

SENSORY-
FRIENDLY
PERFORMANCE



PARENT'S GUIDE

Sunday, April 24 at 5 PM



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 Broadway by Dreamworks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions

Shrek the Musical-TYA Version is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

About the show

Get ready to raise 'em high as we join Shrek and his lovable sidekick Donkey for a musical adventure. Journey beyond the swamp in this fun-filled story about acceptance and love. It's a celebration that will have you singing along, "What makes us special makes us strong!"

Show support

Presented by:

BANK OF AMERICA 

2021-22 SEASON

Today's celebration is brought to life, in part, by:

Omid & Julie Ahdieh
Rob & Kate Buckfelder
Matthew & Ashley Joseph*
Bruce & Anita LaRowe
Ann & Scott Manning
Pat Burgess & Joan Martin*
Brian & Laura Murdock*

Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated

Children's Theatre of Charlotte receives support from [the Infusion Fund](#), a partnership between the City of Charlotte, Foundation for The Carolinas and generous donors to support the arts and cultural sector. This project was supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural & Cultural Resources.



Special thanks



to Julie Higginbotham of Precious Developments. Julie has worked as our consultant in the creation and preparation of our sensory-friendly performances. We're grateful for this valued partnership.

What to expect at a sensory-friendly performance

Sensory-friendly theatre is an approach to the audience experience that “softens” the environment. What does that mean exactly? In general, we make the theatre available to everyone, including those who may need more flexibility to help manage all of the sensory experiences that come along with attending a performance. Below are some of the adjustments Children’s Theatre of Charlotte is making to create a more sensory-friendly environment tailored to each show:

- Lights in the theatre will stay low during the show, instead of turning all the way off.
- We will lower the sound levels when needed.
- We sell fewer tickets for the sensory-friendly performances so families have more room to move as needed.
- We provide fidgets, headphones and weighted toys to help children feel more organized and settled.
- Someone will be at the front of the stage with glow sticks to help give families a warning when sensory-rich moments are nearing. Raising one light means there’s a smaller sensory moment coming up (like a loud sound or a change in lighting).
- We provide a quiet room if children need to leave the theatre to feel more settled or regroup during the show.

Support materials for you

We provide several guides to help prepare your family for your visit:

The visit guide that walks your family through our facility.

The child guide goes with each performance.

The parent guide like this one helps parents support their children’s learning and experience in the theatre.

We want you to have the opportunity to enjoy the theatre with your family, so with that, please enjoy the show!

Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments



Welcome to Shrek The Musical!! We're excited you're here!

Sensory-rich moments:

This show is full of excitement, adventure, and of course, lots of shenanigans! We have taken out lights that flash into the audience, but there are other lighting effects on the stage that can be more intense if you're sitting in the front and looking up into the lights. We also use fog in various moments that can fall over the front of the stage a little bit. Feel free to move to another seat once everyone is settled into the seats they have purchased.



Meet Shrek! He has quite a story to tell....

Everyone has a story, and it's so important to hear them all!

Sensory-rich moments:

The show opens with music from our live orchestra and the lights going out on stage, followed by a spotlight with Shrek up in the box at the left side of the stage before transitioning to the stage. It transitions softly into the song/scene on stage.



Shrek is growing up....at 7 years old?

Everyone has different experiences growing up.

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is a ballad with a brief kazoo moment in the middle. It transitions back up to Shrek up in the box with a spotlight, but he gets interrupted by Fiona in the box on the right side opposite of him.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Meet Princess Fiona! She kind of thinks this is all about her...

Sometimes we can feel like our stories aren't important. How do we make sure everyone is heard?

Sensory-rich moments:

The spotlight will move quickly to Fiona in a surprise moment, and she has a big TA-DA moment before she transitions into her own story.



Princess Fiona is right, her story is sad. But hang on....she and Shrek need to take a moment....

It gets complicated when we start comparing stories, doesn't it?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is another softer ballad that moves quickly back up to Fiona. Shrek and Fiona begin fighting over the spotlight for a few minutes, including whistling to call the light back and forth, and there is a "fight" over it offstage before transitioning into the next scene.



Now Shrek steps in to tell his own story....with quite an entrance to say the least....

How do we keep reputations from solidifying someone's behavior?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with a big roar with lighting effects and scared villagers that shout and run offstage. It transitions into a fun but mellow musical number... with a big burp, of course.... It transitions into the next scene with music and softer lighting shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Oh no, these Fairy Tale Creatures have been banished to the swamp! Those guards are not very nice at all, are they?

Some sciences sound like they're not real. Those are the best to explore!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains background music and contains some unkind treatment by the guards. The music builds into the next song.



Poor Fairy Tale Creatures - they've had a tough time, haven't they? Who is going to help them?

It just takes one person to change the stories of our lives - how can you be that person for someone else?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song builds with each character telling his or her story and moves into a larger ensemble number. There are some lighting shifts throughout the song, and the unkind guards continue with their bad behavior. At the end, it transitions into the next scene with a light shift and a surprise entrance from Shrek.



