



PHOTO BY KATHLEEN WENZEL

Cast members rehearse for CROW's upcoming production of "Shrek the Musical, Jr." in April at the Florence Events Center.

Cast announced for CROW spring production

FLORENCE — After three intensive days of auditions and callbacks in early January, CROW (Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops) announced the cast selected for its upcoming youth musical, "Shrek the Musical, Jr.," to be performed April 15-17 at the Florence Events Center.

"The competition was fierce this year," said artistic director Melanie Heard. "We had many kids who could easily have snagged any of these roles, and believe me when I say that the meeting to make final decisions on the cast was a long, late night."

In the end, Heard said she hoped the experience provided some great opportunities for local youth to shine, as well as provide a great learning experiences for kids wanting to know what it's like to go through a professional musical theatre audition."

The title role of "Shrek" will be played by returning local favorite, Jacob Ternyik. His beautiful Ogress "Fiona" will be portrayed by 16-year-old songbird Lacey Seeley, in her first leading role for the nonprofit youth theatre organization.

Shrek's hilarious wise-cracking sidekick "Donkey" will be played by funnyman Cameron Utz, and the short on charm "Lord Farquard" will be portrayed by

young comedienne Tristin Reber.

Additional supporting roles include "Pinocchio" (Haylee Cole), "Dragon" (Nyah Vollmar) and the "Captain of the Guards" (Ceasar Castillo).

There are also many featured fairy tale and Kingdom of Duloc roles, as well as a "tap dance surprise" that the Florence community may not expect.

With a 52 person cast this time — including seven adorable 4- to 6-year-old "Telegrammers," CROW has already begun the extensive planning and preparation required to produce a youth musical of this size.

The production team has held several meetings and is in the process of securing backdrops, preparing set pieces for painting and design, renting a giant dragon, making costumes and props, and readying the needed materials for the first rehearsal.

CROW strives to provide an extensive arts educational experience for all involved from beginning to end.

Sponsorship and program advertising opportunities are available for local businesses or individuals who are interested, by contacting Melanie Heard at: 541-999-8641.

Heard points out that there are also



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many volunteers who will be working tirelessly to add the sparkle and polish required in a show of this size.

"Shrek Jr." marks CROW's fifth main-stage musical at the FEC, following a string of successes including "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," "The Music Man Jr.," "The

Little Mermaid Jr.," and last year's "Once Upon A Mattress."

For more information on the CROW program, including info about their upcoming "Share Your Heart" fundraiser auction to be held on Feb. 13, visit www.crowkids.com.