

Would you agree that an onion has a core, but no soul, because, at its heart, it's nothing but a connection of layers from skin to center? I'll come back to that.

^{even} Once year or two I go out and attend one of our local theatres. I have never been to a Broadway play and have few ambitions to do so. But, there is something I enjoy about a local production. Maybe it's the familiar faces, the voices you can relate to ... or the lower ticket price. Whatever the case, we certainly enjoyed seeing Shrek last Sunday and perhaps my wild enthusiasm will encourage you to go do likewise. The 'we' was made up of my wife, myself and a guest from Japan. Our Japanese ~~guest and~~ friend teaches at Keisen School in Tokyo. The Japanese have *highly* refined the art of live theater through such dramatic forms as Kabuki and Takaruzuka... She loved Shrek —almost as much as we did!

Shrek may not be Les Miserables, but it still has many layers.

Perhaps you know that Shrek the Musical is based on the Dreamworks film of the same name. Thus Shrek has become everybody's favorite ogre. 'Favorite Ogre' may sound like an oxymoron; but it's not, because, well, Shrek is everybody. We are all a bit ogre like—foreboding on the outside because we are afraid of anybody getting under our layers of defenses.

Our local Shrek is played by Tristin Roberts, who looks like an ogre, but feels like a soft-hearted Scot with a gentle brogue and big voice. As Shrek ^{sings} he shares ^{his} heart; it ^{goes} went out, not only to his princess, but to the entire audience.

Hannah Mullen-Jones was perfectly cast as Princess Fiona. A feisty, natural red head, Hannah's voice never ceases to amaze me, and I am amazed almost every time I hear her.

Craig Waldvogel plays a not too convincing dwarf Farquaad, but that's not his fault since he's too tall to play the role and therefore has to impersonate the dwarf-king by walking on his knees-- his voice makes up for his comic appearance.

James Gadd plays a convincingly needy but stubborn donkey. You may have heard of 'tough love,' Shrek tells a story about *stubborn* love. A kind of love that almost stumbles, over vanity and appearances, but in the end it flies. Speaking of flying... the super star of the play might well be the Dragon. The 27 foot flying dragon never leaves the stage, but that matters not. Cindy Cress makes the dragon ^{so} ~~sound lovely~~ ^{lovely} even though its eyes glow with a kind of menacing glare that means it is ^{sure} ~~sure~~ to eat the bad guys.

^I ~~The rest of the cast~~ ^{is} ~~was~~ also delightful. ~~and~~ ^{is} one of the more charming aspects of the play ~~was~~ ^{is} its multi-generational cast. Young and old alike seem to represent three -- maybe four generations. ^{of} I was delighted to see one of the elder members of the cast sweep up one of the smallest and youngest right at the end of a scene in order to get ^{them} safely out of the way for a swift change of stage props

Aside from—maybe because of-- a bit of good humored flatulence and belching... Shrek is a great play for the whole family.

An onion may not have a soul, but Shrek does. ^{At least!} Go see it.

This has been Dan Price for Community Comment

so many talented characters

Our Shrek does!