

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM MUSIC THEATRE PRESENTS



 DREAMWORKS
THEATRICALS

SHREK
The
MUSICAL

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THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE



A Chorus Line (2023)



Les Misérables (2022)



Legally Blonde (2022)



Mamma Mia (2021)



Cabaret (2021)



Spring Awakening (2019)



Urinetown (2021)

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM MUSIC THEATRE PRESENTS

 **SHREK**
The
MUSICAL

Book and Lyrics by

DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Music by

JEANINE TESORI

Originally produced on Broadway by

**DREAMWORKS THEATRICALS
AND NEAL STREET PRODUCTIONS**

Direction by Erin James

Choreography by Joseph Simons

Music Direction by Paul Sinkinson

Lighting Design by Chris Snape

Sound Design by Jamie Mensforth

Set Design by Josh McIntosh

Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

“I’m a Believer” by Neil Diamond

Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia)

All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia



THE VIDEOTAPING OR OTHER VIDEO OR AUDIO RECORDING
OF THIS PRODUCTION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED



A NOTE FROM THE HEAD OF MUSIC THEATRE

The only books I truly enjoy reading are those about music theatre history. I can sit for hours in a coffee shop devouring some ‘gossipy’ tale about the backstory of a Broadway musical. Anyone who will listen to me for any period of time is usually subjected to some historical anecdote about a Broadway show. It’s one of the reasons I have so few friends.

Recently, I have been reading about Barry and Fran Weissler, originally small-time producers from New Jersey who staged the ground-breaking 1996 revival of *Chicago*. No one believed in the concept for the revival. No one wanted to invest in the show. The Weissler’s committed the cardinal sin of producing theatre and invested their own money. Everyone made fun of Barry Weissler. A university dropout who failed more courses than he passed.

Barry Weissler said he was lost as a young man until he stumbled upon theatre. Watching a rehearsal of Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*, he said he found his people, and was comfortable for the first time in his life. Together with his wife Fran, they took all the knockbacks and rejections but refused to give up. Mortgaging their house, they rolled the dice on *Chicago*. Since 1996, the Broadway gross alone for *Chicago* currently stands at over \$700 million. The Weissler’s have won 7

Tony Awards and 4 Drama Desk Awards. *Chicago* is still running on Broadway!

Why does this story matter? Because theatre of any kind, no matter the level, takes courage. A school teacher to a professional producer will all tell the same tale. It’s a total joy...and it’s hard!

Last month I announced our 2024 season. Putting together a season of shows feels a bit like trying to juggle flaming torches while riding a unicycle on a tightrope strung across a volcano. Impossible to completely please anyone, and a certainty that at some point I will annoy and dismay everyone.

“I have to accept the fact that, no matter what I do, it’s going to annoy someone.”

- Nathan Lane

In 2024, our graduating Third-Year students begin the year in the quaint 19th-century world of *Little Women*, where corsets are tight, and gossip is loose. Exploring themes of sisterhood and resilience, this

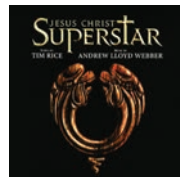
stunning musical score is an absolute treat. In stark contrast, the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* depicting the last week of Jesus' life, will provide an opportunity for students to delve into complex characters, aggressive choreography and emotionally charged musical numbers.

With a South Australian premiere, our Second-Year students will tackle the glorious new work *Alice by Heart*. From the team that created *Spring Awakening*, we follow Alice who takes refuge in a London Tube station during the Blitz of WWII. Here she confronts grief, loss, and love with the help of her favourite book, *Alice in Wonderland*.

We finish the year with our graduating class in the often hilarious and heartbreaking complexities of Sondheim's *Company*. In this ground-breaking work, relationships are dissected and emotions run high as we follow Bobby and his pursuit of love and relationships.

If you are delighted, surprised, perplexed and annoyed then I have done a good job. Bring on 2024!

George Torbay AM





FROM THE DIRECTOR

When I found out I was to be working with the first and second year ECMT students on *Shrek The Musical*, I was 300 performances into a run of *Phantom of the Opera* with Opera Australia. I'd spent months in the world of the grotesque. I was surrounded by the gothic and the dramatic. I didn't realise it at the time, but after all that epic grandeur and opulence, I desperately needed to explore the Big Bright Beautiful world of a musical like *Shrek*.

And boy, did it deliver.

Building a show with the students of the Elder Conservatorium of Music's Bachelor of Music Theatre is a beautiful experience. Each rehearsal is filled with a company of young performers who demonstrate an eagerness to learn and a tenacity to strive for improvement in newly acquired skills. But most strikingly, there is a sense of fun, a sense of play and an incredible sense of community.

It is this community - this sense of togetherness - which has made the rehearsal process for the production so joyous. Not only did it feed into the thematic material of the work, which explores discovering community in the most unexpected places, but it created a beautiful link between art and reality.

The world of *Shrek* is populated with a plethora of interesting and vibrant characters: an ogre, a Princess, a Dragon, a donkey and a collection of well known fairy tale characters. It is zany, satirical, heartfelt and subversive weaving an array of musical styles,

theatrical conventions and dance numbers into one colourful landscape and forces us to reflect on some large social justice issues which are - sadly - still incredibly relevant. In fact, whenever there is work to be done in the areas of social justice, discrimination, human rights and mental health, the underlying messages found within *Shrek The Musical* will be relevant.

Shrek explores connection and diversity, celebrating both of these ideas by challenging stereotypes, parodying established tropes and subverting the norm. Its beating heart, however, is the beautiful community bringing it to life.

