MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA

26 27 SHOWCASE SEASON

SHREK THE MUSICAL

November 7, 2026, 7:00 PM

All Saints Lutheran Church

CAST

Shrek	TAYLOR HUDSON
Princess Fiona	SAMANTHA CELAYA
Donkey	CHRIS ELLIOTT
Lord Farquaad	ERIK JANSEN
Dragon	VIVIAN BEDAH
Gingy	KATHERINE TAIT
Pinocchio	MADILYN VELASCO
Three Little Pigs	CHRISTIAN FRONCKOWIAK, DAVIS STERLING, BRIAN REECE
Sugar Plum Fairy	SAMANTHA McCLENDON
Elf	AMBER HENDERSON
Ugly Duckling	ROBYN BARKER
Big Bad Wolf	IMRAN MALIK
Wicked Witch	GWEN CAROLE CAPALBO
Humpty Dumpty	CHELSEA SWEENEY
Mama Bear	REBECCA MERCADO
Papa Bear	CRAIG PETERSON
Baby Bear	LIBERTY RICHARDS
Fairy Godmother	CAG LOVELESS
Peter Pan	BRANDON POST
Mad Hatter	LEXY VOIGT
White Rabbit	KALI SALMAS
Mama Ogre	THYLMA STA. MARIA
Papa Ogre	DAVY RICHARDS
Young Shrek	GRANT GERKIN
Queen Lillian	SAMANTHA STONEROCK
King Harold	MIGUEL LABREGO
Young Fiona	KENNEDY RICHARDS
Teen Fiona	RILEY GERKIN
Three Blind Mice	KATERINA GRAINGER, JORDAN APPLEGATE, KRISTA RICHARDS
Guard	TODD CORBEIL
Captain of the Guard	RICHARD GERKIN
Pied Piper	CRIS MORY BARRON
Knights	CHEYENNE MITCHELL, AUSTIN ALLISON, AIDEN DAVIDSON, JOSH WEATHERSPOON
Thelonius	KEVIN CHOI
Bishop	STEPHEN EDWARDS
Dwarf	KEVIN NEWSOM
Duloc Greeter	WILLIAM MARSH
Narrator	DAVE ADAMS

CHORUS

Soprano: Robyn Barker, Olive Bonge, Delaney Carne, Katie Carne, Kerri Christie, Faith Forbis, Patti Graetz, Katerina Grainger, Sharon Hansen, Amber Henderson, Irena Horodynska, Emelina Kennett, Alicia Langstraat, Samantha McClendon, Rebecca Mercado, Sachiko Moore, Itzel Pedregon, Linda Peters, Marla Peters, Robyn Pitman, Krista Richards, Liberty Richards, Kennedy Richards, Kristen Salloum, Joanna Torla, Jessica Turner, Madilyn Velasco, Katie Yates, Beth Zollars; **Alto:** Jordan Applegate, Vivian Bedah, Natalie Blum, Natalie Booth, Gwen Carole Capalbo, Tamra Duncan, Angelina Elias, Grace Fisher, Riley Gerkin, Haley Honeman, Cag Loveless, Margarita Montijo, Boston Peterson, Abby Post, Michelle Powers, Kali Salmas, Jan Schmidt, Sam Shimel, Emily Simmons, Thylma Sta. Maria, Samantha Stonerock, Chelsea Sweeney, Katherine Tait, Regan Zachareas; **Tenor:** Aiden Davidson, Jake Forston, Christian Fronckowiak, Bryan Heiser, Lux Heiser, Robin Kreutzberg, Michael Leeth, Danny Lermayer-Ortiz, Imran Malik, Cheyenne Mitchell, Cris Mory Barron, Virginia Park, Sam Patton, Craig Peterson, Brandon Post, Matthias Rodriguez, Luke Salloum, BJ Sosinski, Jenna Sweet, Kyle Varble, Lexy Voigt, Josh Weatherspoon; **Bass:** Dave Adams, Todd Corbeil, Austin Allison, Kevin Choi, Stephen Edwards, Richard Gerkin, Ron Gingerich, Taylor Hudson, John Jadwisiak, Miguel Labrego, John Larson, William Marsh, Zach Millwood, Kevin Newsom, Jayden Peterson, Brian Reece, Davy Richards, Davis Sterling, Charles Wickens

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Overture
Big Bright Beautiful World
Story of My Life
The Goodbye Song
Don't Let Me Go
What's Up Duloc?
Travel Song
I Know It's Today
Forever
This Is How a Dream Comes True
Who I'd Be

ACT II

Morning Person
I Think I Got You Beat
The Ballad of Farquaad
Make a Move
When Words Fail
Morning Person (Reprise)
Build a Wall
Freak Flag
Big Bright Beautiful World (Reprise)
Finale

