

JANUARY 15-25, 2026

DREAMWORKS

SHREK

THE MUSICAL

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

Book and Cyrics by

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Music by

JEANINE TESORI

Original Production Directed by
Jason Moore & Rob Ashford

Originally produced on Broadway by
DreamWorks Theatricals and
Neal Street Productions

Directed by

Daniel F. Lendzian

Musical Direction by
Rebecca Kroetsch

Choreography by
Joey Bucheker & Emily Weber



FOR A COMPLETE PLAYBILL SCAN OR VISIT OCONNELLANDCOMPANY.COM

O'Connell & Company Productions
presents

SHREK

THE MUSICAL

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 the Broadway by
DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS and **NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS**
“I’m a Believer” by **NEIL DIAMOND**

starring

NICHOLAS LAMA **AUDRIANNA YATES** **JAKE HAYES**

DASIA CERVI **CHRISENA ASLEIGH RICCI** **COREY BIEBER**

with

MERRICK ALLEN **SAM CRYSTAL** **JESSIE FERKIN** **PIPER GABEL**
CODY GOOLEY **TAYLOR LEE HALL** **MATTI LaVIGNE** **MELANIE STANG**
CHRISTOPHER WAGNER **FINN WAHL** **MICHAEL WELLS**

and

JOEY BUCHEKER

Scenic Design by

RICH MERANTO

Costume Design by

TIMMY GOODMAN

Lighting Design by

JAY MARKS

Dragon Puppet Design by

AUDRIANNA YATES and **NICHOLAS LAMA**

Gingy Puppet Design by

ADAM KREUTINGER

Dance Captain
ASHLEIGH CHRISENA RICCI

Stage Manager
RYAN BRADT

Choreography by
JOEY BUCHEKER and **EMILY WEBER**

Musical Direction by
REBECCA KROETSCH

Directed by

DANIEL F. LENDZIAN

Original Production Directed by **JASON MOORE** and **ROB ASHFORD**

CAST

(in alphabetical order)

Sticks, Captain of the Guard, Knight.....	MERRICK ALLEN
Pinocchio, Knight.....	COREY BIEBER
Lord Farquaad.....	JOEY BUCHEKER
Dragon, Mad Hatter.....	DASIA CERVI
Baby Bear, Teen Fiona, Dwarf.....	SAM CRYSTAL
Queen Lillian, Wicked Witch, Duloc Greeter.....	JESSIE FERKIN
Young Fionna, The Ugly Duckling.....	PIPER GABEL
Bricks, Knight.....	CODY GOOLEY
Shoe Maker's Elf, Blind Mouse	TAYLOR LEE HALL
Donkey.....	JAKE HAYES
Shrek.....	NICHOLAS LAMA
King Harold, Thelonious, Big Bad Wolf, Puppeteer....	MATTI LaVIGNE
Gingy, Sugar Plum Fairy, Blind Mouse....	ASHLEIGH CHRISENA RICCI
Moma Ogre, Moma Bear, Blind Mouse.....	MELANIE STANG
Papa Ogre, Papa Bear, Pied Piper, Knight....	CHRISTOPHER WAGNER
Young Shrek, Peter Pan, Puppeteer.....	FINN WAHL
Straw, Bishop, Puppeteer.....	MICHAEL WELLS
Princess Fiona.....	AUDRIANNA YATES

CREATIVE TEAM

Director.....	DANIEL F. LENDZIAN
Music Director.....	REBECCA KROETSCH
Choreographers.....	JOEY BUCHEKER and EMILY WEBER
Stage Manager.....	RYAN BRADT
Dance Captain.....	ASHLEIGH CHRISENA RICCI
Scenic Designer.....	RICH MERANTO
Costume Designer.....	TIMMY GOODMAN
Lighting Designer.....	JAY MARKS
Dragon Puppet Designers....	AUDRIANNA YATES and NICHOLAS LAMA
Gingy Puppet Designer.....	ADAM KRUETINGER

Shrek The Musical

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI.



www.mtishows.com

MUSICAL NUMBERS

Act I

“Big Bright Beautiful World”

“Story of My Life”

“The Goodbye Song”

“Don’t Let Me Go”

“What’s Up. Duloc?”