Erin James

MUSICAL NUMBERS

A Fairytale told differently

Time: 15th Century

Place: Far Far Away

Act 1

Big Bright Beautiful World.....	Company
Story of My Life	Fairytale Creatures
The Goodbye Song.....	Fairytale Creatures
Don't Let Me Go.....	Donkey
What's Up Duloc?.....	Farquaad, Ensemble
I Know It's Today.....	Young Fiona, Teen Fiona, Fiona
Travel Song	Donkey, Shrek
Forever.....	Dragon, Donkey, Dragonettes, Knights
This is How a Dream Comes True.....	Fiona, Dragon
Who I'd Be.....	Shrek, Fiona, Donkey

Act 2

Morning Person	Fiona, Bluebird, Ensemble
I Think I Got You Beat.....	Shrek, Fiona
Ballad of Farquaad	Farquaad, Ensemble
Make a Move.....	Donkey, Three Blind Mice
When Words Fail	Shrek
Morning Person (Reprise).....	Fiona
Build a Wall	Shrek
Freak Flag	Fairytale Creatures
Big Bright Beautiful World (Reprise)	Shrek
Finale.....	Company
I'm a Believer	Shrek, Fiona, Donkey, Dragon, Company

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CAST

Shrek.....	Patrick Wilson
Princess Fiona.....	Amy McCann
Donkey.....	Greg Mitchell
Lord Farquaad.....	Darcy Wain
Dragon.....	Alana Iannace
Ugly Duckling/Ensemble.....	Tayla Alexander
Baby Bear/Ensemble.....	Jessica Allsop
Mama Ogre/Thelonius.....	Ava-Rose Askew
Gretel/Ensemble.....	Melanie Cowmeadow
Papa Bear/Ensemble.....	Ranz Custodio
Pied Piper/Captain of the Guard.....	Sascha Debney-Matiszik
Pinocchio/Ensemble.....	Liam Dundon
Papa Ogre/Ensemble.....	Joey Haenen
Queen Lillian/Ensemble.....	Bree Hall
Tooth Fairy/Ensemble.....	Sally Harrop
Pig (Stones)/Ensemble.....	Oliver John
Pig (Sticks)/Ensemble.....	Ben Jones
Mama Bear/Ensemble.....	Erica Jones
Little Red/Ensemble.....	Grace Jones
King Harold/Ensemble.....	Jaxon Joy
Guard/Ensemble.....	Damien Lee
Teen Fiona/Ensemble.....	Ellie McMahon
Elf/Ensemble.....	Jelena Nicdao
Peter Pan/Ensemble.....	Joshua Rocca
White Rabbit/Ensemble.....	Phoebe Rodger
Humpty/Ensemble.....	Billie-Rose Russell
Wolf/Ensemble.....	Jay Scott
Sugar Plum Fairy/Gingy/Ensemble.....	Emily Simmons
Alice/Bluebird/Ensemble.....	Bella Thomas
Pig (Straw)/Ensemble.....	Brendan Tomlins
Witch/Ensemble.....	Sophie Volp
Fairy Godmother/Ensemble.....	Lily Walker
Hansel/Ensemble.....	Kaemon Wilcox
Tinkerbell/Ensemble.....	Lara Wilson
Young Fiona/Bambi.....	Emily Constantine/Lila Messenger
Young Shrek/Grumpy.....	Harrison Thomas

Swings

Ranz Custodio, Alana Iannace, Grace Jones, Jaxon Joy, Lara Wilson

Covers

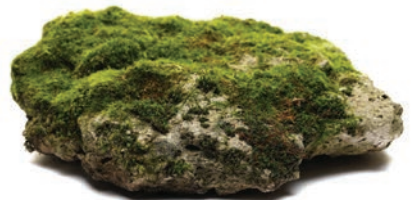
Covers never substitute for listed players unless a specific announcement for the appearance is made at the time of the performance.

Shrek	Ben Jones, Brendan Tomlins
Princess Fiona.....	Emily Simmons, Lily Walker
Donkey.....	Liam Dundon, Ben Jones
Lord Farquaad.....	Oliver John, Jay Scott
Dragon	Jelena Nicdao, Sophie Volp
Pinocchio.....	Jessica Allsop
Gingy/Sugar Plum Fairy	Phoebe Rogers
Pied Piper	Jay Scott
Blind Mice	Bree Hall, Sally Harrop, Erica Jones
Mama Ogre.....	Erica Jones
Queen Lillian.....	Bella Thomas
Teen Fiona.....	Lara Wilson
Young Shrek	Emily Constantine, Lila Messenger



ORCHESTRA

Conductor/Keyboard 1.....	Paul Sinkinson
Keyboard 2.....	Heather Elliott
Guitar 1.....	Tyler Venter ^(17th/19th)
	Caspar Hawksley ^(16th/18th)
Guitar 2.....	Curtis Worden
Bass.....	Louis Cann ^(16th/18th/19th)
	Georgia Gamble ^(17th)
Drums.....	Max Ziliotto
Percussion.....	Ryan Grunwald
Reed 1.....	Steve Jarman
Reed 2.....	Daniel Burgess
Trumpet.....	Geoff Bradley
Trombone.....	BJ O'Donovan
French Horn.....	Sam Peng
Violin 1.....	Belinda Porter
Violin 2.....	Ebony Bedford
Cello.....	Rachel Bruerville
Keyboard Programming.....	KeyboardTEK
Ableton Programming.....	Peter Johns



PRODUCTION

Executive Producer.....**George Torbay AM**
Production Manager.....**Peter Johns**

Director.....**Erin James**
Choreographer.....**Joseph Simons**
Music Director.....**Paul Sinkinson**
Additional Choreography.....**Carla Papa-Centofanti**
Lighting Designer.....**Chris Snape**
Stage Manager.....**Peter Johns**

Set and costumes courtesy of Packemin Productions

Original Set Designer.....**Josh McIntosh**
Original Costume Designer.....**Audrey Currie**
Original Wig Designer.....**Karen Lamont-Barnett**

