

# **MEET Shrek: The Musical**

A guide to help you prepare to see a play at  
Wheelock Family Theatre



A publication of the

*Wheelock Family Theatre  
Access and Inclusion Program*

I am going to see a play called **Shrek: The Musical** at Wheelock Family Theatre. In a play, people on stage tell a story — right in front of us! These people are called **actors**.



To tell the story, the actors will wear costumes and talk and sing and dance.



When I sit down in the theatre, I will see a giant red curtain in front of the stage.



This play also has an orchestra. An orchestra is a group of people who play instruments as part of the songs.

They sit in a special area under the front of the stage. I may not be able to see them from my seat.



If anything is too loud, I can cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad or with someone else who came with me to the theatre.



If I need to take a break, I can go into the lobby, or go to a quiet, cozy space nearby.

If I need something to hold onto, I can ask the usher for a squishy toy.



Here are some pictures of the actors who will tell the story during the play.

This actor is named Chris. He plays Shrek. Shrek is an ogre who lives in a swamp.



This is what he looks like in his costume and makeup.





This actor is named Maurice. He plays Shrek's friend Donkey.



This is what he looks like in his costume and make up.



This actor is named Shonna. She plays Fiona. Fiona is a princess who has a secret.



The secret is that she turns into an ogre at night.



But she goes back to being a human princess each morning.



This is Mark. He is the actor who plays Lord Farquaad.



Mark is very tall, but Lord Farquaad is very short. So Mark kneels during most of the play.

His costume has silly fake legs to cover Mark's real legs.



Shrek and Donkey and Princess Fiona will have many adventures in the play.

They will meet a lot of other characters.

Some of them are from fairy tales and other stories I might know.



Sometimes characters in the story may be mean or angry or sad, but I won't worry.



They are just actors *pretending* to be mean or angry or sad.



Just before the play starts, the lights in the room will get darker.



The lights on the stage will get brighter.

The audience will get very quiet.

It is important that I try to be quiet during the show, so I can hear everything.

After the orchestra starts playing, the red curtain will open, and I will see the set.

A set is an imaginary place on the stage where different parts of the story happen.

**Shrek: The Musical** has a lot of different sets.

This set shows trees and bushes in a forest.



This is Lord Farquaad's castle.



This is Fiona's tower in a different castle.



This is the dungeon inside Fiona's castle.



When Shrek first meets Donkey, Donkey falls out of a tree, but I won't worry. I know it's just a stuffed, pretend Donkey.



Then I will see Maurice in his Donkey costume crawling out from behind some bushes.



This play has a dragon in it. She is a giant puppet.

It takes 6 actors to move Dragon around, and one actor to be her voice.



This is Brittany, she is the voice of Dragon.

She sings from off stage, so we can't see her.



In this picture Dragon seems mean and angry, but I won't worry.

She is just lonely and wants to be loved.

Even though I might be scared, I know that these actors are all nice people and they will not hurt me.





At the end of a scene or a song,  
some people will clap.  
Clapping tells the actors that I liked  
their performance.

If I want to clap, I can. I don't have to clap if I  
don't want to.

If the clapping is too loud,  
I can cover my ears.



I can hug or hold hands with my mom or dad or with  
someone else who came with me to  
the theatre.



If I need something to hold onto, I can ask  
the usher for a squishy toy.

In the middle of the play, we will have a break.  
The break is called **Intermission**.

During the Intermission, lots  
of people will get up from their  
seats, and go back to the lobby.

I can go to the lobby if I want to.  
I can also stay in my seat or go to  
the quiet, cozy space nearby.



I can ask for a snack. I can eat my snack in the lobby or outdoors.  
But there is no eating or drinking inside the theatre.



I can ask to use the bathroom  
if I need to.

If I am thirsty, I can ask to  
use the water fountain.



After Intermission, everyone will come back to the theatre and sit down in their seats again. It will get darker and quieter again, just like at the beginning of the play.



The actors will come back on stage to finish telling the story.

It is important that I try to be quiet, so I can hear everything.

Near the end of the play, lights will flash on and off around Fiona. If the light bothers me, I can cover my eyes until that part is over.

At the very end of the play, all of the actors will come out on stage and bow.

This is called a **curtain call**.





People will clap a lot, so the actors will know how much they liked the play. Sometimes people will stand up and clap.



If I want to clap, I can.  
I don't have to clap if I don't want to.



When the play is over, we will go back to the lobby. It might be crowded. I will be patient as we move through the crowd.

Sometimes, there is a red carpet in the lobby after the show. Then the actors come to the lobby in costume.

If I want to, I can say hello to the actors.

If I want to I can get my picture taken with them. I don't have to say hello to the actors or get a picture taken.





After this we will leave  
Wheelock Family Theatre.



Going to the theatre is very  
exciting! I hope we will have a  
great time when we go to see  
**Shrek: The Musical!**

This social story is a publication of the

*Wheelock Family Theatre  
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We hope you found it helpful!