There will be one 15-minute intermission

ORCHESTRA

Dylan Suehiro, *Conductor*

Reed 1: Tim Solarz; **Reed 2:** Mandy Gifford, Lani Villanueva; **Horn:** Gail Rittenhouse; **Trumpet:** Ethan Kendzior; **Trombone:** Dan Iverson; **Keyboard 1:** Shara-Dawn Chambers; **Keyboard 2:** Allison Crenshaw; **Guitar 1:** Andy Delgado; **Guitar 2:** Ashok Sensharma; **Percussion:** Shawn Jordan; **Drum Set:** Evan Kirschbaum; **Violin 1:** Anne Phelan, Sujoy Spencer*, Angela Storey, Lisa Tufts; **Violin 2:** Reece Harris, Ally Ko, Alicia Martin, Irina Andrianjason; **Cello:** Jan Dacoycoy, Samuel Turner, Kai Valiensi; **Bass:** David Fattu

CREATIVE TEAM & STAFF

Artistic & Music Director ..... Dylan Suehiro
Vocal Director ..... Robyn Pitman
Staging Director ..... Kerri Christie
Audio Engineer ..... Andrea Gudeyon
Communications Director ..... Jessica Bondy
Rehearsal Pianist ..... Andie Chung
Mainstage Programming ..... KeyboardTek
Volunteer Coordinator ..... John Jadwisiak
Additional Percussion Equipment ..... All Saints Lutheran Church, ProMusica Arizona Orchestra
Showcase Volunteers ..... Mike Arseneault, Joelle Boatwright, Jessica Bondy, Kyle Cote, Sheri Dixon, Grace Fisher, Mary Kelly, Tara Knight, Sam Shimel, Michael Torla, Kyle Varble, Susan Woods, Katie Yates

MTAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Edie Chudnow ..... Chair
Kyle Varble ..... Vice Chair/Operations
Faith Forbis, CPA ..... Treasurer
BJ Sosinski ..... Secretary
Dr. Sharon A. Hansen ..... Artistic Advisor
Natalie Booth ..... Education & Community Engagement
Ryan Diefenderfer ..... Development
Wes Crenshaw ..... Marketing
Tony Calzaretta ..... Governance
Jessica Bondy ..... Communications/Member at Large
John Jadwisiak ..... Member at Large
Dylan Suehiro ..... Member at Large

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

DAVE ADAMS *(Narrator)* is excited to be performing again with MTAA; last season's Showcase of *Jesus Christ Superstar* marked his return to theatre after an almost 30-year absence. Having been a part of the Los Angeles theatre scene in the '90s, some of his favorite roles have been Juror #3 in *12 Angry Men* and Herbert in *The Monkey's Paw*. He has also enjoyed songwriting and performing as a Neil Diamond impersonator. He is thrilled to once again share the stage with his daughter Samantha and would like to thank his family and friends for their encouragement and support. @dad2maximus

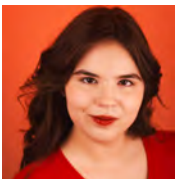
AUSTIN ALLISON *(Knight)* is delighted to serve as a Knight in his sixth Showcase with MTAA! While his primary artistic outlet is through his work as an illustrator, Austin has taken to the musical theatre stage in recent years thanks to the inspiration of his wife Lani Villanueva, who is playing in the orchestra pit for us tonight, and his performances with "One Rehearsal Short," "The Keyframes" and MTAA! @a_t_allison

JORDAN APPLEGATE *(Mouse)* has been performing with MTAA since *Big Fish* in 2024. She loves performing and is so grateful for every opportunity she's been given over the last 2.5 years to perform and direct some truly beautiful productions. With two preschoolers at home, she is especially thankful for the opportunities MTAA has given her while she balances home life with doing what she loves. @jordanrenae451

ROBYN BARKER *(Ugly Duckling)* After years of cheering on her six boys from the sidelines, Robyn is thrilled to step into the spotlight! Always more athlete than performer, she is channeling her inner Troy Bolton for her debut musical theatre role as the Ugly Duckling. Big thanks to her family, friends, and MTAA for their support! @robynbarker8

VIVIAN BEDAH *(Dragon)* is thrilled to return to the stage after a four-year hiatus to focus on college and her career as a social worker. She recently performed in MTAA's *Mary Poppins* (Ensemble, August 2026). Favorite past roles include Joanne (*Company*), Daughter (*The Trail to Oregon!*), and Pepper (*Annie*). She is grateful for this opportunity and thanks MTAA for making musical theatre accessible to those with busy schedules!

GWEN CAROLE CAPALBO *(Wicked Witch)* practically ran back for her 2nd Showcase with MTAA, following Mrs. Brill in *Mary Poppins*. Most of Gwen's work has been on-camera and in voiceover. Recent credits include *Welcome to Chippendales* on Hulu, and the upcoming season of *For All Mankind*, in addition to a cauldronful of commercials. She also enjoys poison apples, brooms, toads...the usual wicked witch things. Thanks for having meHEEHEEHEEE, MTAA! @gwendolynstagram



