



West Ashley High School's **The Drama Studio** will present SHREK -- THE MUSICAL, based on the DreamWorks animation motion picture and the book by William Steig on May 21, 22, 23, at 7:00 P.M. in the school's auditorium. All tickets are \$10.00, and may be purchased at the door or by contacting the school at 573-1201, ext. 5213. The auditorium opens at 6:30.

Based on an animated film that grossed more than any other, the musical version is not a disappointment. Veteran directors Ellyn Winkles and Nancy Shurlds say, "The musical contains a goofy, genuine charm." Shrek, played by Bobby Ruff, an outstanding athlete at WAHS, finds his true love in the form of Ogress Fiona, played by Claire Winkles, Cara Heissenbottle, Amanda Moody, and Mackenzie Runyon. Directors Winkles and Shurlds say the show, the most expensive to ever run on Broadway in recent years, is not without its challenges. A dragon has to join a chase on stage, and Lord Farquaad, played by Buster Griffin, the center for the West Ashley High School football team, must lose his height and become a "hafling" in the role. Mr. Daniel O'Brien, sculpture teacher at West Ashley, led his students to create the massive dragon that moves its head and eyes and represents the voice of Imani Herring as she belts out "Freak Flag" and other numbers in the show. The challenge of Lord Farquaad remained a problem until Mrs. Renae Coles, school bookkeeper, and Mrs. Mary Runyon, school principal, shared their talent by making the costume. With fake legs, the high school football star looks as though he is 3 feet tall. Shrek is joined by a talking donkey, played by Drama Studio veteran Elisha Black, who jokes and quips his way through Shrek's journey to save the princess, who sings with an impudent zest sure to leave audiences wanting more.

The stage version presents all that audiences liked about the movie including the irreverent humor that spices up the plot. A green ogre with a bad attitude, a sassy donkey, a vertically challenged would-be prince and a beautiful princess create an odd fairy tale that really does come true. The screen version and the musical share the same plot -- to clear his swamp from squatting, displaced fairy creatures, the ogre Shrek must rescue the dragon-guarded Princess Fiona and deliver her to Lord Farquaad.

SHREK was a hit on the screen, best musical of the year on Broadway, and is certain to delight and leave families believing all "ogre" again in this production by **The Drama Studio**.