Front Of House Manager.....**Cathy Clark**

Poster Design.....**Imogen Landau, Richards Rose**
Program Design.....**Lisa-May Pellaschiar, Richards Rose**
Photography.....**Gregory Balcombe**

Mosaic Audio Visual Pty Ltd.....**Craig Williams (Director)**
Sound Design.....**Jamie Mensforth**
Sound Mixer.....**Cambell Lawrence**
Radio Mic Technician.....**Jen Nguyen**
Radio Mic Support.....**Jess Delbridge**
Fls.....**Matt Smith, Lachlan Williams**
Follow Spots.....**Otto Pennington and Taia Doyle**

STUDENT PRODUCTION ROLES

Dance Captain	Grace Jones
Assistant Dance Captain	Lily Walker
Assistant to the Director	Tayla Alexander
Assistant to the Music Director	Greg Mitchell
Assistant to the Production/Stage Manager	Sascha Debney-Matiszik
Costumes	Jessica Allsop (leader) Amy McCann (assistant) Alana Iannace, Emily Simmons
Hair and Make Up	Sophie Volp (leader) Jelena Nicdao (assistant) Ava-Rose Askew
Properties	Jay Scott (leader) Tayla Alexander (assistant) Patrick Wilson
Stage Management	Sascha Debney-Matiszik (leader) Brendan Tomlins (deputy) Ben Jones, Darcy Wain
Marketing	Greg Mitchell (leader) Liam Dundon (assistant) Oliver John
Assistant Stage Managers	Cobain Bradley, Sophie Carmody

WITH THANKS TO

Packemin Productions, Neil Gooding, Georgia Putt, Josh Mcintosh, Dylan Kelly, Audrey Currie, Karen Lamont-Barnett, Pelican Productions, Jen Frith, Kylie Green, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Robin Balogh, Aimee Ford, Northern Light Theatre Company, Sue Pole, Cheryl Ford, Media Makeup Academy, Gregory Balcombe, Amanda Grigg, Penny Stone, Toni Pihodnya, Bethany Ottaway, Eleanor Danenberg, Poppy Nwosu, Hubba Hubba Hummus

A wooden sign with three horizontal planks is suspended by two thick, light-brown ropes. The word "WRITERS" is carved into the middle plank in a bold, green, serif font. The background is a deep blue with a bokeh effect of light spots.

WRITERS



DAVID LINDSAY-ABAIRE

Book and Lyrics

David Lindsay-Abaire is a Pulitzer Prize winning playwright, screenwriter, lyricist and librettist. *Ripcord*, opened at Manhattan Theatre Club in 2015. His previous play *Good People* premiered on Broadway, 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* received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, five Tony nominations, and the Spirit of America Award. David also wrote the book and lyrics for *Shrek The Musical*, which was

nominated for eight Tonys, four Oliviers, a Grammy, and earned David the Ed Kleban Award as America's most promising musical theatre lyricist. David's other plays include *Fuddy Meers*, *Kimberly Akimbo*, *Wonder of the World*, and *A Devil Inside*, among others.

In addition to his work in theatre, David's screen credits include his film adaptation of *Rabbit Hole*, DreamWorks' *Rise of the Guardians*, and *Family Fang*, starring Nicole Kidman, Christopher Walken and Jason Bateman.





JEANINE TESORI

Music

Jeanine Tesori won the Tony Award for Best Original Score with Lisa Kron for the musical *Fun Home*. She has also written Tony-nominated scores for *Twelfth Night* at Lincoln Center; *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (lyrics, Dick Scanlan); *Caroline, or Change* (lyrics, Tony Kushner); and *Shrek The Musical* (lyrics, David Lindsay-Abaire). The production of *Caroline, or Change* at the National Theatre in London received the Olivier Award for Best New Musical. Her 1997 Off-Broadway musical *Violet* (lyrics, Brian Crowley) opened on Broadway in 2014 and garnered four Tony nominations, including Best Musical Revival. Opera: *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (libretto, Tony Kushner; Glimmerglass) and

The Lion, The Unicorn, and Me (libretto, J. D. McClatchy, Kennedy Center). Music for plays: *Mother Courage* (dir. George C. Wolfe, with Meryl Streep and Kevin Kline), John Guare's *A Free Man of Color* (Lincoln Center Theater, dir. George C. Wolfe), and *Romeo and Juliet* (Delacorte Gala). Film scores: *Nights in Rodanthe*, *Every Day*, and *You're Not You*. Ms. Tesori is a member of the Dramatists Guild and was cited by the ASCAP as the first female composer to have two new musicals running concurrently on Broadway. She was the founding artistic director of Encores! Off-Center at New York City Center, and a lecturer in music at Yale University. Most of all, she is the proud parent of Siena Rafter.



JASON MOORE

Original Director

Broadway: *Avenue Q*, *Steel Magnolias*. Carnegie Hall: *Jerry Springer: The Opera*. Off-Broadway: *Speech and Debate* (Roundabout), *Avenue Q* (the Vineyard), *Guardians* (the Culture Project), *The Crumple Zone*. Associate directing: *Les Misérables* (Broadway, national

tour), *Ragtime* (Vancouver). Writer: *The Floatplane Notebooks* (Charlotte Repertory Theatre). TV directing: episodes of *Dawson's Creek*, *Everwood*, *One Tree Hill*, and *Brothers and Sisters*. Jason has a BS in performance studies from Northwestern University.