SAMANTHA CELAYA *(Princess Fiona)* is a joyful, passionate performer born and raised here in Phoenix! She holds a BMU in Musical Theatre from ASU and has performed across the Valley. Some of her favorite shows she's been a part of are *Anastasia* and *Crazy For You* at Don Bluth Front Row Theatre, *First Date* at ASU (nominated for an ariZoni), and *Jesus Christ Superstar* with MTAA this past spring. She is so incredibly grateful to her parents, family, and friends for their constant love and support and can't wait to see you in Duloc! @samanthacelaya

KEVIN CHOI *(Thelonius)* is a Chicago transplant, physician, and assistant professor of medicine. Having first discovered his love of singing through school chorus and an a cappella group, he is excited to return for another MTAA Showcase alongside his beloved husband, William Marsh. He has also performed with the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus over the past year. Kevin enjoys exploring a wide range of musical styles, from musical theatre and opera to pop and punk rock. Past MTAA credits: *Fiddler on the Roof, Mary Poppins* (Constable). @kevischoi

AIDEN DAVIDSON (Knight) is an actor with six years of experience and additional training as a deck crew member. He enjoys working with others, learning new things, and giving his all into any role, and he's excited to join MTAA in his first Showcase! @aiden.phillip.davidson

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

STEPHEN EDWARDS *(Bishop)* appeared in all three of the Flagstaff Shakespeare Festival Cabernet Cabarets in 2026 at the Beaver Street Theatre. He was a featured soloist in Over the Rainbow and The Bard on Broadway and the solo artist in "Beaver Street Goes Country." He appeared in three of the 2025 Flag Shakes Cabarets including his sold-out solo show "Midsummer Honky Tonk." Past MTAA Credits: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar,* and *Mary Poppins*.

CHRIS ELLIOTT *(Donkey)* is honored to perform in his 3rd Showcase with MTAA! Originally from New Jersey, Chris is an effervescent and passionate individual who loves any and all opportunities to perform and express. Select credits: Jimmy Campbell (u/s) in *Bandstand*, Wayne/C.C. (u/s) in *Dreamgirls* (The Phoenix Theatre Company); Sebastian in *Twelfth Night*, Bassanio in *Merchant of Venice* (SSC); Mr. Knightley in *Emma* (FlagShakes); and Ensemble in *Ragtime* (AZ MusicFest). Outside of theatre, Chris works as a Programs Coordinator for Arizona Humanities. "Shoutout to all my lovely friends and family who continue to support me throughout my journey!" @sincerelychriselliott

CHRISTIAN FRONCKOWIAK *(Pig #1)* is delighted to return for his 4th Showcase with MTAA, following *Seussical*, *Titanic*, and *Parade*. Recent performances include *The Mousetrap* at Myers Dinner Theatre, and *Clue The Musical* at Round Barn Theatre, both in Indiana. Christian holds a MM from ASU and just moved back to the area from New York state where he taught voice at Croton Harmon Music Academy. @christianfronckowiaktheactor

RICK GERKIN *(Guard Captain)* is a husband, theater-dad, and scientist making his 2nd MTAA appearance. Past credits include community theater productions of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Once on This Island*, many years ago, and *Mary Poppins* with MTAA in August! Looking forward to singing with family and friends! @rickg1776

RILEY GERKIN *(Teen Fiona)* is thrilled to be back at MTAA, where she was previously Neleus in *Mary Poppins.* She's a junior at Sunnyslope HS, where she's active in choir, FBLA, & NHS. Favorite past roles include Winnie Foster, Anna in *Frozen*, and Timon in *The Lion King*. She is also a proud Broadway Artist Alliance alumna! She thanks her parents and brother for sharing the stage with her! @rileygerkintheatre

AMBER HENDERSON *(Elf)* is thrilled to join the fairytale creatures of the Swamp in this production of *Shrek the Musical*! She is currently an Art teacher and director of Art and Theatre curriculum at a homeschool program. This is her third Showcase with MTAA and is loving the opportunity to perform again after a two-decade break from the stage. @amberhenderson.art

TAYLOR HUDSON *(Shrek)* is thrilled to be stepping back into the swamp. Favorite roles include Shrek in *Shrek*, Alfie in *A Man of No Importance*, Fester in *Addams Family*, and Oz in *Come From Away*. He sends love and gratitude to his amazing friends and family, the inspiring teachers who shaped his journey, all giraffes (especially the tall ones), and his beloved Squishy. TaylorBHudson.com @taylor.b.hudson

ERIK JANSEN *(Lord Farquaad)* is thrilled to be returning to theater after a decade hiatus. Erik received a BFA in Theater Performance from the University of Idaho and has worked as actor, singer, pianist, composer, and musical director for Idaho Repertory Theater and the University of Idaho. Since then, Erik has received a MM in Piano Performance from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and teaches piano lessons in the Phoenix area. He is a proud cat Dad of 2 precious babies who can do no wrong. @chandrilyf

MIGUEL LABREGO *(King Harold)* returns to MTAA after *Jesus Christ Superstar*. A lifelong theater lover, he sings with the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus and fondly recalls childhood renditions of *West Side Story* and *Phantom* in an echoey church basement during Sunday Mass, unbeknownst to the congregation above. He thanks MTAA for this

