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‘Shrek’ inspires ogre-the-top puns

The Springer, ever adept at coming up with puns to promote its shows, has reached a new height of pun-ishment to promote its season opener this year. “Shrek The Musical,” which opens Sept. 18, has inspired the State Theatre of Georgia to come up with these marketing taglines:

- Be careful about getting tickets; don’t be Shrekless.
- See “Shrek The Musical; it’s ogre-the-top fun.
- Don’t miss this Shrektacular production.

The movie version of “Shrek” won the first ever Academy Award For Best Animated Feature and was a huge box office hit. It won accolades around the world and has been named to multiple top 10 and top 100 lists as a family film, an animated film, for funniest films and for fantasy villains (Lord Farquaad).

The Springer’s version of the hit Broadway musical features a cast of popular Columbus actors.

Andy Harvey, Ashley Pankow and Álvaro Francisco return to the Springer after dazzling audiences in “Les Misérables” as respectively Jean Valjean, Éponine and Marius. Harvey is playing Shrek, Pankow is Fiona and Francisco is Farquaad.

Michael Stiggers’ return to the Columbus stage as Donkey has been eagerly anticipated after a couple of years’ absence. He was a hit here in such shows as “The Wizard of Oz” (Cowardly Lion), “The Full Monty,” “Peter Pan” and “Footloose.”

“Shrek The Musical” will run at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays, Sept. 18-20, Sept. 25-27 and Oct. 2-4, and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28.

This is the first production of the Springer’s Mainstage Series for the 2014-15 season.

Following this will be “Rock Legends” Oct. 16-26, “Disney’s Mary Poppins” Dec. 4-21, “Lend Me a Tenor” Jan. 22-31, “The Producers” Feb. 26 –March 14 and “Born Yesterday” April 30 – May 16. Season tickets are still on sale.

For tickets or more information for “Shrek The Musical” or any of the Springer’s upcoming productions, 706-327-3688 or springeroperahouse.org.

Producing artistic director Paul Pierce had one last marketing pun: “The cash registers are really starting to ring with the music of ‘Shrekels;’ don’t let this show sell out before you get tickets.”