/30/22**

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Emerging from the boggy swamp home of his, Shrek wants nothing more than to be left alone by the "Big Bright Beautiful World" that likes to laugh in his ugly Ogre face. Little does he know with the introduction of Donkey's expertise: Friendship, his perspective of the onion and all its layers within him will significantly change. Through daring adventures, and contrasting characters Mission Viejo's Shrek lets their freak flag fly way high.

A green blob of temperamental grouch Shrek (Caleb Smith) explodes onstage in his enthusiasm, absolutely nailing his accent as well as his sluggish physicality. Smith simultaneously brings incredible vocal strength in his emotive ballads such as "Who I'd Be," "When Words Fail," and "Build a Wall."

His comedic sidekick spunky as ever, Donkey (Brooke Metoyer) has a continuous commitment to her character, actively applauding with a clunk of her hooves or an apprehensive pointed leg to the side. Metoyer embodies her rambunctious and heartwarming persona and dynamic alongside Shrek. Fiona's (Anna Mut) determination and development shine through also, as Mut keeps spirits high through it all.

Lord Farquadd (Adam Cox) provides preposterous comedic relief seen in "What's Up Duloc?" capturing not only the physicality of his shortened height but the lack of gravitas the feeble Lord holds, whiney and petulant he thrives onstage. In direct contrast Dragon (Annabelle Shumaker) is radiant and feared, her imposing eyes and compelling vocals in "Forever" tantalize the audience and her captives.

The Fairytale Creatures bring vitality and individuality to their characters specifically in "Story of my Life" and "Freak Flag." Pinocchio (Rachel Bolich) reacting to a nose growing ever so long, Gingy (Hannah Stonebarger): her squeaks alarmingly powerful, and the Three Little Pigs (Francesca Fleeson, Gianna Lopez, Bella Swanson) whose efficacious stage presence claims the eyes and hearts of viewers.

Every character's Makeup (Pheonix Mella) was unique and stylized with a whimsical flair. Shining down upon the fabulous facial expressions of the actors, the Follow Spot Operator (Liad Howell-Karabenik) was consistent and executed to near perfection meeting the actors on the marks throughout the production.

In Mission Viejo High School's Production of "Shrek," the cast and crew combine vibrant visuals, with deep meaningful morals that remind us to never judge a book by its cover or judge an Ogre by its stench.