

Musical Youth Summer Theatre (MYST) 2026

This year we had 27 youth ages 10-17 participate in our presentation of Shrek the Musical Jr. We rehearsed for three weeks: July 6-24, 2026, from 9:00am – 3:00pm Monday-Friday. We presented 4 performances on the weekend of July 24-26.

This program is the only one of its kind operating in Salmon Arm and surrounding area. MYST is a joint-partnership between Shuswap Theatre and Moving Theatre Performing Arts (MTPA). We give young people the opportunity to perform in a fully staged production of a junior version of a Broadway musical. The participants work with industry professionals and are held to a high standard to which they rise and surpass. Because of the experience gained through MYST, our students have gone on to perform in other Shuswap Theatre mainstage productions, local school productions and some are pursuing theatre/music etc. at post-secondary institutions. We offer a safe space for youth of different ages, genders, sexual orientations, races and diverse needs. We accept all registrations in the order they are received and there is no audition process as part of the program.

Notable things this year:

- Increased the minimum age requirement. In previous years we accepted students as young as 8. We found that, due to the long days and extensive time frame (3 weeks), it was too much for students that young. After a tiered increase in the lower age eligibility, we have now reached our preferred age range of 10-17 years. Going forward, eligibility for the program will remain at 10-17 yrs.
- We had 3 people on staff: Chelsey Klim took over as Lead Choreographer and Lynette Lightfoot stepped into the Director role. Kelly Coubrough remained as Musical Director with wage increases for Lynette and Kelly.
- Additional guest choreography by Danielle Berger and dance rehearsal leadership from Scarlett Werk
- Provided financial assistance of 50% of the registration fee (or \$300) to 2 participants using the surplus from last year's program
- Received grants from the Hamber Foundation, SASCU, CSRD and the Shuswap Theatre Society
- Shrek Jr. proved to be an audience favourite, and we sold out 3 of our 4 shows
- We did not have a costume person this year and that proved to be quite a challenge. This will be a priority to hire someone for next year's program
- Program netted a surplus again for the 5th consecutive year. These funds are rolled into next year's program budget with priority of using them to provide financial assistance to families who request it.

Submitted by Kelly Coubrough