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

opportunity and his family for enduring his daily shower concerts. @MiggsPhx267

CAG LOVELESS *(Fairy Godmother)* graduated in 2024 from Purdue University Fort Wayne with a BA in theatre—and this is their first performance since then! She has performed professionally with summer stock companies across Indiana, as well as having multiple educational credits. Favorite roles include Peppermint Patty in *The World According to Snoopy*, Igonnet in *Just Beginning*, Fosca/Featured Soloist in *Sondheim on Sondheim*, Liddy Allen in *Whodunit…The Musical*, and J. Finch/Zach Smith in *Puffs*! @poetcag_

IMRAN MALIK *(Wolf)* is excited to return to MTAA in *Shrek*! He grew up performing in school, community, and college theatre, sang with a collegiate a cappella group, and spent time in Hollywood as a background actor. He has also been an active performer with the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus. Outside of performing, Imran is a competitive rower and coach at the national level. @ohheyimran

SAMANTHA McCLENDON *(Sugar Plum Fairy)* is thrilled to make her MTAA Showcase debut! While recently beginning her journey in musical theater, she has long loved performing first as a violinist, and now on stage at the Bridge Improv Theater in Mesa. When she isn't singing or improv-ing new characters, Samantha is a PhD student in bioengineering at ASU and a proud cat mom. Big 'thank yous' to her support crew! @samantha.mcclendon

REBECCA MERCADO *(Mama Bear)* is honored to be part of her first production in Arizona! She graduated from the University of Washington with a BA in Acting. Her favorite roles include Olive in *Spelling Bee*, Sour Kangaroo in *Seussical*, and Connie in *A Chorus Line*. She is excited to keep performing in her new home! @BecccaMercado

CHEYENNE MITCHELL *(Knight)* A lover of cartoons, anime, and video games, Cheyenne has a lot of fun energy to bring to the stage! Although a good chunk of it is spent drawing and learning how to animate, Cheyenne is also a talented singer and actor who has lent his talents to MTAA on many occasions since 2023. Now, he's happy to return to the stage once again with excitement and gratitude, kicking off the 2026-2027 season with the support of his KeyFrames Austin and Lani! @djdonatsu

CRAIG PETERSON *(Papa Bear)* is thrilled to be part of *Shrek The Musical* again for a second time this year in the Valley. He appreciates MTAA for allowing busy people to continue participating in musicals! Enjoy the show! @drcraigp

BRANDON POST *(Peter Pan)* is excited to be in his first Showcase at MTAA. Brandon loves being on stage and entertaining audiences. Favorite past roles include: Johnny, *The Outsiders*; Cedric/Mr. Voldy, *Puffs*; Duke of Weselton, *Frozen Jr.*; and Lumiere, *Beauty and the Beast*. He hopes you all enjoy *Shrek* and would like to thank his parents, grandparents, sister, brothers, Mr. Stephen, Mr. Shonn, Mr. Ryan, and Ms. Renee for all their help and support. He would also like to thank his directors and castmates for this amazing experience.

BRIAN REECE *(Pig #3)* is Associate Dean of Students at ASU and a lifelong musician. After earning a vocal performance minor at the University of Delaware, he's performed with choirs nationwide, including the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus and in MTAA productions. With nearly 20 years in higher ed, he blends student affairs leadership with a passion for building inclusive communities. @reececup

KRISTA RICHARDS *(Mouse)* is thrilled to return for another MTAA Showcase! She loves sharing the stage with her Husband and 4 kids. When she isn't performing, Krista enjoys Musical Directing and teaching private lessons. She and her husband were able to share title roles (Annie Oakley and Frank Butler) in MTAA's *Annie Get Your Gun* in 2025. She is thrilled to see her daughters shine in this production. Thank you for supporting artists in the Valley! @krichards

DAVY RICHARDS *(Papa Ogre)* is excited for another MTAA performance! He loves spending time on stage with his wife and 4 kids. Recent Theater Credits include: *Annie Get Your Gun* (Frank Butler) MTAA, *Shrek* (Papa Bear) QCPAC, *Legally*

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Blonde (Callahan) QCPAC, *Oliver!* (Bill Sikes) QCPAC. Davy enjoys leading the children's music program at church, playing the organ occasionally and practicing servant leadership in his professional life. Thank you MTAA for giving working dads an avenue to create meaningful experiences! Enjoy the show!

KENNEDY RICHARDS *(Young Fiona)* is so excited for this opportunity and is so happy to join MTAA for her first Showcase! She loves to be on stage with her siblings. She has performed in 9 productions and plans to audition for more! She has been singing full length songs since she was 18 months old and loves to make up her own songs. She takes dance, acrobatics and theater classes weekly and wants to learn the piano this year. As the youngest child, she loves to keep her siblings laughing and also keeps them in line!

LIBERTY RICHARDS *(Baby Bear)* is so excited to be part of her first MTAA production! She has performed in 10 shows at QCPAC and can't wait to audition for more. She loves to take dance, acrobatic and theater classes each week and hopes to be a cheerleader someday. She will be performing in *Bye Bye Birdie* at QCPAC later this month. When she's not on stage, she loves to make friends wherever she goes!