“I Know It’s Today”

“Travel Song”

“Forever”

“This Is How a Dream Comes True”

“Who I’d Be”

Act II

“Morning Person”

“I Think I Got You Beat”

“Ballad of Farquaad”

“Make a Move”

“When Words Fail”

“Morning Person” (Reprise)

“Build a Wall”

“Freak Flag”

“Big Bright Beautiful World” (Reprise)

“Finale”

“I’m a Believer”

THERE WILL BE ONE 15-MINUTE INTERMISSION

ANY VIDEO AND/OR AUDIO RECORDING OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

WHO'S WHO

NICHOLAS LAMA (Shrek) is beyond thrilled to be living out his dream role with O'Connell & Company on the Shea's Smith Stage. Previous credits include STRING THE MUSICAL (Mickey) at The Kavinoky Theatre, WAITRESS (Cal) with MusicalFare, and KHAN! THE MUSICAL (Scotty) with O'Connell & Company. Thank you to his friends, family, and Audrey (Fiona) for the constant support.

AUDRIANNA YATES (Fiona) is excited to be back at O'Connell & Company! You may have seen her recently in productions such as 9 TO 5 (Violet Newstead) SWEET CHARITY (Carmen/Ensemble), PIPPIN (Player), KHAN!!! (Dr. Carol Marcus), THE MARVELOUS WONDERETTES: DREAM ON (Suzie), THE LITTLE MERMAID (Flotsam), BEAUTIFUL (Cynthia Weil), EVITA (Eva Perone), JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR (Mary Magdalene), SMOKEY JOE'S CAFÉ (Patty), THE TAMING (Bianca). Audrianna would like to thank her parents, her son Cory for being her biggest fan, and Nick for all the love and support.

JAKE HAYES (Donkey) is thrilled to be working with O'Connell & Company again! It's an honor to tell this story. Favorite Credits O'Connell & Company: LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Audrey II) *Artie Nomination*, Kavinoky: KING JAMES, Musical Fare: THE PROM, Curtain Up Productions: BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Beast), RLTP: LITTLE WOMEN NOW (Laurie) SUPERIOR DOUGHNUTS (Franco) ICTC: HAMLET (Guildenstern) ArtPark: THE ODYSSEY THE MUSICAL (Telemachus), Buffalo Boys Productions: ONCE IN MY LIFETIME (Ty) Shakespeare in Delaware Park: AS YOU LIKE IT (Oliver). Jake wants to thank his Rose, family and friends for their support. Love you Gma

JOEY BUCHEKER (Lord Farquaad) is a performer, director, choreographer, playwright, and producer. He is a 6 time BroadwayWorld Regional Award winner and is currently tied as the most-nominated living Artie Award loser. Performing Credits include Off-Broadway: TONY N' TINA'S WEDDING. Regional: HELLO, DOLLY! starring Carole Cook, MAME with Bill Hayes and Susan Seaforth, THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES (Rose), THE ADDAMS FAMILY (Gomez), KILLER RACK (Candida), YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (Igor), CABARET (Emcee), A CHORUS LINE (Greg), ART (Yvan), THE PAJAMA GAME (Hines), IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU (Albert), REEFER MADNESS (Ralph), KHAN!!! (Chekov) and the title role in AN ACT OF GOD. Choreography credits include PIPPIN, CHICAGO, DAMN YANKEES, OKLAHOMA!, and THE RINK. He is the creator and co-writer of the award-winning BETSY CARMICHAEL'S BINGO series. Joey holds a BFA in Theatre from Niagara University. He was awarded with the Key to the City of Buffalo and a Day named in his honor.

WHO'S WHO

MERRICK ALLEN (Sticks, Captain of the Guard, and Others) is so excited to return to the O'Connell & Company Stage alongside such a passionate and talented cast and crew. After graduating from SUNY Fredonia with a BFA in Musical Theatre, Merrick has been a part of many productions in Western New York including but not limited to GRAND HORIZONS (Brian), and CHESS (Anatoly) at Lancaster Opera House. He also recently appeared at O'Connell & Company in OKLAHOMA! (Curly). You may have also seen him most recently in BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY (Robert) at Aurora Players. He would like to thank his incredible friends and family for their unending love and constant support.

COREY BIEBER (Pinocchio and Others) is happy to be back on stage with O'Connell & Company. Previously seen as Cinderellas Prince/Wolf in INTO THE WOODS, Jack/Jesus in REEFER MADNESS both receiving the *Artie Award for Outstanding Ensemble of a Musical*, Francis the Stage Manager in LA CAGE AUX FOLLES. Some favorite roles include Seymour in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS and Lefou in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. Thanks to O'Connell & Company for this opportunity and his family for love and support. Love you baby Cora!

