



# SHREK the Musical Production Review



BECCLES  
HIGH SCHOOL



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**Title:** Whole School Production of Shrek the Musical

**Director** Miss Goode and Mr Caton

**Actors:** Students in years 7 through to 10.

With Dan (year 10) starring as Shrek and Emily as Fiona

**Genre:** Musical Theatre - Comedy

**My rating:** ★★★★★

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Performers:**  
Years 7-10

**Director:**  
Miss Goode

**Musical Director**  
Mr Caton

**Performance Date:**  
July 9th & 11th

**Runtime:**  
2.5 hrs

**Distributor:**  
MTI

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## Review:

SHREK 2024: 'We Can't Believe It's Ogre'

First of all, on behalf of myself and Miss Goode I would like to thank the families of the students involved for their amazing support throughout the whole process, making sure that the cast were able to attend not only after school rehearsals but giving up their free time to bring them to weekend rehearsals as well. A massive thank you to all the members of staff who gave up their free-time to ensure that the show could run, modelling our fabulous merchandise for sale. Miss Cooper-Adams especially, without her we would not have had the amazing set nor would we have been able to pull off the vision that we both had. Final thank you for the whole student body. The cast, for their hard work and dedication for months. The Forge students came along to help paint the set and the rest of the school for coming to support everyone involved. It really felt that everyone involved was proud to be Beccles.

When I first joined Beccles High School in September last year it was very clear that the school was filled with talent, I believe at Beccles we always allow our students to shine where possible which was evident with the success that was Beccles Got Talent. Long meetings with Miss Goode we decided that we wanted to put the performing arts department on the map and what better way than with a show. Shrek was an obvious choice as it is a show that has not only strong principle roles but does rely heavily on the ensemble and a lot of multi role parts. When we announced the auditions I think I can speak for us both when I say that we were blown away with the amount of responses we got as well as the massive array of talent. We had a lot of discussion about who we thought was perfect for each role and safe to say it was not an easy decision to make, we constantly were going back and forth, but I think it is safe to say that our final decision was the perfect choice.

Daniel as Shrek was very strong as the central character. It sometimes can be a lot of pressure to be the title character of the show, but Dan took it in his stride. He spent hours learning songs that he never knew, not to mention having the most lines in the entire production. I am very proud of the Maturity he took to the whole process and he will forever be our Shrek. Emily vocals as Princess Fiona blew us away again, having to learn a lot of new songs but her particular ability to pick up harmonies was fantastic, as Deputy Head Girl in the school she became a natural leader in the cast making sure that everyone in the younger years felt included. Both of them together produced high energy levels and chemistry with drove the show on. To round off our main three Elizabeth was our loveable chatty Donkey. Beth had only been with us for a year when she decided to audition for a main part, something which can be quite daunting for a student in year 8. When she came to audition it was very clear that she would be our Donkey, with impeccable comedy timing and her ability to bring the Donkey from the film to life.

Not forgetting our supporting cast ; Lexi as the firm audience (and production team) favourite Lord Farquaad, Lottie as Gingey, Madison as Dragon, Kai as Pinocchio, Lucy as Teen Fiona and Maisie Kenningham as Young Fiona. Followed up by our ensemble; Ashley , Harmony , Florence ,Toby , Alyssa , Kaitlin , Dexter and Piper . The cast above had a lot of costume and character changes throughout the show and were constantly having to learn multiple dance routines, multiple songs and multiple lines, somethings with which even professionals can sometimes struggle with. With the school not putting on a production for two years I believe we had the strongest cast possible to help us reboot the performing arts department in the school.

Not only was the show a success, so much so that on our last night we frantically had to add more seats to the school in order to accommodate the flourish of ticket sales. But from our point of view it was really lovely to see a bond form within this group of students, some who wouldn't cross paths normally in school but for an hour after school they had a chance to be united by something they all loved, performing. By the end of the run they were all inseparable, hopefully creating friendships that they can bring into the new school year. We created a safe environment in which people who during normal drama lessons might not feel confident to step out of their shell and be able to show us what they have.

As we start our next schooling year one thing is for certain. We will be back with another show.. Or two? After the show week students around the school were asking what we were thinking for next year as they couldn't wait to express their interest in getting involved with the next production. I feel an immense sense of pride in what we created and delivered, at times we were all exhausted and burnt out, but when it mattered most we all banded together and worked as a team and for that reason I will be forever grateful to this wonderful bunch for bringing one of my favourite musicals to life.

One final thank you and I cannot express this enough, to Miss Goode. It is so wonderful to work alongside someone who has the same love and passion for theatre that I do. Throughout the whole process she has been the driving force that has helped push the rehearsal process and her ability to run a backstage crew is second to none. I cannot wait to work together again and make our next show even bigger. But what is our next show? Keep your eyes peeled very soon.

