

Singer/Dancer/Actor Andre Jordan on 'Shrek: The Musical'

Playing 'Donkey,' a character based on positivity, has been an important life lesson

Lisa Loving
Of *The Skanner News*

Continuing its string of family-friendly musical productions, Fred Meyer Best of Broadway brings "Shrek: The Musical" to the Keller Auditorium in downtown Portland starting Sept. 13. Built around a tight cast of ogres, royals, story-book figures – and one hilarious donkey – the show wowed New York audiences with its elaborate sets and costumes, its music and its engaging characters. We spoke with the multi-talented Andre Jordan, newly cast as Donkey, about his career, his life goals,

Dramatic Academy and lived here in the city. Just last year I was in the national tour of "Legally Blonde," I played Carlos, the pool boy's boyfriend. I had a great time. I was in the original cast of "Toy Story: The Musical." "Rent," "Aida." I've been pretty busy for the past five years, since I started working.

TSN: What do you think about playing Donkey?

Jordan: I'm having a lot of fun doing it. It's Donkey; everyone loves Donkey — no exception. Because Donkey is silly and naïve but he's funny and charming and everyone loves him. The best thing about Donkey is that he doesn't judge. I mean he takes everything at face value, right there for what it is. He doesn't come with any preconceived notions, he's not jaded, he's not bitter. And to be able to play that positivity throughout the show is a lot of fun, and I think that is what I would want people to take away from it. Don't be so seri-

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and what makes this show so much fun.

ous all the time.

The Skanner News: Tell me about yourself. What have you done before this role?

TSN: Where have you toured with this show so far?

Andre Jordan: Before this tour I was in school, I went to the American Musical

Jordan: We've actually just been rehearsing, we're just finishing up about three



fun to play with, and work off of.

TSN: What is your vision for your career? What would you like to do?

Jordan: Oh God, lots of stuff! I've been singing my whole life. I love dance, I love acting, I love doing it all together, so I do want to continue doing it for awhile. But I think it is important to do the best that you can and be a positive role model. I think that's one of the most important things, for kids to have strong role models, and that's what I want to do with myself. Take those necessary steps, do some community outreach like youths – I want to get to a place where I can give back, essentially.

TSN: Anything else you'd like to add?

Jordan: I am beyond happy to be doing this. The cast is a very talented, excited, exciting group of people, and I think that anyone that is going to come and see us is going to really enjoy themselves.

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Rehearsal Photo at Curly in Oklahoma! Photo by Patrick Wintersmeyer

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