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**For immediate release, please:**

**Featuring Over 100 Talented Berkshire Youth**

***Shrek The Musical***

**Begins Performances at The Colonial Theatre**

**August 1**

**Pittsfield, MA**– Tony Award-Winning **Shrek The Musical** begins performances at The Colonial Theatre (111 South Street; Pittsfield, MA) on August 1 and runs through August 17. Directed by **Travis Daly** (BTG: *Tarzan*, *The Music Man*, *Beauty and* *the Beast*), with music direction by **Mark Gionfriddo** (BTG: *Tarzan*, *The Music Man*, *Beauty and* *the Beast*) and choreography by **Avital Asuleen** (BTG: *The Music Man, Tarzan*), this charming musical features over 100 talented Berkshire youth.

This production is sponsored by Lead Sponsor: Greylock Federal Credit Union, Greylock Insurance Agency, Co-sponsors: The Berkshire Eagle, Lyon Aviation, Phyllis Parvin, Richard M. Ziter M.D., Massachusetts Cultural Council and The Shubert Foundation.

Director, Travis Daly says “Shrek’s important themes of inclusiveness, acceptance and celebration show us how the infectious the power of love and friendship can unite a community.”

Based on the Oscar-Winning DreamWorks Animation film,*Shrek The Musical* is a Tony Award-Winning fairy tale adventure, featuring all new songs from Tony Award-Winner **Jeanine Tesori** (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Caroline, or Change*) and a side-splitting book by Pulitzer Prize-Winner **David Lindsay-Abaire** (*Rabbit Hole*). Irreverently fun for the whole family, *Shrek* proves that beauty is truly in the eye of the ogre.

“Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek…” And so begins the tale of an unlikely hero who finds himself on a life-changing journey alongside a wisecracking donkey and a feisty princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a short-tempered bad guy, a cookie with an attitude and over a dozen other fairy tale misfits, and you’ve got the kind of mess that calls for a real hero. Luckily, there’s one on hand, and his name is Shrek.

Tickets may be purchased in person at the Colonial Ticket Office at 111 South Street, Pittsfield; at the Fitzpatrick Main Stage Ticket Office at 83 East Main Street, Stockbridge; by calling (413) 997-4444 or online at www.BerkshireTheatreGroup.org. Ticket Offices are open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 10am-2pm or on any performance day from 10am until curtain. All plays, schedules, casting and prices are subject to change.

**Shrek The Musical**

based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steigmusic by Jeanine Tesori
book and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire
originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and

Neal Street Productions
original production directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford

directed by Travis Daly
music direction by Mark Gionfriddo
choreography by Avital Asuleen

at The Colonial Theatre
BTG’s Pittsfield Campus, 111 South Street

Opens: Thursday, August 1 at 7pm
Closes: Saturday, August 17 at 2pm
Tickets: Adult A: $45; Adult B: $35 • Child A: $30; Child B: $25

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**About Berkshire Theatre Group**

The Colonial Theatre, founded in 1903, and Berkshire Theatre Festival, founded in 1928, are two of the oldest cultural organizations in the Berkshires. In 2010, under the leadership of Artistic Director and CEO Kate Maguire, the two organizations merged to form Berkshire Theatre Group (BTG). Berkshire Theatre Group's mission is to support wide ranging artistic exploration and acclaimed performances in theatre, dance, music and entertainment. Every year, BTG produces and presents performances to over 68,000 attendees and, through our Educational Program, serves over 13,000 Berkshire County schoolchildren annually. BTG's celebrated stages reflect the history of the American theatre; they represent a priceless cultural resource for the community.

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