DASIA CERVI (Dragon and Others) is elated to be back working with O'Connell & Company in their production of SHREK after appearing in KHAN!!! as Uhura and INTO THE WOODS as Lucinda last season. Some of her favorite credits include Deloris Van Cartier in SISTER ACT at the Lockport Palace Theater, Crystal in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS at the Lancaster Opera House, Effie White in DREAMGIRLS at Sheas 710 for which she received the *BroadwayWorld Regional Award* for Best Performer in a Musical! Dasia is also known on Tik Tok as "Dasia Karlee" (@dasiakarlee27), a singer-songwriter and music performer. She recently released her debut EP called "The Grievance Gallery" available on all streaming platforms.

SAM CRYSTAL (Teen Fiona, Baby Bear, and Others) is thrilled to be back on stage with O'Connell & Company! Favorite credits include THE PROM (Emma) with MusicalFare, INTO THE WOODS (Little Red)-*Artie Nom. Supporting Actress*, and WICKET: A STAR WARS PARODY MUSICAL (Wicket) -*Artie Nom. Leading Actress* with O'Connell & Company, DRUNK PETER PAN (Smee) with Drunk Theatre Buffalo, RENT (Joanne) and FALSETTOS (Dr. Charlotte) with Bellissima Productions. Love to my dad, friends, everyone at O'Connell & Company and every frog in the entire world. @camsrystal

WHO'S WHO

JESSIE FERKIN (Wicked Witch, Queen, and Others) is thrilled to be performing with O'Connell & Company once again. Jessie was last seen with O'Connell & Company in PIPPIN (Ensemble/Scenic Painter), CHICAGO (Go-To-Hell Kitty), SUNSET BOULEVARD (Ensemble), and DAMN YANKEES (Ensemble). Other favorite Buffalo credits include Samantha Tuttle in SORRY! WRONG CHIMNEY! (Desiderio's Dinner Theatre), Columbia in THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (The Francis Bacon Experiment), Tamora in TITUS XX (The Brazen Faced Varlets), and Peaseblossom/Dance Captain in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Shakespeare in Delaware Park). Jessie would like to thank her amazing husband Adam for all of his love and support.

PIPER GABEL (Young Fionna, The Ugly Duckling) is honored to be returning to O'Connell & Company, having last charmed audiences in THE RINK as Young Angel. Favorite roles include MATILDA JR. (Matilda) and ANNIE JR. (Annie). Piper enjoys singing with her three sisters and has performed with them at Radio City Music Hall, Yankee Stadium, and Madison Square Garden. Piper sends love and thanks to her family for their constant encouragement, and to Miss Mary Kate and Mr. Joey for giving her the chance to shine in Shrek.

CODY GOOLEY (Bricks and Others) is so incredibly excited to be performing again with O'Connell & Company after appearing in the latest installment of THE GOLDEN GIRLS: THE LOST EPISODES. Cody is a recent graduate of SUNY Fredonia where he received his BFA in Acting with a minor in Business Administration. He just completed playing Romeo in Shakespeare in Delaware Park's 50 for 50 tour of ROMEO AND JULIET (ABRIDGED). Other credits include: TWELFTH NIGHT (Sir Toby), BALTIMORE WALTZ (The Third Man), THE CRUCIBLE (John Proctor u/s) at SUNY Fredonia, LEGALLY BLONDE (Warner), LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS (Audrey 2), and [TITLE OF SHOW] (Hunter).

TAYLOR LEE HALL (Shoe Maker's Elf and Others) is thrilled to be back at O'Connell & Company! Past roles include DOGFIGHT (Marcy) and BRACE FOR IMPACT (Lily) (*Artie Nom. for Best New Play*) with Bellissima Productions, and GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL (Fran) and KHAN!!! THE MUSICAL! (Ensemble) with O'Connell & Company. She graduated with a BFA in Theatre Performance from the University at Buffalo. She would like to thank her friends, family, and partner Michael for their constant love and support!

WHO'S WHO

MATTI LAVIGNE (Big Bad Wolf, Thelonious, and Others) is very excited to be back on the stage and with O'Connell & Company after appearing in PIPPIN. Some of his other favorite roles consist of Emmett in LEGALLY BLONDE as well as Lumière in BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. You might just run into his drag persona Maddie L'amour on a night out! He thanks his amazing friends and family for their support and unconditional love.

ASHLEIGH CHRISENA RICCI (Gingy, Sugar Plum Fairy, and Others) is so happy to be back with O'Connell & Company. Recently you may have seen her as Clotho in STRING at the D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre, or last season as Junie B. in JINGLE BELLS BATMAN SMELLS at Theatre of Youth or Catherine in PIPPIN (*Artie Nominated*) with O'Connell & Company for which she just received the *BroadwayWorld Regional Award* for Best Supporting Performer in a Musical. When not on stage, she is the host for Buffalo Toronto Public Media's 'Let's Go' (Emmy Nominated). She'd like to thank her friends, family and husband Chris for their endless love and support.