KALI SALMAS *(White Rabbit)* is thrilled to have discovered MTAA and to have the opportunity to meet and perform with such amazing people. She is originally from Canada and has been enjoying the Arizona sun between night shifts at an astronomical observatory. Though typically an instrumentalist, she sang in musicals and the choir throughout high school. This is her second MTAA Showcase performance.

THYLMA STA. MARIA *(Mama Ogre)* Something to know about me is I am MTAA's #1 fan, and my whole theatrical resume is MTAA ☺ I have learned so much since my first Showcase 3 years ago. Thank you to the Artistic Leadership, Board and Committee members, and Volunteers. Thanks and Love to my family: please don't take it personally that this is my dream role.

DAVIS STERLING *(Pig #2)* is 17 years old and in his Senior year at Saguaro High School. He loves to act and sing and has been a member of the AMEA Regional and All-State choirs. Some of his memorable roles include Uncle Max in *The Sound of Music*, Reverend Hale in *The Crucible*, Willy Wonka in *Willy Wonka*, Lumiere in *Beauty and the Beast*, Marius in *Les Misérables*. Thanks for reading his bio, he appreciates it. @davissterling.micd

SAMANTHA STONEROCK (Queen Lillian) is thrilled to be performing in her second production with MTAA! Samantha is a seasoned voice teacher, music director, and performer in the valley. She holds degrees in Music Education and CCM Vocal Pedagogy and is currently on the voice faculty at Mesa Community College. Samantha sends love to her husband Ryan and her sweet newborn daughter, who will be seeing her perform for the first time tonight. Enjoy! @samantha.stonerock

CHELSEA SWEENEY *(Humpty Dumpty)* has loved singing since childhood, with experience in middle school and church choirs. Today, she enjoys playing guitar, writing original songs, singing in the shower/car, and occasionally performing at open mic nights. After advancing through three rounds of a local singing competition, she's continuing to push past her stage fright and embrace new opportunities. As Humpty Dumpty, she's excited for her first performance with a live orchestra, to work with MTAA, and to meet her new Shrek family. No wall can hold her back! Here's hoping Humpty Dumpty doesn't crack under pressure! @call_me_chelsea

KATHERINE TAIT *(Gingy)* is a warm and loving performer and director with over 15 years of experience in musical theater. Specializing in Broadway jazz choreography as a skilled jazz and tap dancer, she has directed beloved productions including *Shrek The Musical*, *The Addams Family*, *Newsies*, and *Anastasia*, while also performing in ensembles and festive specials. As an accomplished Mickey and Minnie Mouse impersonator and proud expert cartwheelist, Katherine infuses every show with joy, creativity, and playful energy that lights up the stage for audiences of all ages. @Katherine_t8

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

MADILYN VELASCO *(Pinocchio)* is so excited to be back at MTAA for her second Showcase. She is the proud founder of @The602Stage and recently made her directorial debut with *Steel Magnolias* in October. She would like to remind you to never give up on your dreams and to pursue them with reckless abandon. This is your sign! She would like to give thanks to her husband and two cats for putting up with her Pinocchio voice practice over the last month, and to you for supporting local art! @madilynvelz

LEXY VOIGT *(Mad Hatter)* I am a 41-year-old trans performer primarily affiliated with the Phoenix Gay Men's Chorus. Throughout my childhood, I was a performing multi-instrumentalist. In my later years, I became a Twitch streamer, where I had to finally develop a personality. And 2½ years ago, about a year after coming out, I decided to learn how to sing so I could do amazing things like this very show. I hope you enjoy! @lexilotl

JOSH WEATHERSPOON *(Knight)* I was born and raised in Arizona. I loved to sing when I was a kid and music has been a part of my life since listening to Jazz music like Louis Armstrong with my dad. I study business at Scottsdale Community College, but I am passionate about acting. I love theatre and music, and want to perform on stage on Broadway one day. @weatherspoon_josh

DYLAN SUEHIRO *(Conductor)* has been part of MTAA since 2023, when he joined the orchestra for *Titanic*. Since then, he has contributed to MTAA as an instrumentalist, conductor, board member, and organizational leader. As Artistic & Music Director, Dylan leads MTAA's Artistic Leadership Team and guides the organization's artistic direction.

Dylan has conducted *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Sound of Music*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Spamalot*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Mary Poppins,* and has performed in the orchestra for *Titanic*, *A Little Night Music*, *Big Fish*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*. He remains active as a freelance conductor and multi-instrumentalist, performing with community ensembles, churches, and arts organizations throughout the Valley.

Born and raised in Hilo, Hawai'i, Dylan holds degrees in music education and conducting from Indiana University and ASU. Since moving to Arizona in 2013, he has taught in the Paradise Valley Unified School District and continues to serve as a clinician and adjudicator for school music programs.

Outside of his professional work, Dylan enthusiastically participates in the local baking community, and he also volunteers at the Desert Botanical Garden. He lives in Phoenix with his husband, Kyle.

