

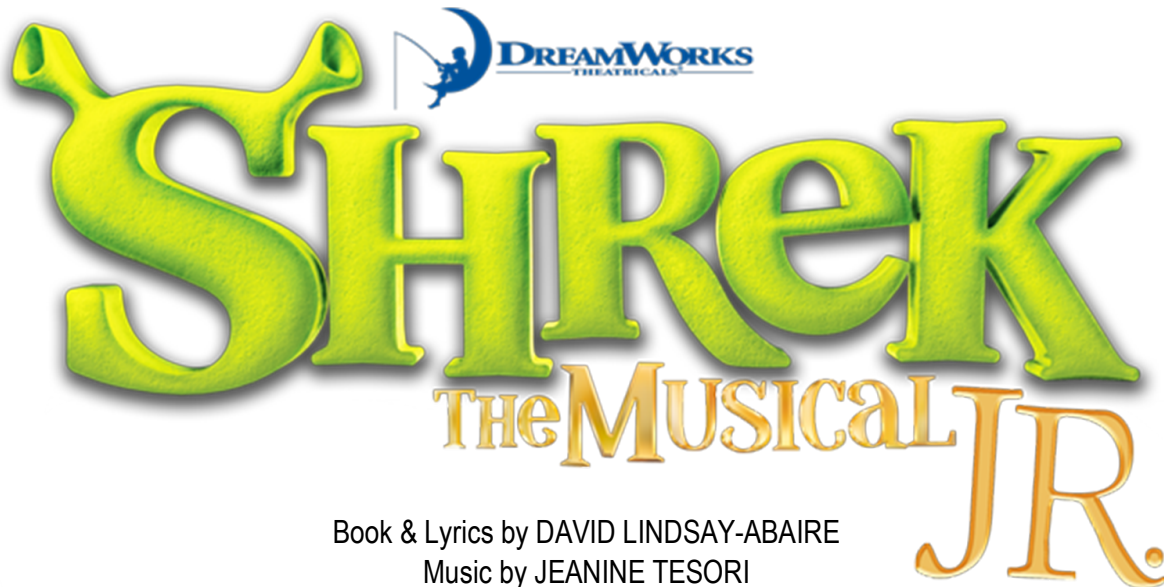
# CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024

Sophia Gardens  
Cathedral Road  
Cardiff CF11 9SQ



## AUDITION NOTICE

Everyone's favourite ogre is back in this hilarious stage spectacle, based on the Oscar-winning smash hit film and outrageous Broadway musical.



Book & Lyrics by DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE  
Music by JEANINE TESORI

DIRECTOR & CHOREOGRAPHER  
EMMA-JAYNE PARKER

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
CADI MULLANE

### PERFORMANCE DATES

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup> to SATURDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JULY 2024**

14 PERFORMANCES AT THE CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL, SOPHIA GARDENS, CARDIFF.

TWO PERFORMANCES PER DAY. NO PERFORMANCES ON MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY.

TECHNICAL & DRESS REHEARSAL ON FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY.

Rehearsals to begin in April.

Rehearsals will be on Sunday afternoons. Venue tbc.

Thursday early evenings will be added nearer to the production dates.

Running Time is approx. 65 mins.

Please note that all performances take place in the open-air.

**ALL PERFORMERS MUST BE AGED BETWEEN 9 & 18 ON SHOW DATES**

## THE FESTIVAL

The Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival has been running since 1983. The 400-seater auditorium is built every summer and professional Directors, Designers and Site Management teams are engaged to ensure a high standard of productions.

All the performers across the main productions come from the community as do the stage management, wardrobe teams, bar staff and theatre ushers. It is now the biggest outdoor theatre event in Wales with the professional team and hundreds of volunteers staging over sixty performances in June and July. The Family show has been Directed & Choreographed by Emma-Jayne Parker since 2013.

## THE SHOW

Once upon a time, in a far-away swamp, there lived an ogre named Shrek. One day, Shrek finds his swamp invaded by banished fairy-tale characters who have been cast off by Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions. When Shrek sets off with a wisecracking donkey to confront Farquaad, he's handed a task – if he rescues feisty princess Fiona, his swamp will be righted. Shrek tries to win Fiona's love and vanquish Lord Farquaad, but a fairy-tale wouldn't be complete without a few twists and turns along the way.

## THE DIRECTOR

**Emma-Jayne Parker** is a freelance director, choreographer, teacher and producer. She has appeared in professional musicals, pantomime and cabaret across the UK, Europe and the Far East, directs and choreographs for various theatre companies internationally and teaches dance.

She is currently Head of Dance at Simply Theatre, Geneva, Switzerland and has co-produced, directed and choreographed all the Family shows at the Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival since 2013 including last year's acclaimed sell-out production of 'Matilda Jr.'

