

Summer Youth Project 2026

Shrek The Musical | Audition Pack

Sunday 26 April 2026 | Palace Theatre

Thank you for your interest in the Palace Theatre Summer Youth Project 2026. Even if you have been involved in this project before, we insist that you read this document very carefully.

Participants must be at least 9 years old and no older than 19 on Sunday 26 July 2026. Proof of ID may be requested. Unfortunately, we are unable to make any exceptions to these age restrictions.

The Audition Pack

This audition pack is made up of the following documents:

- Information Pack
- Link to Audition Form
- Contact Form
- Costume Measurement Form

The participant must read through the pack and share the information with their parents/guardians if under 18 years of age.

Please note, we are asking for participant information to be completed via an online form, by no later than Friday 17 April 2026. You must complete this online application form to audition.

Please click on this link to fill in your audition form (*you may need to hold Ctrl and click*):

[Palace Theatre SYP 2026 Shrek the Musical Online Application Form](#)

The audition application form must be completed in full online you are also required to complete the Contact Form and Costume Measurement Form at the end of this pack.

Please bring along to the auditions on Sunday 26 April (whichever you are applying for):

- A completed Contact Form with a passport sized photo of yourself attached
- A completed Costume Measurement Form

What's Up, Duloc?

Shrek the Musical follows the story of Shrek, a grumpy green ogre who lives a solitary life in his swamp. His peaceful existence is disrupted when a group of fairy tale characters, to invade his home after being banished by the evil Lord Farquaad. To reclaim his swamp, Shrek strikes a deal with Farquaad: he must rescue Princess Fiona, who is trapped in a tower guarded by a dragon. As Shrek embarks on this quest, he is reluctantly joined by Donkey, a talkative and optimistic companion. Together, they face various challenges, including battling the dragon and navigating the complexities of Fiona's character, who is not what she seems. Throughout their journey, Shrek discovers that Fiona harbors a secret curse that transforms her into an ogre at night, which complicates their budding romance.

The Summer Youth Project

The Summer Youth Project is now in its 18th year and brings over 80 young people together to create a fantastic show. The friendships, experiences and memories that are formed during the project are wonderfully unique and last a lifetime. The project is the product of a lot of hard work and time, and it is only through the commitment of everyone involved that the final result is so spectacular.

The dates for the 2026 production weeks are:

Sunday 26 July 2026 – Sunday 9 August 2026

The rehearsal schedule will be available to the chosen cast and crew before project begins.

YOU MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE ENTIRE TWO-WEEK DURATION – NO EXCEPTIONS.

Rehearsals and Performances

All participants will need to go to the Palace Theatre to sign into the building on a daily basis, where they will then begin rehearsals.

Rehearsals can go from 10am - 9pm (with breaks for lunch and dinner) so we ask parents to ensure their children are prepared for the time commitment and bring suitable provisions.

If participants are under 16 their days will usually end at 6pm. If they are required to stay late for rehearsals, tech or dress runs then their day will begin later to ensure that we adhere to child performance regulations. You must not drop your child off any early than the given time provided by Southend Theatres to comply with child performance regulations, this is the law.

Parents must ensure that any child under 16 who is required for an evening rehearsal is not dropped off before the time given to them by the project producer.

Performances are from Thursday 6 August - Sunday 9 August 2026.

Fees

£260.00 per participant – both cast and technical youth team fees are the same.

The fee does not include meals or transportation which remains your responsibility.

All fees must be paid by: Sunday 28 June 2026. **THE FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE.**

We endeavour to keep project fees as low as possible but, unfortunately, we do have to cover increasing costs of venue hire, pastoral care and all additional activity fees during our rehearsal and performance periods.

Failure to pay on time will result in the exclusion of the participant from the show. Fees do not need to be paid until you have received confirmation of your place in the project, following a successful audition.

Subsidised places and instalments

There are a limited number of subsidised places on offer for those who genuinely cannot afford the fees. Please contact Emma Wagstaff on emmawa@southendtheatres.org.uk for a bursary application form, once your place in the project has been confirmed.

If you wish to pay the fees by instalment, please contact Emma to discuss a payment plan.

Payment

The full amount can be paid online using the link in your acceptance letters. Payment can also be made over the phone by contacting our contact centre team. Card payments are the only accepted payment method. Any bursary or instalment payments must be paid under the terms and conditions given to you by the project producer, please contact Emma Wagstaff for further information on this.

The Contact Centre number is: **0343 310 0030** The Contact Centre team will be more than happy to help you through this process.

Costumes and Props

Costumes and props will be provided, but participants may be asked to provide basic elements of costume that hopefully can be found easily at home or from a charity shop, etc.

All costumes and props are property of Southend Theatres and **must** be returned at the end of the production. Please hand your costumes back to the chaperone allocated to your dressing room. If you are over 16 and do not require a chaperone, please return your costumes and props to the producer or costume supervisor.

Note to parents/carers

We rely on good communication with parents to ensure the production runs smoothly, therefore please check all the forms are filled out correctly. We will endeavour to email any information to you as well as your child to keep you informed of rehearsal times and schedules. If you have been successful in obtaining a cast or crew member position, please refer to your Welcome Pack which will require all essential project information.