ROBYN PITMAN *(Vocal Director)* first joined MTAA for its inaugural audience production, *Sweeney Todd*, and has been involved in nearly every production since. Over the years, she has become a familiar presence both onstage and behind the scenes, contributing as a performer, music leader, collaborator, and advocate for the organization's mission. Among her MTAA performance credits are *Titanic* (Alice Beane), *Brigadoon* (Fiona), and *A Little Night Music* (Mrs. Anderssen), along with leadership roles including Chorus Director for *Spamalot*, Assistant Chorus Director for *The Sound of Music*, and Staging Director for *Fiddler on the Roof*.

An Arizona-born performer, music director, and educator, Robyn has worked in theatres across the country, including national tours of *Brigadoon*, *The Music Man*, and *Legally Blonde*. Regional credits include *Carnival*, *Hello, Dolly!*, *Titanic*, *Into the Woods*, *1776*, *Lucky Stiff*, *Cinderella*, *A Little Night Music*, and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. Her music directing credits include *Les Misérables*, *Brigadoon*, *The Sound of Music*, *Legally Blonde*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Lucky Stiff*, and *Honk!*

As an educator, Robyn taught high school choir for 14 years, leading multiple nationally recognized show and jazz choir programs. She holds a BIS in Music and Education from ASU and an MBA from University of Southern Indiana. In addition to her artistic work, she currently works as a Human Resources Business Partner and Arizona Realtor.

KERRI CHRISTIE *(Staging Director)* has been part of MTAA since the organization's very first meeting and has contributed to its growth as a performer, director, committee member, and enthusiastic advocate ever since. She has participated in nearly every Showcase, appearing onstage in *Spamalot*, *The Sound of Music*, and *The Pajama Game*, while also serving as Staging Director for *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *Spamalot*, *Jesus Christ Superstar,* and *Mary Poppins*. She is also an active member of MTAA's Education and Community Engagement Committee.

WHO'S WHO IN THE CAST

Kerri studied acting in Seattle at Northwest Actors Studio, Studio East, and with Dr. Tawnya Pettiford-Wates before continuing her training at the California Institute of the Arts School of Theater. Since moving to Arizona in 2011, she has served as Artistic Director of Arizona Homeschool Theatre Group (AZHT), where she has directed productions including *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Charlotte's Web*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *Annie JR*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Seussical JR*, and many others.

When she is not directing or performing, Kerri enjoys supporting her two young actors and serving families throughout the Valley as a board-certified lactation consultant.

ANDREA GUDEYON *(Audio Engineer)* has been an integral part of every production since MTAA's inception in 2022, overseeing the critical technical elements of balancing the ensemble and managing precise sound cues. She also brings her skills to Detour Theatre as a sound designer and engineer and works as an AV engineer for Encore Event Services. Andrea holds a degree in Audio Production from Phoenix College. MTAA credits: *Titanic, The Hunchback of Notre Dame, Parade, Brigadoon, Ragtime, The Sound of Music, Annie Get Your Gun, Spamalot, Fiddler on the Roof*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *Mary Poppins*.

JEANINE TESORI *(Composer)* is a two-time recipient of the Tony Award for Best Score and a two-time Finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In 2015, she and Lisa Kron became the first female team to win the Tony for Best Score for *Fun Home*. Her other works include *Kimberly Akimbo* (with David Lindsay-Abaire); *Soft Power* (David Henry-Hwang); *Caroline, or Change* (Tony Kushner); *Mother Courage and Her Children* (Tony Kushner); *Twelfth Night* (LCT), *Violet* (Brian Crawley); and *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Dick Scanlan). For her opera, *Grounded* (with librettist George Brant), she became one of the first two women to be commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera, and the first woman in its history to open a season. Her operas include *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (Tony Kushner); *The Lion, The Unicorn and Me* (J. D. McClatchy); and *Blue* (Tazewell Thompson), which received the MCANA Award for Best New Opera. Tesori is the founding Artistic Director of New York City Center's Encores! Off-Center Series. She is the co-creator of the Cast Album Project, with Taneisha Duggan and Anne Kauffman, and tall poppy, a mentoring and micro-financing initiative co-founded with Darren Biggart and Torya Beard. She was the Supervising Vocal Producer on Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* and wrote the score for numerous Disney animated sequels, including *Mulan 2* (with Alexa Junge). Graduate of Barnard College and a Professor of Practice at Yale University. Proud member of The Dramatists Guild.