She has extensive experience in many styles of theatre. Productions as Director include '13 the Musical', 'Carrie the Musical', 'Be More Chill', 'Godspell' and 'Urinetown' (andGO) & 'The Snow Queen', 'Once On This Island' (Simply Theatre, Switzerland) Credits as Movement Director / Choreographer include, 'The Night Before Christmas' (Simply Theatre Productions / Borough Theatre Abergavenny) 'Merchant of Venice' (Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival), 'Disco Inferno' & 'We Will Rock You' (Cardiff and Vale College) 'A Christmas Carol', 'Sleeping Beauty', 'Pinocchio', 'Bugsy Malone' & 'Hansel & Gretel' (Simply Theatre Productions, Switzerland), 'Our House' (Unknown Theatre), 'Old Hands' (Hijinx Theatre), 'Much Ado About Nothing' (Mappa Mundi), 'The Flint Street Nativity' (andGo), 'Macbeth', 'Allo 'Allo', 'Twelfth Night' & 'The Comedy of Errors' (Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival) and a short film: 'A Very British Cover Up'.

Emma-Jayne is a fully qualified teacher with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dance (ISTD) and teaches many styles of dance including Modern, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary and Ballet. At her Studio, she coaches for Dance and Drama School auditions; recent students have gained entry to Doreen Bird College, Arts Educational School and Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts.

As Co-Producer of Go Productions (andGO): shows include Alan Ayckbourn's 'Confusions', 'The Flint Street Nativity', '13', 'Carrie', 'Be More Chill' and co-productions of 'Anorak Of Fire' (with Main8 Productions) and John Godber's 'Bouncers' (with Arts Active) at St David's Hall.

She is also the immensely proud Principal of Go Theatre and Dance Academy – a thriving part time performing arts school run at locations across Cardiff for over 150 children and young people. Providing excellent opportunities for students to perform at fantastic venues, build confidence and follow dreams. Emma-Jayne strives to create performance opportunities for all her students. Students are wonderful ambassadors for the Go ethos and make an excellent impression wherever they go.

## ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Cadi Mullane** is currently studying Musical Theatre at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She previously trained at Arts Educational Schools, London.

Credits include: Crystal – 'Nativity!' (BBC Films, Debbie Isitt); Soloist – 'The Queen's Coronation Festival' (BBC, Raymond Gubbay); Soloist – 'An Intimate Evening with Kristen Chenoweth' (AEG, London Palladium); Guest Vocalist – 'Lucie Jones This Is Me' (Tour).

Cadi has been involved in the Cardiff Open Air Theatre Festival for many years. Credits include Sharpay – 'High School Musical' (2022), Ariel – 'The Little Mermaid' (2019); Gertrude McFuzz – 'Seussical' (2018). She was also Assistant Director on last year's production of 'Matilda'.

## THE CHARACTERS

**STORYTELLERS:** Wonderful roles for performers with natural stage presence and big, clear voices. These characters are important for setting up the world and moving the story forward, so we need some bold, energetic young actors.

**SHREK:** He may be a big, scary, green ogre to the rest of the world, but as the story reveals, he's really just a big fellow with a big heart. We're looking for an excellent comedic actor who can sing.

**FIONA:** She may appear to be an ideal princess straight from the fairy tale books, but there is more to her than that stereotypical image. She is an audacious young lady with a wonderful sense of humour and the manners of a tearaway. We are looking for someone who can do it all: act, sing and dance. A great role for a strong performer with a loveable spirit.

**YOUNG FIONA & TEEN FIONA:** Young Fiona and Teen Fiona are younger versions of Fiona and should have good singing voices.

**LORD FARQUAAD:** A very short man with a huge ambition! His only interest is in gaining as much power as possible. We'll be looking for a good singer and a great comedian who isn't afraid of making bold choices or looking silly.

**DONKEY:** Shrek's loyal and ever-faithful sidekick. A brash, loud, fast-talking animal with no concept of "quiet time". We'll be looking for a strong performer who can sing well and has bags of presence and character.

**DRAGON:** A breakout role for a girl with a lot of soul. She is a ferocious fire-breathing dragon but finds a surprising love in Donkey. We'll be looking for a performer who has tremendous presence and a good pop singing voice.

**MAMA & PAPA OGRE:** Good roles for a dynamic duo that can kick off the show with a lot of energy and presence. Good singers.

**LITTLE OGRE:** A role just right for one of our younger performers who is new to the stage. No lines but very important to the storytelling.

**PINOCCHIO:** The wooden boy who cannot tell a lie without being given away by his growing nose. Pinocchio begins in a sour mood about his second-class status but ends the story as a natural leader among the Fairy Tale Creatures. We'll need a great actor with bags of personality who can sing well.

**THE THREE LITTLE PIGS:** Pig 1, Pig 2 & Pig 3. The classic three little pigs with a German twist. It isn't necessary that they look identical; we just need a fun and dynamic trio.

**UGLY DUCKLING:** He may be bitter about his unfortunate appearance, but he does find camaraderie among his fellow fairy-tale outcasts. A fun comedic role for a young performer.

**THE THREE BEARS:** Mama Bear, Papa Bear, and Baby Bear. Great cameo roles for young performers who can be a complementary group.

