

# Connect Theatre presents



**Based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig**

**Book and Lyrics by  
David Lindsay-Abaire**

**Music by  
Jeanine Tesori**

Originally produced on Broadway by  
DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

**May 5, 2022 to May 15, 2022**

Dundas Baptist Church – 201 Governors Rd, Dundas, ON

**Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased online at**

<https://www.connecttheatre.com/tickets>

Connect Theatre is excited to present Shrek The Musical. Returning from a two year break due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, our creative team are thrilled to bring musical theatre back to Dundas & the greater Hamilton Community.

Based on the 2001 Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animated film, Shrek The Musical is a Tony Award-winning fairy tale adventure, featuring all new songs from Jeanine Tesori (Thoroughly Modern Millie; Caroline, or Change) and a sidesplitting book by David Lindsay-Abaire.

Connect Theatre's production of Shrek The Musical stars Nicholas Paolone (Hometown: Brampton) as Shrek, Joelle Hynes (Rockton) and Molly Taylor (Dundas) as Fiona, Kobe Banks (Dundas) as Donkey, Lennox Maximus (Hamilton) as Lord Farquaad, Nydia Ramos (Hamilton) and Tanya Bell (Dundas) as Dragon, Giselle Magie (Dundas) and Jordi Banks (Dundas) as Gingy, Layne Mckellar (Hamilton) and Ciara Kinsella (Dundas) as Pinocchio with an Ensemble of twelve young performers that includes Kaitlyn Bell (Dundas), Abby Bishop (Dundas), Francesca Boffa (Dundas), Sarah Chadwick (Hamilton),

Victoria Finnigan (Hamilton), Rhys Gupta (Dundas), Adelaide Hunking (Dundas), Nicholas Jessup (Stouffville), Tilly Loaker (Dundas), Josh Madill (Rockton), Sophie Mills (Hamilton) and Hailey Ough (Hamilton).

Connect Theatre's production of *Shrek The Musical* is produced by Paula Penton (Ancaster) and Mariah Loaker (Dundas); directed by Paula Penton (Ancaster); with musical direction by Christopher Bee (St. Catharines); choreography by Mariah Loaker (Dundas), Jordi Banks (Dundas) and Taylor Frisina (Hamilton), stage management by Darren Green (Burlington), sets and construction by Valeria Milostivyi, Rob Taylor, Julia Gupta, Bria Darke, and Ron Tidgwell, Costumes by Pamela Blackwood-Marques (Hamilton), Lighting and Sound by Brian Junaid (Dundas), with stage crew assistance from Briana Szigeti-Jonasson (Hamilton).

All attendees are required to wear a face covering and show proof of double vaccination if over the age of 12. Capacity limits and physical distancing measures have been put into place to ensure the safety of our actors and audience members.

### **PLOT SYNOPSIS**

When a green ogre named Shrek discovers his swamp has been besieged with all sorts of fairytale creatures by the scheming Lord Farquaad, Shrek sets out with a very loud donkey by his side to persuade Farquaad to give Shrek his swamp back. Instead, a deal is made. Farquaad, who wants to become the King, sends Shrek to rescue Princess Fiona, who is awaiting her true love in a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon. But once they head back with Fiona, it starts to become apparent that not only does Shrek, an ugly ogre, begin to fall in love with the lovely princess, but Fiona is also hiding a huge secret.

### **CREATIVE TEAM BIOS**

**JEANINE TESORI (Music)** won the Tony Award for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for the musical *Fun Home*. She has also written Tony-nominated scores for *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek The Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abair). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical *Violet* (lyrics, Brian Crawley) opened on Broadway in 2014 and garnered four Tony nominations, including Best Musical Revival. *Opera: A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto, Tony Kushner; *Glimmerglass*) and *The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me* (libretto, J. D. McClatchy, Kennedy Center). Music for plays: *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala). Film scores: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Every Day*, and *You're Not You*. Ms. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild and was cited by the ASCAP as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway. She was the founding artistic director of *Encores! Off-Center* at New York City Center, and a lecturer in music at Yale University. Most of all, she is the proud parent of Siena Rafter.

**DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE (Book & Lyrics)** is a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist. His most recent play, *Ripcord*, opens this fall at Manhattan Theatre Club. His previous play *Good People* premiered on Broadway, was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, The Horton Foote Prize, The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, and two Tony nominations. His play *Rabbit Hole* received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, five Tony nominations, and the Spirit of America Award. David also wrote the book and lyrics for *Shrek the Musical*, which was nominated for eight Tonys, four Oliviers, a Grammy, and earned David the Ed Kleban Award as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. David's other plays include *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World* and *A Devil Inside*, among others. In addition to his work in theatre, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole*, Dreamworks' *Rise of the Guardians*, and the upcoming *Family Fang*, starring Nicole Kidman, Christopher Walken and Jason Bateman.

**PAULA PENTON (Producer/Director)** is a graduate of McMaster University and a teacher at Bernie Custis Secondary School. Paula founded Connect Theatre with the support of The Dundas Baptist Church. She worked on several musicals with the HWDSB before founding Connect Theatre in 2017. Paula directed and produced Connect Theatre's productions of Footloose, Guys and Dolls and Mamma Mia.

**MARIAH LOAKER (Producer/Choreographer)** is a graduate of the Musical Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College. This is Mariah's fourth production with Connect Theatre. After being the vocal director for Footloose, Guys and Doll and Mamma Mia, she had stepped into the role of Choreographer for the very first time with Shrek the Musical.

**CHRISTOPHER BEE (Musical Director)** has been an arranger, performer and instructor of vocal and instrumental music for over 15 years. Christopher graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts in Vocal and Instrumental Music from Grand Valley State University (Michigan) and has been the Musical Director for many productions in the Hamilton area including: And the World Goes 'Round (HTI), Footloose (Westdale Musical Theatre) and Curtains (Shooting Star). Equally at home in the pit or on stage, he has also performed various roles in musicals including The Baker in Into the Woods (HTI), Judge Turpin in Sweeney Todd (HTI) and Zozer in Aida (Theatre Ancaster).

### CONNECT THEATRE

Connect Theatre puts on high quality musical theatre performances, while providing a safe space for young theatre artists to build relationships, grow their self-confidence and hone their craft. By providing youth the opportunity to engage in the creative process, we can effectively support them as they develop skills for excellence in self and community. Each year we host a full-scale musical. Connect Theatre was founded in 2017 and has produced four successful musicals including 13 The Musical, Footloose, Guys and Dolls, and Mamma Mia. This year Connect Theatre is excited to present Shrek The Musical at Dundas Baptist Church. Connect Theatre believes in passion, fun, and fantastic youth theatre.

### SPONSORS

A special thanks to our Sponsors Hamilton Community Foundation, Long & McQuade, AVTek Productions and Dundas Baptist Church.



Dundas Baptist  
Church



### SHREK THE MUSICAL COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

Shrek The Musical is presented through special arrangement with Musical Theatre International (MTI). All authorized show materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIshows.com](http://www.MTIshows.com) The videotaping or audio recording of this production are strictly prohibited. ■ "I'm a Believer" (Neil Diamond) (c) 1966 Stonebridge Music, Foray Music. All rights administered by Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC (SESAC), on behalf of Stonebridge Music, and by Foray Music (SESAC). All rights reserved. ■ Used by permission. Shrek The Musical Theatre for Young Audiences Version premiered at The Coterie, Kansas City, MO; Jeff Church Producing Artistic Director, Anthony Edwards Music Director.

<https://www.connecttheatre.com/>

**Facebook:** @connecttheatre **Instagram:** @connect.theatre.project