



Alleman Catholic High School
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www.allemanhighschool.org

NEWS RELEASE

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Shrek won't lack for excitement, special effects, talent

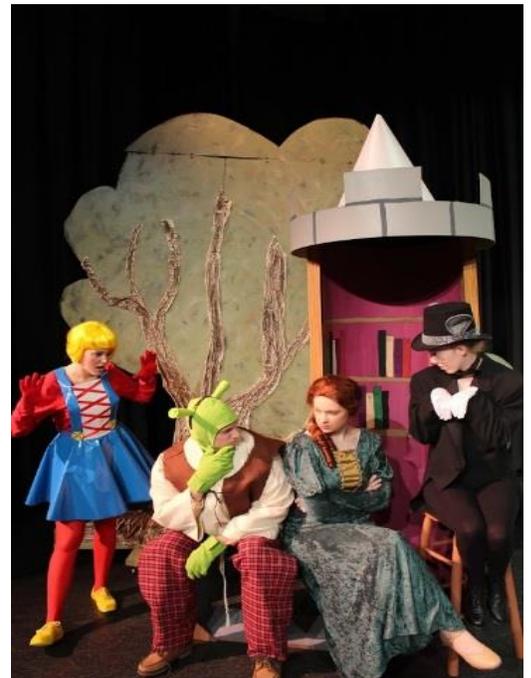
Official opening night Nov. 5 for Alleman show at Spaeth PAC

With an 18-foot dragon that spits smoke and rolls his eyes, a donkey that wriggles its ears and three multi-talented students playing the lead roles, those attending "Shrek The Musical," Nov. 5, 7 and 8 at the Dr. Tracy Spaeth Performing Arts Center, could be in for quite a treat.

One thing co directors Kay O'Brien and Linda McGraw know is with about 50 Alleman Catholic High School students participating, many balancing the play amid school, work and sports schedules, it's a very big challenge for the directors.

But they knew it would be a challenge when they decided to become the first Quad-City high school to perform the musical after watching North Scott community theatre perform it two summers ago at Bettendorf High School.

"When we saw Shrek two years ago, we thought this would be a fun show to perform at Alleman," said McGraw. "We are trying to do musicals beyond the usual 'My Fair Lady,' 'Guys and Dolls' and shows like that. The kids want a little





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more contemporary things right now. This was something they really got excited about.”

The Alleman students are definitely excited about performing Shrek, according to Luis Portillo, a sophomore, who plays the donkey and is performing in his first musicals. “They are all just so ready to get into the show,” he said. “It’s addicting.”

The story centers on a large green ogre, who is both mocked and feared his entire life. He decides to settle in a green swamp to live happily in isolation. But a group of fairytale characters raid his spot saying they were evicted by Lord Farquaad. Shrek makes a deal to get their home back if they let him have his swamp back. But when Shrek and Lord Farquaad meet, Lord Farquaad strikes a deal requiring Shrek to save Princess Fiona in order to get the fairytale characters their home back. When Shrek rescues the princess he discovers he likes her a lot, but can’t figure out why she always runs off when the sun sets.

Portillo believes the audience is in for a treat. “I am hoping to really have the audience be astounded and taken away by the whole production of it all,” Portillo said. “We are putting together so many big pieces.”

O’Brien seems to agree. “That’s our goal, to keep it visual,” said the long-time director who started Alleman’s drama club with Michelle Gau years ago. “We are still working on props every day. There are lot of special-effects props.”

The thank you list for outside help from parents to alums to fellow theatre personnel in the Quad Cities will be long, the directors say.

But they are clearly proud of their students.

“One thing this show has is a lot of student talent,” McGraw said. “We have some phenomenal singers.”

Playing Shrek is junior Corey DeLathower while Fiona is another junior, Noel Huntley. Portillo, as previously mentioned, is the donkey,



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Their voice quality and dedication stand out, O'Brien says. "They are just so easy to direct," she said. "They're versatile. They can sing, dance and can act. It's a nice treasure for a director to have."

With showtime fast approaching, it's easy to spot in the directors both the confidence and the natural apprehension which comes with putting on such a big production.

Backstage will get pretty crowded, O'Brien notes, as there are many costume changes.

"They are good kids and they are working hard," O'Brien said. "But they are not professionals. We have to keep that in mind, too."

But the directors can always look to the kids for enthusiasm and even confidence. "I think it's going great," Portillo said. "It's awesome."

Tickets, tickets:

"Shrek The Musical" is Nov. 5, 7 at 7 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 8 at 3 p.m. at the Dr. Tracey Spaeth Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and \$5 for students and can be purchased before the show that day. Children 5-under are free. Senior Citizen Evening is Wednesday, Nov. 4 with dinner in the Alleman cafeteria and the show immediately following. Reservations can be made by calling Alleman at 786-7793. There is no cost for the Senior Citizen event put on by the National Honor Society.



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The following Alleman students are participating in “Shrek the Musical”:

Zoe Sierra-Ballard, Emily Bauer, Amber Bausch, Marly Buyck, Corey DeLathower, John Do, Madison Duling, Cameron Flack, Andea Foss, Dallas Foss, Annalise Garcia, Jason Gende, Nathan Graves, Isabella Gusse, Sydney Heller, Kathy Hougland, Molly Hunter, Noel Huntley, Jesus Hernandez, Noah Kelly, Kennedy McGuire, Camila Velasco Medina, Ben Meenan, Grace Meier, Sarah Menage, Taylor Parker, Luis Portillo, Yvonne Ramirez, Vanessa Reger, Michelle Rosas, Claire Schaecher, Samantha Sharp, Gabrielle Showalter, Evan Thornton, Ali Jo VanDeHeede, Meaghan Verstraete, Kyler Yodts, Ally Zahringer.

Also, from its partner schools: Molly Ahern and Ian Snider.