Shrek is their only hope! But what is he ready to help the Fairy Tale Creatures get back home? He doesn't seem impressed with these folks....

How do we teach children to look past the things they hear about someone else and get to know them instead?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a short, dramatic song about hope, followed by a cheering moment with a silly exit song. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting shift, brief transition music, and quick set shift.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



I guess he decided to help after all, in his own way. But he has no idea what, or who, he is about to meet...

Sometimes our opposites are our best matches!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene moves from a quiet moment into a shouting moment. There is another big Shrek roar with some very scared guards.



Meet Donkey! He's just happy to be alive, but what will he think of scary ogre Shrek?

How do we react when someone doesn't believe the version of ourselves that we try to present?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a very energetic Donkey who is always jumping, singing, super dramatic, and generally having a happy ol' time! Shrek brings another big roar into this scene before it transitions into the next scene with music and a dark lighting shift. There is also a shouting voiceover with lighting effects.



Gingy is in trouble! Lord Farquaad is being so mean, all because he needs to find a bride. Will Gingy talk?

We always have an opportunity to step in and stick up for someone else!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains Gingy's shrill voice and a torture scene with silly elements. There are louder stressed moments, and it transitions into the next scene with Lord Farquaad shouting and addressing the audience. Game show music will start before the set lights up again.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Well, this is what Lord Farquaad considers to be a “perfect” kingdom. He’s excited that things are looking up in Duloc....

What exactly is “perfect” anyway?

Sensory-rich moments:

This musical number contains a lot of lighting effects on the stage and within the set. There are also “TVs” playing videos at the beginning and a recorded audience applause effect. It transitions into the next moment with Lord Farquaad shouting and the ensemble running away afraid.



Lord Farquaad has found his “winner” in Shrek, but is Shrek going to take him up on his offer?

Sometimes we have our own agenda when we are “offered” an opportunity.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a “news flash” moment that is slightly shrill, as well as some shouting. The game show theme music and lighting resumes briefly before moving into the big ending. It transitions into the next scene with a lighting/set shift and Shrek and Donkey walking up through the right side of the audience!



Princess Fiona has been in that tower for so long! Watch her grow up, waiting for her Prince....

Kids grow into themselves over time - how do we help them along the way?

Sensory-rich moments:

This song contains some louder singing moments, tearing books apart (don’t do that at home!), and some mental health references. It builds to the end and transitions with dark lighting and a set shift as Shrek and Donkey come back in from the back of the left side of the audience.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Shrek and Donkey are well into their journey, and Shrek is trying to help Donkey understand him better.

How do we present ourselves to other so they can really understand who we are?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a musical number that contains lighting shifts and fun set effects. It transitions into a red-light bridge moment that's scary for Donkey, then moves into a dark-lighting shift into the next scene.



Shrek is off to save Princess Fiona, but Donkey is left to find out more about the dragon's keep....

How are we brave when we're so afraid?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts relatively quietly, then it opens into the next scene with dragon rumbles and shouting as the dragon puppet comes in with fog effects. These start after the three knights sing the "back-ups" and move into the dragon's entrance.



Meet the Dragon! She's every bit as beautiful as she is...well....scary, but all she wants is to be wanted!

What do you see in this dragon besides something scary?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains this beautiful, light-up dragon that moves all over the whole stage, singing and dancing. She starts her song immediately after coming onto the set, and she doesn't try to hurt anyone as she sings. There is a hard-stop moment as the Donkey moves into a ballad.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Donkey isn't going to be judged like everyone else, and he is going to let the Dragon know it! But is he ready for her reaction?

It takes practice to stand up for ourselves and change the world's opinion of us!

Sensory-rich moments:

This song is a sweet ballad that transitions back into the Dragon's song. It contains building vocals and ends with a hard stop toward the front of the stage and transitions with a set change into the next scene.



Wait a minute...it really is TODAY???

This is the face when we've been waiting for something for so long!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene starts with Fiona with a tambourine and includes a shouting moment and a song before transitioning into the next scene with more Dragon sounds/fog, a quick set/lighting shift, and some chaos.



Maybe Shrek should have taken care of the Dragon first? Better late than never....

Sensory-rich moments:

The Dragon comes back on set to be captured in a more chaotic scene. This scene contains shouting, flashing lights that stay contained on the stage (front rows, you're looking up into the light bar!), and general running around. **From the time the dragon first roars while they're in the tower until she's captured with the red light effect, this moment lasts 54 seconds.** It transitions into the next scene with almost all the lights out as the song comes to a close.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Princess Fiona is ready to meet her rescuer, or so she thinks....

How do we handle it when people aren't who we expect them to be?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains mild conflict moments and transitions into a green-lighting moment with a spell audio effect, then moves smoothly into the next scene.