ROB ASHFORD

Original Director

Rob Ashford won the 2012 Olivier Award for his production of *Anna Christie* starring Jude Law and Ruth Wilson at London's Donmar Warehouse. The production opened to rave reviews with *The Independent's* anointing it as "picture perfect" and David Benedict stating that "the production's hallmark is its boldness." Rob most recently directed the Broadway revival of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* starring Scarlett Johansson, and *Macbeth* with Sir Kenneth Branagh at New York's Park Avenue Armory and The Manchester International Festival. The *Telegraph* claimed "This is a *Macbeth* that won't just go down as a highlight of the Manchester International Festival but as one of the Scottish Play's great revivals," and Ben Brantley of the *New York Times* proclaimed "Mr. Ashford uses his experience as a celebrated director of musicals to stunning, time-bending effect." Rob received his 8th Tony Nomination for his work on the Broadway revival of *Evita* starring Ricky Martin, and received the Tony Award for his work on the Broadway production of *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Other Broadway credits include *How to Succeed in Business* (Tony Award nominations for his direction and choreography), *Promises, Promises* (Tony Award nomination), *Shrek*, John Water's *Cry Baby* (Tony Award nomination,

Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Fred Astaire Awards), *Curtains* (Tony Award nomination), and *Wedding Singer* (Tony Award nomination). In London, Rob also directed the highly acclaimed Olivier Award winning revivals of *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Rachel Weisz and *Parade* at The Donmar Warehouse. Rob did the choreography and staging for the *Academy Awards* with Seth MacFarlane and won the 2009 Emmy Award for Best Choreography for his work on Baz Luhrmann's production number (featuring Hugh Jackman and Beyoncé) at the 81st Annual Academy Awards. He has also choreographed the opening number for The Tony Awards starring Neil Patrick Harris for 4 years. He choreographed the feature film *Beyond The Sea* directed by and starring Academy Award winner Kevin Spacey and Walt Disney Production's film *Cinderella* directed by Kenneth Branagh. Rob directed and choreographed NBC's *The Sound of Music Live!*, for which he received a DGA Award Nomination, and directed *The Barber of Seville* at Chicago Lyric Opera. Rob is an Associate Director at The Old Vic Theatre. He also serves on the Executive Board of The Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers and is a Trustee of The Joyce Theatre in New York City.

A wooden signpost with the word "CREATIVES" in green letters. The sign is made of several horizontal wooden planks and is mounted on a vertical wooden post. The background is a dark blue gradient with a bokeh effect of light blue dots.

CREATIVES



ERIN JAMES

Director

A graduate of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (Music Theatre), Erin's professional career began as a performer in some of Australia's most popular musicals including Opera Australia's productions of *My Fair Lady*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, as well as various Australian and international tours of *CATS*, *Fiddler on The Roof*, *Blood Brothers*, and *Love Never Dies*, among others. Her work in the arts extends to film and television, and Erin was fortunate enough to receive AACTA Award and Film Critics Circle of Australia Award nominations for her role in the feature film *The Little Death* (2014).

After working as a dance captain, swing and assistant director for the last decade, her professional directorial debut came in 2018 with *She Loves Me* at Hayes Theatre Co, which received Sydney Theatre Awards and Broadway World Award nominations. She was promoted to Staging Supervisor for Julie Andrew's production of *My Fair Lady* (Opera Australia), worked as Assistant Director for *Vernon God Little* (2014) and *Stalking The Bogeyman* (2018) and the Resident Director for the 2022/23 Australian tour of *Phantom of the Opera* (Opera Australia) at the Sydney Opera House and Arts Centre Melbourne. She directed the CONDA Award winning production of *Mamma Mia!* 2019 and The Very Popular Theatre Company's *CHESS in Concert*, starring Silvie Paladino and David Harris, in 2021.

As an educator and theatre practitioner, Erin has worked with Elder Conservatorium of Music's Music Theatre program to direct *On the Town* (2023), *Les Misérables* (2022), *Cabaret* (2021), and *Showcase: Our Time* (2021) and she is thrilled to return to ECMT for *Shrek The Musical*.

Erin is currently starring in Anna Goldsworthy's new play *Welcome To Your New Life* for State Theatre Company of South Australia.





JOSEPH SIMONS

Choreographer

Joseph is a director and choreographer working in music theatre, contemporary dance, opera, theatre and ballet.

After graduating from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), Joseph was awarded 2009 Outstanding Emerging Artist at Australian Dance Awards and nominated for a Green Room Award for Best Male Dancer.

As a performer, he has toured throughout USA, Asia, UK and Australia with companies including West Australian Ballet (*Pinocchio* – title role), Chunky Move (*Connected, I Like This*), Lucy Guerin Inc. (*Structure and Sadness, Untrained*), Queensland Ballet (*Little Red*), Force Majeure (*I Will Have Beautiful People At My Funeral Too*), Jack Productions and The Australian Ballet (*El Amour Brujo*). He has performed with The Production Company (*Nice Work If You Can Get It*), Opera Australia (*The Ring Cycle, King Roger*), Victorian Opera (*Julius Caesar*) and developed work at Australian Dance Theatre (*Proximity*) and DV8 Physical Theatre, London (*John*). As an actor, Joseph played Tom in the original London cast of *Spider Love* by Mick Goldstein and created the role of Malcom in the world premiere cast of *The Death Of Kings* by Colette F Keen.

His choreography has been performed by West Australian Ballet (*Man Alive*), Footlight Productions (*Miss Saigon*), The Seven Sopranos (*Popcorn*), Queensland University of Technology (*Skank: A Tragic Love Story*),

Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (*Self Destruct*) and Flying Fruit Fly Circus (*Storm*) as well as music videos for Elisha Bones' *Guts* and Hounds Homebound's *Sandy*. Joseph was the recipient of the 2013 Tanya Liedtke Fellowship – awarded to one Australian choreographer every two years.

Following his residency at the International Choreographic Laboratory in Frankfurt, Joseph created his solo work *First Things First*, premiering in the Robert Helpmann Theatre at the Margot Fonteyn Academy in New York. His next play, *100 Years Of The History Of Dance As Told By One Man In 60 Minutes With An Energetic Group Finale*, was written during a development at Roundabout Theatre, New York, before touring extensively.

From 2015 Joseph has been a contributing creative with Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University on shows including *Carousel, Little Women, Company, The Wedding Singer, Legally Blonde, Personals, It's Only Life*, and *Elegies*.