**WICKED WITCH:** A great role for a big personality.

**BIG BAD WOLF:** He doesn't need to be a scary, threatening big-bad-wolf type. At this point, he's a pretty tame wolf who is reduced to wearing Little Red Riding Hood's grandmother's dressing gown.

**GINGY:** As earnest as can be. Gingy is based on the Gingerbread Man who runs away like a fugitive from his baking captors.

**PETER PAN:** The boy who never grew up, and he continues to act the part in this story.

**CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD:** Has strength and authority, a big, booming voice and isn't scared to put all the Fairy Tale Creatures in their place.

**KNIGHTS:** The Dragon's background singers who all tried at some point to save Fiona from her tower but were held hostage by the Dragon.

**DWARF:** Farquaad's comparably short and grumpy father.

Other Ensemble roles include : **GUARDS, DULOC PERFORMERS, PUSS IN BOOTS, ROOSTER, PIED PIPER, RATS** and **THE BISHOP**.

Plus lots of **BIRDS, TREES, DEER** and **WOODLAND CREATURES**.

## THE AUDITIONS

- Auditions will be held at Chapter Arts Centre, Market Road, Canton, Cardiff on **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**. We are splitting auditions across 2 days this year. If you would like to audition but cannot attend over that weekend, please let us know as soon as possible.
- Auditions will be held in groups. Each audition 'slot' will be for 50 mins.

<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ages 9 to 12</b>	<b>4pm &amp; 5pm.</b>
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Ages 13 to 15</b>	<b>1.30pm &amp; 2.30pm</b>
	<b>Ages 16 to 18</b>	<b>3.30pm &amp; 4.30pm</b>

Some recalls may be held at the end of the day.

- Please arrive 15mins before your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form (page 6) with photograph. Spare audition forms will be available on the day.
- **Prepare an upbeat 'West-End / Broadway' song. Please provide a Backing Track on a memory stick or portable device. We will only need to hear 2 mins max.**
- **There is dance/movement in the show so arrive dressed appropriately and be prepared to move.**
- Please remember that not being recalled does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.

### **\*\*IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT THE DRESS REHEARSAL FOR SHREK JR.**

The technical and dress rehearsal for SHREK JR. takes place on **FRIDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JULY** from **9am – 4pm**. It is mandatory for the whole cast to attend rehearsal on that day – this is a site safety requirement. It's the last day of the school term, so please check to find out how that might affect you.

- For some, term may already have ended, or it will be an INSET day; either way, you won't be in school so you can be at the rehearsal.
- For others you might be required to be in school, perhaps until midday; if so, we will send you a headteachers' permission slip. Get it signed and you can be at the rehearsal.
- For those in Year 6, it might be the last day in your school, and we recognize how important that is to some. We're sorry however that we can't grant an exception so if you know that you will want to attend school on that day – perhaps for a leavers' party or awards ceremony – please do not sign up for SHREK JR. Get a ticket and join us in the audience instead, we'll be delighted to see you.

To reserve your place at the audition:

E-mail: [gotheatre@me.com](mailto:gotheatre@me.com)

We look forward to seeing you!



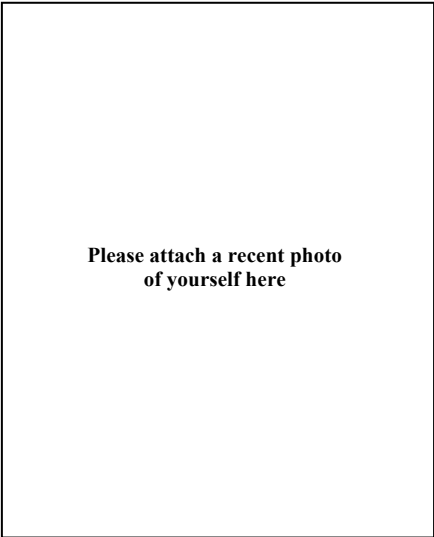
**Audition Form**

**SHREK THE MUSICAL JR**

at the CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL 2024

To reserve your place at the audition, please mail us at: [gotheatre@me.com](mailto:gotheatre@me.com)

Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form to your audition!



Name: .....

Address: .....

Postcode: ..... Email address: (please print carefully): .....

Contact Tel. No.: .....

Date of birth if under 16\*: ..... Age on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2024: .....

Age on your Audition day: ..... Height (in cm): .....

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – eg, juggling, acrobatics, musical instrument playing, etc.  
.....

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE – esp. DANCE and/or MUSICAL THEATRE (continue overleaf if necessary):  
.....  
.....

For what role/s are you auditioning? .....

If not cast in a principal role, would you accept a role in the ensemble? YES / NO

Please state commitments [work/holidays/other shows etc.] that may conflict with our rehearsal period.  
.....

\*IF YOU ARE UNDER 16, PLEASE SUPPLY YOUR PARENT/GUARDIAN'S CONTACT DETAILS BELOW:

Name: ..... Mobile No: .....

E-Mail: .....

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast/recalled/cast as: ..... Acceptance rec'd yes/no