



## Shrek The Musical Review May 2020

On Thursday 19th March and Friday 20th March 2020, my classmates and I watched the movie of a live theatre performance of "Shrek The Musical" starring Sutton Foster as Princess Fiona and Brian d'Arcy James as Shrek. It was based on the 2001 Dreamworks movie called "Shrek" and won eight Tony awards, twelve Drama Desk awards and a Grammy award for "Best Musical Show Album."

The plot follows an ogre named Shrek having fairytale creatures left in his swamp. To remove them from his swamp, he must rescue a princess from a tower guarded by a fire-breathing dragon on the orders of the cunning Lord Farquaad. Along the way, he has more adventures than he was intending to have with many songs and dances.

The characterisation was really effective as the play tries to make the audience feel connected to the character. I love how it exaggerates the personalities of the characters but not go too over the top at the same time. By doing this, it creates lovable and relatable characters as people love the humour behind it. The emotions on the characters were believable too. The cast did different movements on each of their character's emotions and made the right facial expressions and tones of voice for each emotion. I really love characters that I can connect to emotionally as I feel more for both -them and the plot- than I would do normally.

In my opinion, the character's singing voices were beautiful. In fact, I could listen to some of their voices all day. Their singing voices suited their characters so much and there was a variety of different singing voices. Some were rich and powerful, some were soft and angelic, some had a bit of humour with them and others showed great energy in them. I personally love diversity in performances and both-the characters themselves and their singing voices- had diversity in them. Despite the voices all being different, they were all satisfying to listen to and were all perfectly in key. The performers must have had a load of practice and put a massive amount of effort in their performances because the intonation and voice projection were just amazing. I particularly loved the dragon's voice because she had a very soulful and passionate voice. Plus, I could imagine Dragon having that sort of singing voice. She also projected really well and was so clear that everyone could hear what she was saying. Also, they included some songs from the movie which makes the musical even more memorable.

I personally thought that the choreography was brilliant. The way that they set it up was so clever and creative! For example, the scene where the rats were dancing was clever. I think that what the production did was send people behind the curtains which were lifted only a few inches to only show their rat tap dancing slippers. This is clever as you couldn't see the people's legs and just their feet, making it look like it was just the rats dancing. Throughout the whole play, the dancing looked fun and energetic which is appealing to the audience as it gives the audience a sense of joy and positivity.

The costumes, props and scenery looked bright and colourful, which also brings a sense of positivity to the audience. There was one bit where there was a moving background and stage which helped the storyline become more realistic as it looks like the characters moved long distances but stayed on the stage so the audience could see them. Personally, I found this very creative as I haven't seen many productions do this. Also, the animatronics and puppetry for the dragon were also really imaginative as it creates a more life-like dragon in movements (especially on the mouth). Most of the costumes were kept the same throughout the show so we could identify the characters and know who is who.

Furthermore, the dialogue was very well written. As someone who has watched the film, I liked the fact that the script was quite similar to that of the film so people can keep track at which point of the story the characters are currently performing. In addition to this, it was also humorous throughout the play. The humour depicts that this

performance wasn't meant to be taken seriously and that one of its themes is comedy. Plus, the humour keeps your attention on the performance. It will make sure that you won't get bored.

One thing that "Shrek The Musical" could improve on is that the time passed by so quickly for me and left me wanting more. Maybe this could just be me enjoying it too much but I felt like the time just fled by too quickly. This probably happened because I enjoyed it too much.

In conclusion, I think that "Shrek the Musical" is a fun, humorous, quality play packed with loads of beautiful singing and genius techniques. I would definitely recommend it to people of all ages that are fans of comedy because it has jokes in it for all ages. So, if you're looking to watch a fun, wacky musical with all of the family, this would be the one for you!

By Darcey Year 9