Joseph directed and choreographed the sold out and extended production of *The Producers* in Brisbane, Queensland. He was the Artistic Director of Altitude Theatre before becoming a full-time lecturer in Music Theatre at Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide.



PAUL SINKINSON

Music Director

Paul has been with the Bachelor of Music Theatre since inception as repertoire coach and accompanist. Show credits as a resident music director include *Shrek, In Pieces, Mamma Mia!, Songs for a New World* and *Spring Awakening*. Paul brings industry experience as a keyboard deputy and pit musician from national tours including *9 to 5, Frozen, Mamma Mia!, The Sound of Music* and *Singin' In The Rain*. He was the Associate Music Director for the national tour of *Friends! The Musical Parody* and has worked on a plethora of state based productions as music director including *This Girl: Regional SA Cabaret Tour* (Rachael Beck), *Kinky Boots* (Gilbert & Sullivan Society of SA), *Avenue Q* (Hills Musical Company), *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Northern Light Theatre Company), *Bye Bye Birdie* (The MET), *Wicked* (Matt Byrne Media) and *Mary Poppins* (Whyalla Players). Paul holds a Masters of Secondary Education in Media and Music and directs the social choir program *Sing for Joy* across the state for the aged care provider ACH Group.



A wooden sign with the word "CAST" in green letters, hanging from a rope against a blue bokeh background. The sign is made of three horizontal wooden planks and is suspended by two thick, light-colored ropes. The background is a dark blue gradient with a bokeh effect of light blue dots.

CAST

SECOND YEAR STUDENTS



Tayla Alexander (she/her)

Ugly Duckling / Ensemble

Tayla is a South African performer who immigrated to Australia in 2021. Her most recent performance was as a soloist in *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (ECMT, dir. Joseph Simons). Prior to moving to Australia, Tayla featured in the first season of the South African television series *Hollywood! Hier Kom Ek!* (Kyknet, dir. Riaan Grobler). She made her professional cabaret debut in *Love Stage* (&Scene, dir. Drew Bakker) and was selected for the South African Team of Performing Arts where she travelled to Los Angeles to compete in the World Championships of Performing Arts. She is delighted to be making her musical theatre debut in Australia in *Shrek The Musical*.



Jessica Allsop (she/they)

Baby Bear / Ensemble

Jessica is currently in their second year studying a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium. In 2021 Jessica received a diploma of Music Theatre from Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts. Credits include *Musical Mania* (Diverse-City), featured soloist in *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters* (ECMT, dir. Joseph Simons), Diploma of Music Theatre Showcase 2021 (WAAPA, dir. Joe Louis Robinson), *Charlie*/featured soloist in *Working: the Musical*, (WAAPA, dir. Nicole Stinton), and in the choir for the Australian Tour of *Chess The Musical* (Perth Concert Hall, dir. Tyran Parke).



Ava-Rose Askew (she/they)

Mama Ogre / Thelonius / Ensemble

Ava-Rose Askew started the journey with her Bachelor of Music Theatre degree in 2022 at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. She has worked as a horror actor for *The Living Dead Experience*, performed with Trevor Jones at his Piano Bar in the *Adelaide Cabaret Festival*, was part of the 2023 Adelaide Fringe Award Winning *BIMBO* (2021-23, dir. Amelia Rooney and Hannah Smith) and *Songs and Scenes* (ECMT, dir. Joseph Simons).



Sascha Debney-Matiszik (he/him)

Pied Piper / Captain of the Guard / Ensemble

Shrek will be Sascha's second production with ECMT, the first being a featured soloist in *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Originally from Sydney, Sascha performed in *Pricilla, Queen of the Desert* (Willoughby Theatre Company, dir. Adam Haynes) and had the privilege of originating the role of Kevin in Business Productions' *Everyone Loves a Wedding* (dir. Rosie Meader). He has also been a professional performer and clown for Luna Park Sydney.



Liam Dundon (he/him)
Pinocchio / Ensemble / Donkey (cover)

Originally from Sydney, Liam is in his second year of studying a Bachelor of Music Theatre at Elder Conservatorium of Music. This is Liam's second production with ECMT, his first appearing as a featured soloist in *Magic, Myths, and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Other performances include: Adelaide Cabaret Festival's Piano Bar performing with Trevor Jones, and appearing as an extra in *Swan Lake* at the Adelaide Festival Centre (The Australian Ballet, dir. David Hallberg). Liam has also completed various programs at Sydney Dance Company and NIDA.



Alana Iannace (she/her)
Dragon / Swing

Alana is currently in her second year of studying Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium. Notable credits include piloting the role of Katherine in *Newsies Jr* (dir. Timothy Allen McDonald, Marty Johnson) and the role of Mama in *Children of Eden Jr* (dir. Matthew Lee Robinson), both with OzTheatrics in Newcastle. She also recently performed the role of Eponine in the *Les Mis Medley* (dir. Hayden Tee) and performed and recorded the opening song *One Life* for the Pacific Games.



Oliver John (he/him)
Pig (Stones) / Ensemble / Lord Farquaad (cover)

Oliver was recently Ensemble/Beadle Bamford understudy in *Sweeney Todd* (ECMT, dir. James Millar), and a featured soloist in the first-year showcase *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). He played Dewey Finn in *School of Rock* (Pelican Productions, dir. Jen Frith), and performed in the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta (Adelaide Youth Theatre). Oliver travelled interstate as a vocalist in *HELLO: Erin Jae's Tribute to Adele* as part of the Under The Stars Festival (Australian Shakespeare Company).