Please don't hesitate to contact us should you need to discuss further any information regarding your child and their involvement in *Shrek the Musical*.

The Audition Process

Auditions will take place on **Sunday 26 April 2026** at the **Palace Theatre**. We will send you more details on how the audition day will work closer to the time.

We would however like to make you aware of the following:

- It's important to highlight that we don't just expect the 'best' dancers, singers, and actors; we like to recognise potential and work with individuals throughout the process.
- Please bring plenty to eat and drink, and a good book or something quiet to do as there may be some waiting around as other people are auditioned.
- Please do not bring anything valuable as we cannot be responsible for your personal belongings.
- We would recommend bringing a mobile phone so that you can contact a parent/carer to be collected at the end of the audition.

Please remember to complete the online form prior to the audition day and to bring your completed Emergency Contact Form, photo, and Costume Measurement Form to the auditions.

Clothing

Participants will be required to wear sensible clothing and footwear (soft-soled, no heels). All participants will take part in a physical warm up so please come in comfortable clothing. Please do not wear jewellery or anything that might prohibit your movement or cause an injury whilst dancing.

You will not be allowed to audition barefoot or in socks.

Backstage and Technical Interviews

Participants interested in working backstage must be aged 14-19 years old and will be contacted separately to attend an interview. You will not be required to attend the auditions.

For safety reasons we do need to limit the number of spaces to ensure that all participants are well supervised and get the best out of their experience, therefore we may not be able to take on everyone that applies.

There are positions available in the following areas:

Lighting, Sound, Follow Spot and Stage.

All backstage and technical participants, regardless of area of focus, will be asked to take part in the set construction.

If you are selected to join the backstage team for the production, you will be asked to wear sensible and appropriate clothing and, depending on the department, steel toe-capped boots. All Personal Protective Equipment, including steel toe-capped boots, will be provided by Southend Theatres, if you do not already have your own. If you have any questions regarding clothing, etc. please discuss this with the technicians during your interview.

Decisions

You will be notified of the result of your audition by email no later than Sunday 3 May 2026. **The decision of the production team is final and correspondence regarding casting will not be entered into.**

If selected, you will be a member of the cast - either chorus, principal and/or dancer. Unfortunately, there are not any shows written with principal parts for 80 people, consequently, not everyone can be a lead. The chorus and smaller parts are just as important in a show like this, so please do not be disheartened if you are not selected for a main part.

Enquiries

We look forward to seeing you at auditions and please tell your friends about this incredible opportunity! Many of our past participants have gone on to work professionally in the industry or have used the skills learnt in many other areas of life.

Whether it's on stage or off, this is a fantastic experience that we love to share!

If you have any questions concerning this year's Summer Youth Project, please email:

Emma Wagstaff

Summer Youth Project Producer | Creative Learning Manager | emmawa@southendtheatres.org.uk



THE PALACE THEATRE SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT 2026

Shrek The Musical

CONTACT FORM

Name of Participant:

Photo

Date of Birth:

Your age on 26 July 2026:

Email Address of Participant:

Home Address of Participant:

Name of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Email Address of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Contact Number(s) for Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Area of Interest

☐

Cast Member

☐

Technical Youth Team Member

Please tick this box to confirm that you have completed the [online application form](#):

☐

Please sign below to confirm that the details you have entered here and online are correct.

Signed

Relationship to the participant

Print Name

Date



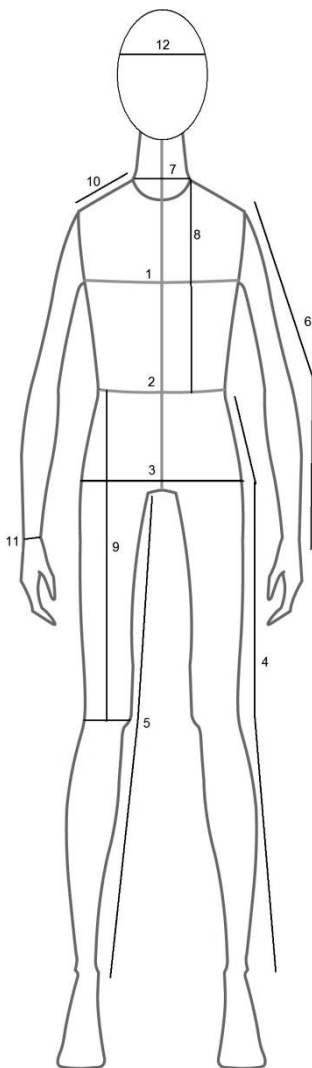
THE PALACE THEATRE SUMMER YOUTH PROJECT 2026

Shrek The Musical

CONTACT FORM

(Please complete carefully and accurately, and keep together with your contact form)

Name:



1. CHEST - circumferenceinches
2. WAIST - circumferenceinches
3. HIPS - at the widest pointinches
4. OUTSIDE LEGinches
5. INSIDE LEGinches
6. OVER ARM - with bent arminches
7. NECKinches
8. NECK-WAIST - down backinches
9. WAIST-KNEEinches
10. SHOULDERinches
11. WRISTinches
12. HEAD - circumferenceinches
13. HEIGHT
14. DRESS SIZE (if applicable)
15. SHOE SIZE
16. AGE

Character:

(For Production Team Use Only – Do NOT fill in)