

Greening Shrek

Compiled by AfterWork Theater, November 2022

AfterWork Theater was selected as a recipient for the 2022 New York City Greening Grant. This opportunity truly helped AfterWork Theater reshape the way that they approached making theatre and how it would impact the environment. Additionally, the practices and projects that were put in place helped spread awareness and conscientiousness in a fun and interactive way.

Q. How did your project go? What was most successful?

A. Our greening project for *Shrek* (aptly named "Greening Shrek!") was a huge success! With the grant, we were able to invest in reusable batteries and charging stations to use in our microphone packs during the performances, and we have been able to reuse the same batteries in our subsequent Summer and Fall productions in 2022, preventing further disposable battery waste this year. We also used part of the grant to invest in the creation of Shrek-specific costume and prop pieces using sustainable materials and repurposing items that were then recycled or reused, along with the purchase of materials from local vendors.

Q. What roadblocks did you face in implementing the project?

A. The only roadblock we faced came from having to spend some time researching then sourcing our materials to be as sustainable as possible, such as reaching out to Material for the Arts and going through their collection, but we did have to settle for a few items to be purchased through Amazon (a huge greenhouse emission contributor). Though it took us time to get these materials, we were still able to get the pieces in time when we needed them and produced a magnificently green show!

Q. How did you share about your greening project with your audiences/community?

A. We shared our greening project with audiences using two methods. First, we shared the BGA Instagram post about receiving the grant, which was reshared by several members of our community. We also shared the post to our Community on Facebook. Second, in our virtual playbill, we included a thank you note to the BGA while also acknowledging the greening grant and what the grant was used for specifically in this production.

AfterWork Theater listed every prop and costume piece beyond what each cast member provided for themselves via their own closets, thrifting, borrowing, or (as a last resort) purchasing.

Here are a few items to note from AfterWork Theater about the list below:

- Make & Mend is a thrift store specializing in crafting. Imagine a Michael's but everything is donated and second-hand. It is located in Massachusetts, so the team accumulated everything they needed into one or very few orders, to minimize the number of shipments.
- We have hundreds of people in our Community as a result of doing shows for ten years, so many of the items listed below were borrowed or donated from our community!
- Our Green Captain collected used moving boxes in order to repurpose for many of the below pieces.
- We have left in the instances where we resorted to an Amazon purchase, to show how rare it was. In each case, recyclable or reusable materials were used.
- We have used the rechargeable batteries for two additional productions since *Shrek!*
- The set was fully donated by another company that performed their show in the same theater right before us. Our team, then, recycled as much of the set as possible during our Strike.

| Item | Quantity | How it was made |
|--------------------|-------------|--|
| Rippable Storybook | 1 | Materials for the arts - binder & paper; Make & Mend - rhinestones |
| Green makeup | 1 container | Amazon |
| Crowns | 3 | Borrowed from community |
| Party Horns | 2 | Make & Mend |
| Fire Kindling | 1 | Sticks from outside |
| Bench | 2 | AWT inventory |
| Clipboard | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Swords/Batons | 8 | Borrowed from community |
| Baking Roller | 1 | Borrowed from community |

| Item | Quantity | How it was made |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Baking Mixer | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Fiona's linen and pillow | 1 each | Borrowed from community |
| Molten Lava (Pom Poms) | 8-10 sets of pom poms | Amazon |
| Lion King Spoof Puppets | 1-2 | Borrowed from community |
| Helmet | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Tambourine | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Bouquet of flowers | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Handkerchief | 1 | Materials for the arts |
| Flute | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Deer antlers | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Rat | 2 | Amazon |
| Daisy Chains | 2 | Borrowed from community |
| Weights for lifting | 2 | Borrowed from community |
| Flower | 1 | Borrowed from community |
| Knights robes | 8 | Borrowed from community |
| Shrek Ears | 6-8 | Make & Mend - Felt & hot glue; Headband (Amazon) |

| Item | Quantity | How it was made |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Fire Torches | 4-8 | Used paper towel rolls; Make & Mend - Tissue paper & hot glue |
| "Beware Ogre" sign | 1 | Used cardboard; Make & Mend Markers |
| Three-armed sign with "Duloc", "Donkey", and "Swamp" | 1 | Used cardboard; Make & Mend Markers & Rhinestones |
| Map | 1 | Used packing paper; Make & Mend markers |
| Dragon Headpiece | 1 | Make & Mend - Felt, rhinestones, & hot glue; Headband (amazon) |
| Dragon Wings | 2 | Materials for the arts - fabric; Make & Mend glitter glue/hot glue; elastic from community |
| Dragon Tail | 1 | Materials donated from community |
| Rat Ears | 80 (one per shoe) | Materials from Amazon (all used materials were recycled) |
| "S'nothers" | 1 | Used cardboard; Make & Mend fabric scraps |
| "Laugh" sign | 1 | Used cardboard; Make & Mend Markers |

| Item | Quantity | How it was made |
|----------------------|----------|--|
| Skeletons | 15 | Materials donated from community |
| Farquaad dangly legs | 1 | Amazon pants; Materials donated from community |
| Gingy's Tray | 1 | Used cardboard; aluminum foil |
| Knight Helmet | 1 | Borrowed from community |

Pictures from AfterWork Theater's Production of *Shrek*