Ben Jones (he/they)
Pig (Sticks) / Ensemble / Shrek (cover) / Donkey (cover)

Ben completed his diploma of Music Theatre at Queensland College of Dance under the direction of Jacqui Devereux. Some of Ben's previous credits include featured ensemble member in *Death, Divorce and Other Happy Endings* (ECMT, dir George Torbay), as well as a featured soloist and ensemble member in his Music Theatre diploma showcase, *Treading the Boards* (QCDC, dir Tim Hill). Ben has also recently completed work as an extra in The Australian Ballet's *Swan Lake*, as well as performing suit work in *Bluey: Live Experience*.



Grace Jones (she/her)

Dance Captain / Little Red / Ensemble / Swing

This will be Grace's second production with ECMT. Last year, she performed as a soloist in the showcase *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Grace attended The McDonald College of Performing Arts in Sydney, where she studied musical theatre and completed her dance training in areas of ballet, jazz, tap, and contemporary. She furthered her dance training at the ED5 International after-hours program and has completed her AMEB Grade 7 piano exam.



Amy McCann (she/her)

Princess Fiona

Amy is currently in her second year at the Elder Conservatorium. Prior to this, she studied a Diploma of Musical Theatre at the Australian Performing Arts Network in Perth. Amy recently performed the role of Dorothy Gale in *The Wizard of Oz* at Crown Theatre (HAMA Productions, dir. Olivia Collier). Other roles include Heather Chandler in *Heathers* at Perth's Fringe Festival (HAMA Production, dir. Olivia Collier), Serena understudy in *Legally Blonde* at Crown Theatre (HAMA Productions, dir. John James O'Hara), Ivy in *Bare: A Pop Opera* (Arise Productions, dir. Olivia Collier), and Stella in *Crowns Christmas Spectacular* (HAMA Productions, dir. John James O'Hara).



Greg Mitchell (he/him)

Donkey

Greg hails from the coastal town of Port Macquarie in NSW, and now calls Adelaide home. Most recently seen in The Australian Ballet's *Swan Lake* at Adelaide's Festival Theatre, his other professional credits include *Ziegfeld Boy* (dir. Josh Sanders) with Adelaide Cabaret Festival and Jackson in *Playback: 80's Pop Show* (dir. Renee Auciello) as part of Adelaide Fringe. Greg has completed a Diploma of Music Theatre at the Western Australian Academy of Music Theatre, where he was seen as Frank in *Working: The Musical* (dir. Nicole Stinton) and is in his second year of training at Elder Conservatorium.



Jelena Nicdao (she/her)

Elf / Ensemble / Dragon (cover)

Shrek will be Jelena's third stage production with ECMT with previous credits as a soloist in *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons) and as a booth singer in *Sweeney Todd* (dir. James Millar). Additional performances include *Musical Mania* in the Adelaide Fringe Festival, *Piano Man* alongside Trevor Jones as part of the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, and she workshopped *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* for iTheatrics in New York (dir. Marty Johnson).



Jay Scott (he/him)

Wolf / Ensemble / Lord Farquaad (cover) / Pied Piper (cover)

Shrek will be Jay's second production with ECMT, the first being the 2022 production of *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Jay was also fortunate to perform as Featured Ensemble in *Mamma Mia!* (The Very Popular Theatre Company, dir. Erin James) and Dance Ensemble in *Chess: The Musical* (The Very Popular Theatre Company, dir. Erin James). Jay is also the acting President of the Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre Association (ECMTA).



Emily Simmons (she/her)

Sugar Plum Fairy / Gingy / Ensemble / Princess Fiona (cover)

Shrek The Musical marks Emily's second production with the Elder Conservatorium. Last year she performed as a soloist in ECMT's first year *Songs and Scenes* (dir. Joseph Simons). Some of Emily's recent theatre credits include *Mamma Mia!* (Packemin Productions, dir. Jordan Vassallo) and *We Will Rock You* (Packemin Productions, dir. Wayne Scott Kermond). In 2020, Emily began a Bachelor of Media and Marketing in her hometown Sydney, and has continued to study this online, parallel to the Bachelor of Music Theatre.



Brendan Tomlins (he/him)

Pig (Straw) / Ensemble / Shrek (cover)

Brendan is currently in his second year at ECMT, having recently performed in *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Brendan's other stage credits include Dewey Finn in *School of Rock* (Pelican Productions, dir. Jen Firth) and performing as a soloist at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in *Musical Mania*. He is also a professional specialty cake decorator with training from Le Cordon Bleu, Australia.



Sophie Volp (she/her)

Witch / Ensemble / Dragon (cover)

Performing in theatre since the age of ten, Sophie is excited to perform in her first Musical with ECMT. Sophie completed a Diploma of Musical Theatre at WAAPA where she played Delores in their 2021 production of *Working*. Other notable roles include Sophie Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!* (Empire Theatre Productions) and The White Witch in *Narnia the Musical* (Toowoomba Choral Society). Having grown up a singer/songwriter and acoustic guitarist, Sophie looks forward to co-creating and producing next year's ECMTA Fringe Show.



Darcy Wain (he/him)

Lord Farquaad

Darcy is currently in his second year of Studying Music Theatre at Elder Conservatorium. His first production at ECMT was the first-year showcase *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Earlier this year he understudied the roles of Anthony Hope and Aldolfo Pirelli in the ECMT third-year production of *Sweeney Todd* (dir. James Millar). Other performances include Adelaide Festival Centre's Piano Bar with Trevor Jones (Adelaide Cabaret Festival), and Don Quixote in *Oh What a Knight!* (Track Youth Theatre, dir. Sophie Jevons). Darcy recently starred in a short film, directed by Christopher Jordan, which was nominated for the 2022 VCAA Top Arts Awards and subsequently featured in the NGV Top Arts Exhibit.



Lily Walker (she/her)

Assistant Dance Captain / Fairy Godmother
/ Ensemble / Princess Fiona (cover)

Hailing from Melbourne, Lily is in her second year at Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre, and performed last year in *Songs and Scenes: Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Prior to moving to Adelaide, Lily completed a Diploma of Musical Theatre at APO Arts Academy, graduating with the 2019 Achievement Award. During Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdowns, she performed virtually in *Broadway Plugged-In* (Be You Group, dir. Daniele Buatti) and *Live from Your Living Room* (dir. Adam Perryman).