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE *(Book and Lyrics)* is a Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist. His most recent show, the musical *Kimberly Akimbo*, written with composer Jeanine Tesori, premiered off Broadway at the Atlantic Theater Co., where it won the Lortel, NYDCC, OCC and Drama Desk Awards for Best Musical before it moved to Broadway and won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score as well as a Grammy nomination for Best Musical Theater Album. His play *Good People* premiered on Broadway at MTC, was awarded the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play, The Horton Foote Prize, The Edgerton Foundation New American Play Award, and two Tony nominations. His play *Rabbit Hole* also premiered on Broadway at MTC and received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, five Tony nominations, and the Spirit of America Award. *Shrek the Musical* was nominated for eight Tonys, four Oliviers, a Grammy, and earned David the Kleban Prize as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. His newest play, *The Balusters*, premiered on Broadway at MTC in April 2026, directed by Kenny Leon. David's other plays include *Ripcord*, *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo* and *Wonder of the World* which all premiered at MTC, as well as *A Devil Inside* at Soho Rep. In addition to his work in theatre, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole* (starring Nicole Kidman, Oscar nomination), Dreamworks' *Rise of the Guardians*, and *The Family Fang*, among others. He is also, along with Tanya Barfield, Co-Director of the Lila Acheson Wallace American Playwrights Program at the Juilliard School.

About MTAA

OUR PURPOSE

MTAA exists because people should not have to choose between building a life and participating in musical theatre.

OUR MISSION

MTAA creates opportunities for people to make musical theatre together in ways that fit their lives.

OUR PRINCIPLES

- We design the experience around the people who make the work.
- We hold high standards without requiring traditional production models.
- We bring singers and instrumentalists together to make musical theatre *live*.

Special Thanks

All Saints Lutheran Church Staff for facilitating venue arrangements, providing equipment storage, and being an integral part of MTAA's story. Special thanks to Courtney Krueger, Jerry Gunderson, Duncan Moore, and Susan Corbin.

Sharon Hansen for hosting an off-site rehearsal for our leads.

Sujoy Spencer for hosting a sectional rehearsal for our strings, and David Fattu for his assistance.

Alana Borie and Reliance Management for generously sponsoring our board meeting space and helping make our work possible.

Natalie Booth, Edie Chudnow, Kerri Christie, Jan Schmidt, and Kathy Travous for hosting MTAA Office Hours for our participants.

Jordan Applegate for creating vocal part tracks for our participants.

Deric Miller for capturing this production through his photography. dericmillerphoto.com

Wes Crenshaw for creating graphics and marketing materials throughout the season.

Jessica Bondy for managing communications, social media, and graphic design.

Dylan Suehiro for designing this program.

Kyle Varble for leading logistics behind the scenes and assisting with communications.

Stephen Schermitzler for his passionate leadership in founding and developing MTAA.

Friends of MTAA

It is our privilege to recognize the following donors whose lifetime giving has helped make MTAA's work possible. Every donor is a valued partner in our achievements onstage, throughout our community, and in the future of musical theatre in Arizona.

PRODUCERS CIRCLE

$3,000+ in lifetime giving

Alan & Edie Chudnow
Valerie Cooper
Dr. Sharon A. Hansen
Mark Knoblauch & Josh Hernandez
Robin Kreutzberg
Rick Ross
Torres-Stamaria Family
Kyle Varble & Dylan Suehiro
Gavin & Susan Woods
Sam
Lynne Traverse

SHOWCASE PATRONS

$1,000+ in lifetime giving

Bunnie Au-Suehiro
Judith Blazer
Roger & Nancy Cheney
Kerri Christie
Jennifer Couldry & William Deihl
Scott DeWald & Deborah Jamieson
James & Martha Given
Sally Hineman
Bill Marshall & Margaret Shreves
Gus & Margaret Miller
Robyn Pitman
Darlene Richert
Aaron Schneider
John Shepherd & Marcie Kneisley
Nancy Shortridge Sowers
Garry & Sharon Shuster
Sarah Smith
Ken & Kathy Travous
Valarie & John Vousden
Rick Williams & Cami Anglemyer

To learn more about supporting MTAA, contact us at **communications@theatricallyaz.org**.

Applegate Piano Tuning

Mention MTAA's production when scheduling to get **10% off** ALL services!

480-721-6584

DERIC MILLER PHOTOGRAPHY
FAMILY · SENIOR · FASHION

Instagram: @dericmillerphoto
dericmillerphoto.com

MTAA**SESSION**DISCOUNT
10% DISCOUNT IF YOU MENTION THIS AD

Doc Hypnosis

dochypnosis.com
602.314.1907

SOUL ECHO THERAPY

soulechotherapy.com

GIVE
Theatrically

2026 MATCHING CAMPAIGN

Celebrate our Fantastical Fifth Season by helping us unlock a $10,000 matching gift! Every dollar donated will be matched 1:1, up to $10,000, doubling your impact and helping MTAA raise $20,000.