Shrek really has made a true friend in Donkey, and now he's ready to share his dreams of who he wants to be!

Dreaming with hope helps us really believe that things can happen!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a building ballad with soft lighting shifts and moves to a blackout for intermission.



It's time for a 15-minute break, but make sure you come back so Princess Fiona doesn't miss you too much.....

Sensory-rich moments:

Enjoy your break! We'll hop on stage to let you know when we're starting the second act so we can cue you back into this wonderful story!



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Good morning everyone! Who else is this chipper?

Getting good rest can change our whole perspective on the world!

Sensory-rich moments:

This song contains a much higher-pitched singing moment in which a balloon bird actually pops. It is not loud and sits further back on the stage, but it does blow up, pop, and feathers come out. In order to help minimize the anticipation/anxiety over the popping balloon, you will see a stick come out to pop it so you'll know exactly when it happens.



Oh dear, these two are trying to compare their sad stories, but it ends up going a COMPLETELY different way....Who do you think won this battle?

Conflict can result in friendship when we really listen to each other.

Sensory-rich moments:

This back-and-forth song builds into a lighter feel, then goes into a full-on gas fest!



Lord Farquaad is busy planning his wedding ceremony...

Sometimes we just have to let people get excited about their lives!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene is a relatively quiet moment, but it does contain a gross back-waxing moment. It transitions directly into the next scene with a brief shout and Shrek and Fiona entering the scene pretending to play electric guitars, sounds and all.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Love is brewing for these two, at least Donkey hopes it is...

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a musical number with the Three Blind Mice who run into things and drop their white canes. They move into a Tina Turner moment with lots of lights flashing on the set - the house lights partially on will help offset these, but if looking up from the front rows is uncomfortable, feel free to move back into the house! This song ends with Donkey continuing to sing, and he may even hop out into the audience on the right side to sing to you!



Donkey learns Princess Fiona's secret....

How do we reveal our true selves to someone else?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a big surprise moment that settles down quickly. It also contains Fiona's unkind talking about herself. It transitions into the next scene with soft lighting shifts.



Shrek really does love her, but how will he tell her? Wait....what is Princess Fiona saying?

How do we really listen to what others are saying?

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains a soft ballad that transitions into the next scene with soft lighting shifts.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Fiona woke up feeling so hopeful, but wait until she sees what's waiting for her....

We have to be careful about the things we say so others don't misunderstand us.

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains tough emotions and an.... interesting...entrance by Lord Farquaad. His horse moves with music briefly as the scene transitions into angry dialogue, followed by lighting and set changes, along with the entrance of the Fairy Tale Creatures.



Shrek is feeling so badly about himself, but leave it to the Fairy Tale Creatures to know just how to help him see things differently!

We all need friends like these!

Sensory-rich moments:

Here's the big song, Freak Flag!! This song starts with Gingy, then builds into the Witch really getting things started. It builds with the ensemble throughout the song with lights, dancing, and of course, a giant flag! It ends with the cast coming up to line the front of the stage before cheering with lighting and set shifts.



It's time for the wedding. Is Princess Fiona really going to go through with it?

It's never too late to change your mind when you don't feel good about your decisions!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene opens with music, lighting shifts, and singing offstage. Shrek will come from behind the audience on the right side to interrupt the wedding.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



The Fairy Tale Creatures come to the rescue again, and Lord Farquaad is really upset to hear what they have to say! He's so unkind to them all, they have their new friend Dragon waiting to take care of him...

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains the cast barging onto the set, lots of shouting, and unkind words from Lord Farquaad. The Dragon comes back out to take care of Lord Farquaad. There is roaring, fog, and red lights/flashes as the cast runs toward the front of the stage. **From the time Shrek whistles to bring her out until the lights settle back down, this moment lasts 22 seconds.**



Here's the moment of truth, when True Love's Kiss is supposed to make Princess Fiona beautiful. What do you think happens next?

Beauty on the inside is the best kind!

Sensory-rich moments:

This scene contains swirling lights on stage that move quickly back to the regular set lights.



They're perfect exactly as they are, don't you think?

Be the person that sees all things beautiful in everyone else!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This song ends with the cast members coming to stage front to tell you who they are while the set changes to give space for the finale! There is more activity on stage and builds with the ensemble.



Learning opportunities and sensory-rich moments continued



Happily Ever After!

We don't always get to the happily ever after the way we thought we would...

Sensory-rich moments:

This song ends with a final ensemble moment with a shrill Gingy's blessing. But wait, now for the musical number that is the curtain call!



Are you a Believer? We hope you are after this amazing production! :)

Always believe!!!!

Sensory-rich moments:

This is a very active, fun finale that includes the curtain call for the actors. There are lighting shifts, lots of clapping and dancing, and of course, all the bows. As always, feel free to dance, sing, clap, and have a great time with us!

Thanks for joining us at Children's Theatre of Charlotte for this special performance. We hope to see you at our other sensory-friendly performances in the future.



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