Patrick Wilson (he/him)

Shrek

Originally from Scotland, Patrick moved to Australia in 2009. *Shrek* is his second ECMT production, following last year's showcase *Magic, Myths and Monsters* (dir. Joseph Simons). Other performances include the international debut of *Esther the Queen* (dir. Michael Riggs), a Broadway Opera filmed for a presentation for the 'Create Theatre: Monday Night Reading Series' based in New York, and performing at the Adelaide Fringe Festival in *Musical Mania*. With training in musical theatre, drama and jazz, Patrick is a performer with a diverse skill set, which includes playing the trombone. He is excited to be part of everything that ECMT has to offer.



FIRST YEAR STUDENTS



Melanie Cowmeadow (she/her)

Gretel / Ensemble

Melanie is currently in her first year of studying a Bachelor of Music Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. She is a singer/songwriter who most notably featured on Channel 7's *The Voice Australia* Season 11, where she made it to the top 24. As a pop artist, Melanie has released original music and has a new EP coming out soon. She has completed a Certificate III in Hairdressing and started her own hairdressing business in 2020.



Ranz Custodio (he/him)

Papa Bear / Ensemble / Swing

A proud Filipino-born, Ranz Custodio is a multi-talented commercial model, hip hop dancer, and television actor in the Philippines before relocating to Kaurna Land in 2021. Credits include: Miggy in the daytime kids show, *Jollitown* (Jollibee Food Corporation), Wacks in late-night paranormal series, *Midnight DJ* (TV5, dir. Lore Reyes) and Lester in the hit family sit-com, *Pepito Manaloto* (GMA Entertainment Group, dir. Bert de Leon). Recently, he performed in *Piano Man with Trevor Jones* during Adelaide Cabaret Festival. ECMT's production of *Shrek The Musical* will be Ranz's first ever musical!



Joey Haenen (he/him)

Papa Ogre / Ensemble

This is Joey's first performance with ECMT. Coming from the regional town of Loxton, he was fortunate to be a part of the Class of Cabaret at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival (dir. Tim Overton). He was also the keynote speaker for the *Dream BIG Festival* opening ceremony. In his spare time Joey is a recording artist who released his first single last year and plays both the guitar and piano for weddings and events.



Bree Hall (she/her)

Queen Lillian / Ensemble

This will be Bree's first production with Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre. In 2022, she completed a Diploma of Music Theatre at WAAPA where she played Madame Feldzig in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (dir. Tyler Jacob Jones). Other roles include: Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (JCCA, dir. Natalie Edmunds) and Skylar in *Bring it On: The Musical* (JCCA, dir. Dhana Pitman). Other notable experiences for Bree includes singing the Australian national anthem at the opening of the Australasian Women in Policing Conference in 2018.



Sally Harrop (she/her)

Tooth Fairy / Ensemble

After completing her Diploma of Musical Theatre at WAAPA, Sally is delighted to be performing in her first ECMT production. Most recently, she performed the role of Janet Van de Graaff in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (WAAPA, dir. Tyler Jacob Jones). Her other credits include *Seussical TYA* with SSA (Malthouse Theatre & Adelaide Fringe) and *Guys and Dolls* (National Theatre). This year Sally has performed in the Adelaide Cabaret Festival and ECMTA's *Musical Mania* as part of the Adelaide Fringe Festival.



Erica Jones (she/her)

Mama Bear / Ensemble / Mama Ogre (cover)

This is Erica's first year and production with the Elder Conservatorium. Her first professional role was as Sophia in the premier of *Vocal Strain* (dir. Joshua Holdyk) as part of Fringe Festival 2022. Other credits include: the music video for Jawbreakers' latest single *Cheats and Liars* (dir. Ryan Whitworth-Jones), and most recently, *NIDA DMT Showcase 2022* (dir. Jay James Moody). Erica is a keen contemporary vocalist in her spare time, kickstarted by her year at WAAPA in 2021.



Jaxon Joy (he/him)

King Harold / Ensemble / Swing

Shrek is Jaxon's first production with ECMT. Helming from Adelaide, Jaxon has been part of various theatrical productions within the amateur setting as well as the Fringe and Cabaret Festivals. His previous credits include the premiere of *The Boy with the Golden Fox* (Flying Elephant Theatre Company, dir. Benji Riggs), *Class of Cabaret 2021* (Adelaide Festival CentrEd, dir. Sasha Zahra), and his premiere cabaret *Sondheim and Me*. Jaxon is also a keen conductor and theatre technician in his spare time.



Damian Lee (he/him)

Guard / Swing

Damian is in his first year at Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre. Last year, Damian played the role of Davey in the South Australian Premiere of *Newsies Jr* (Adelaide Youth Theatre, dir. Michelle Davy), which later won the TASA Award for Best Youth Production. During the Junior Theatre Festival 2022, Damian was lucky enough to be part of the pilot of *9 to 5 Jr* (dir. Marty Johnson), as well as the New Works Showcase for *Dot & the Kangaroo Jr* (Adelaide Youth Theatre).



Ellie Esdene McMahon (she/her)

Teen Fiona / Ensemble

Ellie is currently in her first year at the Elder Conservatorium of Music in Adelaide. She recently completed her Diploma of Musical Theatre at WAAPA where she played The Chaperone in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (WAAPA, dir. Tyler Jacob Jones). Her professional credits include the voice of Patches in *Project Haven* (Code 351 Games), Half-time Dancer (AFL, dir. Nathan Mark Wright), Ensemble in *Fame* (Matt Ward Productions, dir. Tim Hill), and an extra in the *Inbetweeners 2* and *Ticket to Paradise*.



