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PHOTO CAPTION

Daniel Rubio as Shrek and Rod Voltaire Edora* as Donkey

PRESS RELEASE

Woodminster Summer Musicals Opens 50th Season July 8 With Shrek The Musical
Family friendly stage musical performed outdoors in historic Woodminster Amphitheater

June 15, 2016, Oakland, CA -- Producers Associates announces that the opening show of the 50th anniversary season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals is Shrek The Musical. This family favorite will be performed July 8-17 at Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland's Joaquin Miller Park, located at 3300 Joaquin Miller Road in the Oakland hills.

Shrek The Musical is based on the Oscar-winning DreamWorks Animation film and the 1990 picture book by William Steig. Shrek is an ogre who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Along the way, they meet misfit fairy tale characters, a cookie with an attitude, tap-dancing rats, and more.

The popular Shrek character and story has inspired films, television shows, video games, and amusement park attractions. This stage version, book by David Lindsay-Abaire and songs by Jeanine Tesori, was nominated for 8 Tonys and 12 Drama Desk awards, including Best Musical for both. Shrek is appropriate for all ages.

Says director Joel Schlader, "This is a great show for kids and families. It's lively and entertaining, and it also has a good message — that it's okay to be different, that we should all embrace our own uniqueness and be tolerant of others — even if they're green and really, really big!"

Tickets are available by phone, at 510-531-9597, online at www.woodminster.com, or in person at Woodminster Amphitheater 11-4 daily or at the box office before any performance. Performances are July 8 (opening), July 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, and 17, all at 8 p.m.

Tickets for summer musicals at Woodminster Amphitheater range from \$30 to \$64 with a \$2 discount for children and seniors. Season tickets provide about a 15% discount over the single ticket prices. Also, groups of 25 and more can purchase blocks of seats for about half price, providing an affordable outing or fundraiser for a church or service group, neighborhood association, or any other group. For information about tickets, including other discount programs, check www.woodminster.com or call 510-531-9597.

Woodminster continues its popular Kids Come Free program, where children and teens 16 or younger who are attending with paying adults can get free tickets on performance nights. Producers Associates is seeking sponsors for this longstanding program, which helps families introduce their kids to live theater in a relaxed and affordable environment. In its 25-year history, the Kids Come Free program has provided over 43,000 free tickets to young theater-goers.

The final dress rehearsal of Shrek The Musical on July 7 will be open to the public. It will start at 8 p.m., all tickets are \$20 at the door, and seating is open, first-come, first-choice. No group rates, Kids Come Free, or other further discounts apply for the final dress rehearsal. Gates open at 7 pm that night, and audience members are welcome to bring picnics and use any open tables. Limited concessions.

The production will be directed by Joel Schlader, with music direction by Daniel Thomas and choreography by Jody Jaron. Woodminster shows are performed with live orchestras, and musicians are members of Musicians Local No. 6.

The role of Shrek will be performed by Daniel Barrington Rubio, a local actor who is a newcomer to the Woodminster stage. His sidekick, Donkey, will be portrayed by long-time Woodminster performer Rod Voltaire Edora, who most recently was seen at Woodminster in 2015 as Scott the choreographer in The Producers and Robertson Ay in Mary Poppins. The role of the rebellious Princess Fiona will be played by Claire Buchignani, who appeared at Woodminster in 2013 as both Elle in Legally Blonde and in the title role in Annie Get Your Gun. (Edora and Buchignani are members of Actors Equity Association.)

After Shrek The Musical, the 50th season of the Woodminster Summer Musicals will continue with Chicago August 5-14 and La Cage aux Folles September 2-11.

Over the last 50 years, Producers Associates has presented 157 productions, entertaining about a million Woodminster Summer Musicals ticket holders. The shows have been performed by more than 5000 actors, over 20% of them members of Actors Equity Association, making the organization one of the Bay Area's most reliable employers of professional actors. The musicals have always been performed with live professional orchestras, which have included 23 different conductors and over 1800 members of Musicians Local #6. In addition, the organization has employed 25 professional set designers, 17 lighting

designers, 24 costume designers, 6 sound technicians, 18 choreographers, 6 directors, and over 1,500 young backstage interns.

Woodminster Summer Musicals are performed under the stars at Woodminster Amphitheater, an open-air performance facility in Joaquin Miller Park high in the Oakland Hills. The park's spectacular views and serene woodsy environment made it the perfect setting for the amphitheater, cascades, reflecting pool, and paths that were originally built as a WPA project in 1939-40. For many East Bay families, it is a long-standing summer tradition to enjoy a picnic in the park and then see a musical at Woodminster. For more information about the 2016 season or the history of the organization, visit www.woodminster.com.

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