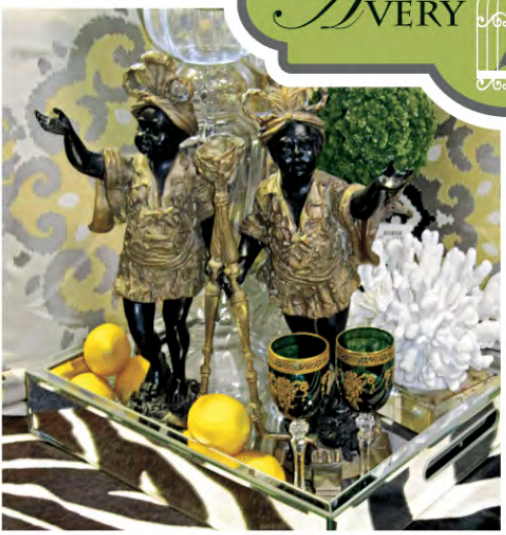
Scan below to donate today:

https://givebutter.com/give-theatrically-2026

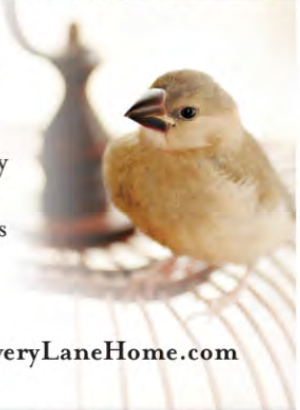
NAMED #1 CONSIGNMENT STORE IN AZ FOR 7 YEARS IN A ROW

Proprietor, Darlene Richert with store mascot, Daisy

Avery Lane



Avery Lane could easily be found among the chic design and home furnishing shops of Paris, yet is only minutes from the Scottsdale Quarter. Avery Lane offers top quality consignments from contemporary and transition to bohemian and unique French, Italian and American antiques from Scottsdale's most fabulous homes — all at prices you won't believe.



Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm (*Closed Sunday*)
15613 N. Greenway-Hayden Loop | 480.991.0700 | **AveryLaneHome.com**

SYMPHONY of the SOUTHWEST

70th SEASON

Celebrate 70 years of music with the Symphony of the Southwest! Under the direction of Julie Desbordes, experience a season of inspiring performances at the Mesa Arts Center's Ikeda Theater.

Celebration
November 7, 2026
3:00 PM

Noël
December 12, 2026
3:00 PM

Hollywood Then and Now
February 20, 2027
3:00 PM

Link Up: The Orchestra Sings
April 14, 2027
10:00 AM

Viva!
April 17, 2027
3:00 PM

Scan the QR Code for tickets and to learn more!

ROBYN PITMAN

Licensed Arizona Realtor®

ONSTAGE, I'M YOUR VOCAL DIRECTOR
OFFSTAGE, I'M YOUR REAL ESTATE RESOURCE

Whether you're thinking about buying, selling, or just wondering what the market is doing, I'm always happy to help.

robyn@azrobyn.com
(480)360-5065

REALTYONEGROUP

North Valley Symphony Orchestra

Mentored by the *Masters*

Welcome to our 2026-2027 Season!

Join us for our concert season honoring the teachers, mentors, and visionaries who shaped music for generations.

Inspiration Becomes Influence	*Holiday Traditions & Transformations*	*Influence Becomes Innovation*	*Innovation Becomes Iconic*
October 24, 2026	December 19, 2026	March 13, 2027	May 22, 2027

Season Tickets $30 for all 4 concerts at www.northvalleysymphony.org

By Concert: $10 Adults / $5 Students, Seniors 65+, Military, Veterans / Free Kids Under 5

GIVE YOURSELF SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO

CRUISE PLANNERS®
YOUR CRUISE & VACATION EXPERTS

BETH AND JACK ZOLLARS
LET US HELP YOU SEE THE WORLD!
602-609-1275
www.crusiewpc.com
beth.zollars@cruiseplanners.com
Cruise Planners - Jack and Beth Zollar
FLST# 39068 • CST# 2034468-50 • HST# TAR-7058 • WAST# 603-399-504

ABOUT THE SHOW

BOOK AND LYRICS BY
David Lindsay-Abaire

MUSIC BY
Jeanine Tesori

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

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

Any video and/or audio recording of this production is strictly prohibited.

SOMEBODY ONCE TOLD ME...

Fairy tales have never been as fixed as they might appear. Passed down and retold across generations, they reflect changing ideas about beauty, goodness, power, and belonging. By the late twentieth century, artists were increasingly questioning these familiar conventions. Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine's *Into the Woods* (1987), for example, explored what happens when fairy-tale stories continue beyond their expected happy endings.

Shrek approached this tradition through irreverent humor and pointed satire. The 2001 DreamWorks film challenged the animated fairy-tale conventions popularized by Disney throughout the 1990s. Its world turns familiar roles upside down: an ogre becomes the hero, a princess defies expectations, and happily-ever-after becomes something the characters must define for themselves.

Beneath the comedy is a question of identity. Shrek has spent his life being defined by others, eventually adopting their expectations as his own. Fiona faces a similar conflict between who she is and who her story says she should be. Both challenge the roles they've inherited.

More than a parody of fairy tales, *Shrek The Musical* invites us to examine the stories we tell about ourselves and one another. What expectations have we inherited? Which roles have we accepted without question? And what might change if we allowed ourselves to rewrite those narratives? Perhaps happiness isn't a predetermined ending, but something we create when we find the freedom to write our own story.

❖

26–27 SHOWCASE SEASON

MUSICAL THEATRE ALLIANCE OF ARIZONA
www.theatricallyaz.org