



Shrek The Musical
Review 4th May 2020

On the 4th of May 2020, I watched Shrek the Musical which was first performed 2008 in Seattle, America. It was a Broadway production with music by Jeanine Tesori and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire.

Shrek the Musical was, in my opinion, humorous and entertaining. I enjoyed it because each character was very different, two of them were Donkey and Shrek. Donkey is a very funny, talkative character and always looks on the bright side, but Shrek on the other hand, is more of an independent person and is quite grumpy. This helped as the two characters grew on each other and became a very funny duo. I learnt you can be who you want, as Shrek doubted himself as he was an ogre, and people thought of him as an aggressive person, but Shrek didn't always want to be.

I thought that the message of the play was that you don't have to be your stereotype. This was shown as Shrek was a nice person, but people saw what was on the outside and not on the inside. This was also shown as Lord Farquaad kicked the magical people out of his kingdom, even though they weren't that different and didn't do anything wrong. Lord Farquaad saw them as different as they were from fairytales.

Some parts, for me, were very upsetting, as when the princess expected Shrek to be a perfect prince, like from a fairytale, but he wasn't, however this didn't mean he was a bad person, but Fiona didn't see this until they realised how much they had in common. But overall it was very entertaining, especially the singing as it was uplifting. Because of this, I would recommend it to all ages.

An Ogre who is despised by others who has to save a princess to get rid of the fairy people from his land but ends up falling in love with the princess. Yet she has a secret. I found three themes, love, hate and family. Love was shown when Shrek was walking back to the castle with Fiona, who was about to marry Farquaad, yet they became sidetracked and fell in love. An example of hate is Farquaad against Shrek, as Farquaad dumped the fairytale people in Shrek's swamp, yet Shrek wanted to be alone. Another scene of hate was against Farquaad and the magical people as he banished them from his kingdom. Shrek also hated Farquaad because Farquaad was going to marry Fiona but Shrek was secretly in love with her. The other theme is family, for example between Shrek and Donkey as they have been through a lot together and helped each other along the way like family do. The fairytale people also have a connection as they have also been through a lot together but they help each other fight back.

I also thought the mood was neutral, yet there were scenes where the mood was different, such as a mood of happiness when Shrek and Fiona were walking to Farquaad's castle and were starting to get along. They were joking a lot. There was also an upsetting mood when they later arrived and realised Shrek had to go back to his swamp.

The end was very predictable, as it was obvious that Shrek and Fiona were meant to be together. Yet there was a twist when Fiona was an ogre as well as Shrek, which was unpredictable. There was also a plot twist when Fiona would stay an ogre for Shrek.

In my opinion, the actors seemed to really connect with the characters they were playing and made it feel very realistic. But the character of Donkey was very exaggerated and wasn't so realistic because he is melodramatic when he begs Shrek to stay.

I felt very sorry for Fiona because she was forced into a marriage that she didn't want to happen. The disappointment in her face when she realised she couldn't see Shrek was upsetting and also, when she was locked up in the tower for a really long time. I wasn't too keen on Farquaad so I didn't mind what happened to him. The protagonist was Shrek because he saved Fiona and the antagonist was Farquaad because he only wanted to marry her so he could be king.

The acting was really good and believable, for example, the way the characters interacted seemed very natural, not like a script.

I think the costumes were all appropriate, but the dragon was a bit too unrealistic because you could see the singers that were voicing the dragon.

In conclusion, I really liked the performance and I would recommend it. It was very successful in entertaining me.

By Charlotte (Year 8)