MELANIE STANG (Moma Ogre, Moma Bear, and Others) is a Buffalo-based performer, director, educator, and creator whose work blends heart, humor, and community. A graduate of SUNY New Paltz's Theatre Arts program, she has spent the past two decades performing across New York and the country, while also founding and leading MEL's School of Music & Theatre (2018–2025). She has directed and produced over 30 youth productions and taught hundreds of students. Melanie is especially excited to appear in Shrek the Musical, a show she has had the joy of directing twice before. Favorite past roles include Richard Henry Lee in 1776 with O'Connell & Company and Belinda Sue in Donna Hoke's ONCE IN MY LIFETIME: A BUFFALO FOOTBALL FANTASY at Lancaster Opera House. Thank you to her family for their support, especially her husband Ryan and three daughters, Rylie, DD & Shay!

CHRISTOPHER WAGNER (Papa Ogre, Papa Bear, Pied Piper, and Others) is so happy to be back at Shea's Smith! He was previously seen with O'Connell & Company in PLAID TIDINGS (Jinx), GRUMPY OLD MEN: THE MUSICAL (Jacob), KHAN!!! (Bones), and INTO THE WOODS (Rapunzel's Prince). Christopher is an active performer in Western New York, appearing with Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Starring Buffalo, Harmonia Chamber Singers, and was a vocalist in the Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus' 2020 Grammy Award-winning recording. He thanks his family and his partner, Dillon, for all of their constant support.

WHO'S WHO

FINN WAHL (Young Shrek, Peter Pan, Puss in Boots, Puppeteer) is beyond stoked to make his Buffalo theatre debut in SHREK! His favorite roles in school and community theatre include MATILDA JR (Bruce), A CHRISTMAS CAROL (Turkey Boy), and PETER PAN (Michael Darling). When he's not on stage, Finn loves drawing, playing video games, and loving up his pet cats. Much love to my family - even my little sister, Nora.

MICHAEL WELLS (Straw, Bishop, and Others) is thrilled to be returning to the O'Connell & Company! Michael graduated from the University at Buffalo with a BFA in Music Theatre. Some recent credits include STRING and SWEET CHARITY with D'Youville Kavinoky Theatre. CRAZY FOR YOU (Lank Hawkins) and THE WIZARD OF OZ (Zeke/The Cowardly Lion) with Lancaster Opera House. ELEPHANT & PIGGIE'S "WE ARE IN A PLAY!" (Gerald) with the Kenan Center. OKLAHOMA! (Jud Fry), REEFER MADNESS (Artie Award Winner for Outstanding Ensemble), and PLAID TIDINGS (Frankie), with O'Connell and Company. He would like to thank his partner, Taylor, friends, and family for their constant support in everything he does.

O'CONNELL & COMPANY SHEA'S SMITH SERIES SPONSORED BY



O'CONNELL & COMPANY PRODUCTIONS, INC.

O'Connell & Company Board of Directors

Sara Goldhawk, Chair

David Granville, Vice Chair

Darleen Knutsen, Secretary

Pamela Rose Mangus, Treasurer

Kelly Bova Kim Piazza John Paul Pirrone

Daniel Lendzian Michael Starzynski

Marilyn Singer **Todd Warfield**



2025-26 Season

Shea's Smith Theatre



November 21-December 7



January 15-25

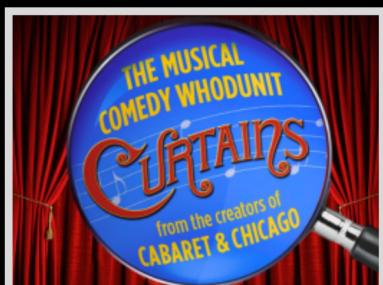
Canterbury Woods Performing Arts Center



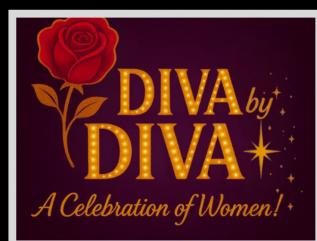
February 19-March 1



April 9-19



April 30-May 16



THE MEETING HOUSE

December 17, February 25,
March 11, and May 13

(716) 848-0800
OCONNELLANDCOMPANY.COM

