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Shrek the Musical JR.

synopsis

The curtain opens on a trio of **STORYTELLERS** sharing the tale of a little ogre named **SHREK**. **PAPA** and **MAMA OGRE** sit Shrek down and have a coming-of-age talk with their son, telling him that since he is now seven years old, it is time for him to make his own place in the world, and he must leave home (*Big Bright Beautiful World*). As the years pass, Shrek transforms into an adult and finds contentment living alone in a swamp on the edge of the kingdom of Duloc.

Suddenly, the **CAPTAIN OF THE GUARDS** appears, leading a large group of **FAIRY TALE CREATURES** into the swamp, including **PINOCCHIO**, the **BIG BAD WOLF**, the **THREE LITTLE PIGS**, the **WICKED WITCH**, **PETER PAN**, the **UGLY DUCKLING**, and the **THREE BEARS**. The characters have been exiled from the kingdom of Duloc and banished to live in the swamp (*Story Of My Life*). Shrek returns home to find his once private swamp now teeming with the new inhabitants and angrily sets off to confront the leader of Duloc about the injustice.

As Shrek makes his way through a dense forest, he encounters a screaming **DONKEY** under pursuit by more **GUARDS** from Duloc. Shrek scares off the guards, and, having lost his way, reluctantly agrees to let Donkey be his guide, despite his better judgment. Meanwhile, in Duloc, the Guards sing of the "gentrification" of the kingdom (*What's Up, Duloc? - Part 1*). **LORD FARQUAAD** appears, questioning the captive **GINGY** as to the whereabouts of an available princess that Farquaad could marry in order to become King and justly gain control of all of Duloc. Threatened with torture, Gingly relinquishes the information – there is a princess in a tower guarded by a dragon and surrounded by boiling-hot lava. Just as Farquaad and the residents of Duloc begin to celebrate their future queen (*What's Up, Duloc? - Part 2*), Shrek and Donkey arrive. Shrek demands the swamp be rightfully returned to him, and seizing an opportunity, Farquaad agrees to find a new home for the Fairy Tale Creatures if Shrek retrieves the princess for him (*What's Up, Duloc? - Reprise*).

High in her tower, **YOUNG FIONA** dreams of being rescued by a handsome prince and living the idyllic fairy tale dream (*I Know It's Today*). The years pass, and **FIONA** grows more anxious day after day, nervous that the stories she's read have misled her. Despite her frustrations, she remains hopeful.

Meanwhile, Donkey passes time on the long journey by singing (*Travel Song*). Shrek and Donkey arrive at the castle, and, donning a knight's helmet he finds in the castle for protection, Shrek tells Donkey to wait while he rescues the princess. Four imprisoned **KNIGHTS** warn Donkey that he may wind up like them. The **DRAGON**, frustrated that no one ever pursues her, sings of her loneliness (*Forever*). Shrek climbs Fiona's tower while she excitedly prepares for the arrival of her prince. The meeting doesn't go quite as Fiona had planned, and she mistakes Shrek for a brave knight due to his helmet. Shrek doesn't have time to correct this oversight, as Donkey is now being pursued by the Dragon. Madly in love with Donkey, the Dragon spares his life. The Dragon attacks Shrek when she sees he's freed Fiona. The two battle, and Fiona finally gets

her storybook adventure (*This Is How A Dream Comes True*).

Having escaped the dragon, the group sets off for Duloc. Shrek reveals to Fiona that he is actually an ogre and has rescued her for Lord Farquaad. As the sun sets, Fiona demands to set up camp and disappears into a cave for the duration of the night. The Storytellers reveal that Fiona has been placed under a curse causing her to live "by day one way, by night another."

The next morning, Fiona is chipper and highly caffeinated (*Morning Person*). She greets the woodland creatures, including the **PIED PIPER** and his disorderly **RATS**, with cheerful optimism. The group continues their journey and Shrek and Fiona bond over their horrible lives thus far (*I Think I Got You Beat*). The song ends in a gassy display of bravado, and the two become friends. Donkey is convinced that their relationship is actually a budding romance (*Make A Move*).

Having reached Duloc, Fiona postpones meeting Lord Farquaad for one more night, and retires to a nearby barn to sleep as the sun sets. That night, Donkey stumbles into the barn and discovers Fiona's secret – she has transformed into an ogress. Fiona explains that she has been cursed to live by day as a human and by night as an ogre, and sees Lord Farquaad as her only chance for happiness because he can break the spell, for no one could ever love an ugly ogre. Shrek, who has worked up the courage to tell Fiona how he feels about her, overhears only the last part of Fiona's conversation with Donkey from outside the barn, and thinks she is talking about him (*Morning Person - Reprise*).

The next morning, Shrek admits to Fiona that he heard everything she said. Fiona now thinks that he knows her secret and is unable to love her because of it. Just then, Lord Farquaad arrives to claim Fiona. He hands over the deed to Shrek's swamp, and makes plans to marry Fiona that night. Hurt, Fiona accepts and leaves with him. The Fairy Tale Creatures drudge on, having been evicted from the swamp. Donkey pleads with Shrek to try to win back Fiona, and the Fairy Tale Creatures agree that he must be proud of who he is rather than ashamed by it (*Freak Flag*). With a sense of empowerment and a plan of action, the group decides to return to Duloc.

Just as the **BISHOP** is about to marry Fiona and Lord Farquaad, Shrek and the Fairy Tale Creatures burst in. Shrek professes his love for Fiona (*Big Bright Beautiful World - Reprise*), and the Fairy Tale Creatures reveal Lord Farquaad's father – a grumpy **DWARF**. The discovery that Farquaad is actually a "freak" like the Fairy Tale Creatures he condemned shocks and surprises everyone. During this, the sun has gone down and Fiona has transformed into an ogress. Disgusted, Lord Farquaad claims that the marriage is binding – he is now king and shall lock Fiona back in the tower forever and rule Duloc himself. Just then, the Dragon crashes through the castle wall and heaves a fiery breath at Farquaad. Afterward, all that's left of him is his scorched crown. Shrek and Fiona finally share "true love's kiss," and although the spell is broken, Fiona doesn't turn back into a human. Shrek convinces her that she is beautiful just as she is, and everyone celebrates their individuality (*Finale*).

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characters

Storyteller 1

Storyteller 2

Storyteller 3

Mama Ogre

Papa Ogre

Little Ogre

Shrek

Captain of the Guards

Pinocchio

Big Bad Wolf

Pig 1

Pig 2

Pig 3

Wicked Witch

Peter Pan

Ugly Duckling

Mama Bear

Papa Bear

Baby Bear

Donkey

Lord Farquaad

Gingy

Young Fiona

Teen Fiona

Princess Fiona

Puss in Boots

Knight 1

Knight 2

Knight 3

Knight 4

Dragon

Pied Piper

Rats

Bishop

Dwarf

Ensemble Roles: **Storytellers, Guards, Fairy Tale Creatures, Duloc Performers, Rooster, Birds, Trees, Woodland Creatures, Deer**