Joshua Rocca (he/him)

Peter Pan / Ensemble

Joshua Rocca is an Adelaide based performer. He is currently an international levelled gymnast and a certified advanced trampoline coach, performing in twelve national competitions. Joshua has also been playing the saxophone for the past eight years. He was fortunate to be accepted into the Elder Conservatorium of Music at the beginning of 2023. *Shrek* is his debut production with ECMT.



Phoebe Rodger (she/her)

White Rabbit / Ensemble / Sugar Plum
Fairy (cover) / Gingy (cover)

This will be Phoebe's first production with ECMT. Recent performance highlights include: Donna Sheridan in *Mamma Mia!* (Seymour College, dir. Sally Ostrowski), Kendra in *13!* (Adelaide Youth Theatre, dir. Jayden Prelo), and performing in New York, DisneyWorld, and on a Carnival Magic cruise ship with Pelican Productions. In 2017, Phoebe was in the Australian premiere pilot production of *Newsies Jr* (iTheatrics, dir. Marty Johnson).



Billie-Rose Russell (she/her)

Humpty / Ensemble

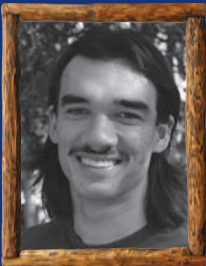
Billie-Rose is currently in her first year at the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Previous credits Include: Kerrie in *Puberty Blues* (Deadset Theatre Company, dir. Zoe Muller and Tilly Butler) and Emma in the SA Premier of *Connected the Rock Musical* (Platform Academy, dir. Kim Spargo). Notably, her most recent directing credit was the TASA nominated *Annie Jr* (Adelaide Theatre Academy). In 2017 Billie-Rose founded her own youth theatre company, Cool Beans Theatre.



Bella Thomas (she/her)

Alice / Bluebird / Ensemble / Queen Lillian (cover)

Bella is currently in her first year studying Musical Theatre at the Elder Conservatorium. Bella made her professional debut in the role of Matilda in *Matilda the Musical* at the Lyric Theatre (Royal Shakespeare Company, dir. Nik Ashton and Matthew Warchus). For this role she was awarded a Helpmann Award (Best Actress in a Musical) as well as a Sydney Theatre Award (Special Achievement Award). Other credits include Pepper in *Good Omens Workshop* (Squabbalagic Production Co., dir. Jay James-Moody), Jojo in *Seussical* (Birdie Productions, dir. Meg Day) and Annabelle in the short film *Devoted* with Phillip Quast (Nick & Lincoln).



Kaemon Wilcox (he/him)

Hansel / Ensemble

This will be Kaemon's first production at Elder Conservatorium. Kaemon's most recent stage role was Aldolpho in *The Drowsy Chaperone* (dir. Tyler Jacob Jones) while studying at WAAPA in 2022. He was also a backstage vocalist in ECMT's third-year production of *Sweeney Todd* (dir. James Millar). An enthusiastic outdoorsman, Kaemon enjoys swimming, surfing, and cycling in his time away from the stage.



Lara Wilson (she/her)

Tinkerbelle / Ensemble / Swing / Teen Fiona (cover)

In 2021 Lara embarked on the Australian national tour of *Bluey's Big Play: The Stage Show* (dir. Rose Myers) as Bingo. She then completed her Diploma of Musical Theatre in 2022 at the Queensland College of Dance. Earlier this year she was fortunate enough to perform in the United States tour of *Bluey's Big Play* before joining the ECMT family for her first year at the Elder Conservatorium. Lara is also a trained puppeteer!

YOUTH CAST



Emily Constantine (she/her)

Young Fiona / Bambi / Young Shrek (cover)

Emily has been performing on stage since the age of five. This is Emily's first production with Elder Conservatorium Musical Theatre. Other roles include: Young Anna in *Frozen Jr* (Pelican Productions), Gretl Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (Emma Knights Productions), and Matilda and Wednesday Adams in *Spotlight* (Pelican Productions). Emily enjoyed singing on the Bank SA Stage in the *School's Out* band at the Royal Adelaide Show (Ding Productions) and loves to perform as part of her dance troupe in the Christmas Pageant each year. Emily is a dedicated dancer and trains with Accent on Dance in Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary and Acro. Emily will be performing in Paris Disneyland and on the Norwegian Cruise Lines *Escape* in 2024.



Lila Messenger (she/her)

Young Fiona / Bambi / Young Shrek (cover)

This will be Lila's second production with ECMT, having played the role of Young Cosette in their production of *Les Misérables* in 2022. Lila has been studying voice with Kylie Green for three years and has been performing in Pelican Productions Spotlight shows since 2019. Lila played the role of Nemo in *Finding Nemo* (Pelican Productions) at the 2022 Junior Theatre Festival. Earlier this year she played the role of Young Anna in *Frozen Jr* (Pelican Productions). Lila is twelve years old and in year seven at Cabra Dominican College.



Harrison Thomas (he/him)

Young Shrek / Grumpy

Twelve year old Harrison Thomas is an award-winning Adelaide-based filmmaker, actor, singer and musician. Harrison has performed in over 30 stage and film productions since 2020, including seasons with Elder Conservatorium Music Theatre, Adelaide Fringe, the Royal Show and starring roles with Pelican Productions, Adelaide Youth Theatre, and Northern Light Theatre Company. His self-written, directed, edited, and scored short films have won awards at numerous national and international festivals.



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We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Kaurna people, the original custodians of the Adelaide Plains and the land on which the University of Adelaide's campuses at North Terrace, Waite, and Roseworthy are built. We acknowledge the deep feelings of attachment and relationship of the Kaurna people to country and we respect and value their past, present and ongoing connection to the land and cultural beliefs. The University continues to develop respectful and reciprocal relationships with all Indigenous peoples in Australia, and with other Indigenous peoples throughout the world.



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