

CROW to present hilarious spring production of Shrek the Musical Jr.



According to Children's Repertory of OR Workshops (CROW), nasty will be nice and Florence will be "ogre-the-moon" when CROW presents its fifth main-stage production, "Shrek the Musical Jr." This fun and flatulence-filled family musical will be presented April 15-17 at the Florence Events Center, but this nonprofit youth organization's all-volunteer production team has been working on it for nearly a year already! With music by Jeanine Tesori, book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire, "Shrek The Musical Jr." is based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks animated film and the book, Shrek, by William Steig.

"Shrek The Musical Jr." is an uproarious musical comedy that follows the adventures of an ogre named "Shrek" (played by Jacob Ternyik) who sets off on a quest to save a feisty princess (played by Lacey Seeley) from a giant soul-filled dragon (played by Nyah Vollmar). However, it turns out that in order to ultimately succeed, Shrek must battle an even bigger obstacle: learning how to believe in himself and open his heart to others. Along the way, he meets his comedic sidekick, "Donkey" (played by Cameron Utz) and goes nose to...navel with the diminutive "Lord Farquaad" (played by Tristin Reber).

With a cast of more than 50 children and young adults, including seven adorable 4- to 6-year-old "Telegrammers," CROW works hard to provide the highest caliber sets, costumes, props and special effects for participants.

"The arts have the power to impact our youth in ways that nothing else can," says Melanie Heard, artistic director of CROW. "Shrek's unique story of discovery encourages each of us to examine our prejudices, review what we believe to be our

limitations and work to better understand ourselves and others. Our cast members have embarked on a similar journey, learning more about themselves and each other while collaborating towards the common goal of presenting this musical."

As with anything CROW does, Heard stresses that "Shrek the Musical Jr." is much more than just cute kids singing and dancing. "This musical holds a strong central theme, which is relatable to all of us," says Heard. Shrek has learned the hard way that "people hate the things they cannot understand." For many years he has protected himself from the hurtful actions of those who are scared of him by living as a recluse in a cozy cesspit.

One day, his peaceful swamp is disturbed by new tenants: fairytale misfits — including Pinocchio, the Ugly Duckling, the Wicked Witch, Peter Pan, the Three Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf — who have been banished there by the villainous Lord Farquaad. In order to gain back his land, Shrek makes a deal with Farquaad to rescue Fiona from a tower guarded by a fierce dragon. Setting off with his wise-cracking companion, Donkey, Shrek begins the journey of a lifetime filled with adventure, romance and hilarity.

Tickets are on sale now at the Florence Events Center. They are \$16 for adults and \$8 for kids ages 12 and under. There will be four public performances: Friday, April 15, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, April 16 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Sunday, April 17, at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be obtained by calling: 541-997-1994 or online at www.eventcenter.org



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