



NEWS RELEASE

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Friday, November 15 at 6 a.m.

The Springfield Municipal Opera celebrates 75 years with its 2025 Season

The Muni's 75th season features the journey to discover one's true self

Springfield, IL – Nov. 15, 2024 – The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) 2025 Season marks 75 years for the outdoor theater and features a season full of journeys to figure out one's true self with *Something Rotten!*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *Oklahoma* and *Shrek*. "The struggle to find one's true self is a lifelong lesson and it's a journey we are all on individually throughout our lives," said Muni President Anna Sohm. "The Muni's 2025 season will be full of Muni Magic as we watch those struggles come to life on stage and root for our central characters to find the path right for them."

The Muni will present *Something Rotten!*, directed by Connor McNamara from May 30-June 1 and June 4-7; *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* directed by Kevin Kulavic from June 20-22 and June 25-28; Rodgers & Hammerstein's *Oklahoma*, directed by Gil and Ann Opferman from July 11-13 and July 16-19; and *Shrek*, directed by LaDonna Wilson from August 1-3 and August 6-9. All shows start at 8:30 p.m.

Connor McNamara is excited to bring *Something Rotten!* to The Muni stage for the first time. McNamara last co-directed *The Wizard of Oz* at the Muni in 2019. *Something Rotten!* is a musical comedy blending Renaissance style with modern Broadway flair infusing comedy, lunacy, and theatrical puns theater-goers will love throughout both dialogue and songs. The musical follows the Bottom brothers as they struggle to compete with their contemporary, William Shakespeare, by writing the world's first musical and in the process learn that real success comes from being true to themselves. "*Something Rotten!* is a production that fans of both classic and modern theater can enjoy," said McNamara. "With musical references to the days of yore and a few Shakespearean inspirations thrown in, it is a show that will make you laugh and have you humming those catchy choruses all the way home."

Hunchback of Notre Dame directed by Kevin Kulavic features Quasimodo, a deformed bell-ringer, who is being held captive but wants to learn more about the world outside. He escapes for a day in Paris and is treated cruelly by most, except for Esmeralda. “*Hunchback of Notre Dame* poses the question: What makes a monster, and what makes a man? It challenges us to confront our assumptions about beauty, virtue, and humanity,” said Kulavic. “With iconic songs from the 1996 animated film, this adaptation brings a deeper, darker perspective true to the tone of Victor Hugo’s novel. Audiences will be captivated by the powerful orchestration and evocative choral arrangements.”

Gil and Ann Opferman are excited to bring back *Rodgers and Hammerstein’s Oklahoma* to The Muni stage. This classic is a love story between confident cowboy Curly and feisty farmer Laurey. But as with almost any romance the road is bumpy and is full of moments of discovery. “It’s about dreaming big, freedom and working together. Most importantly, coming in the midst of the darkest days of WWII, it was about hope,” said Gil Opferman. “The show became a cultural phenomena running for five years on Broadway, which was unheard of in the 40s, becoming a much loved classic.”

LaDonna Wilson will direct the final show of the 2025 Season, *Shrek: The Musical*. This musical features Shrek, the Ogre, who is on a life-changing journey with a donkey and a princess. Shrek starts off just wanting to be left alone, but finds that love is much more rewarding. “I am so excited to bring another fairytale to the Muni stage,” said Wilson, who directed *Beauty and the Beast* at The Muni in 2023. “In Shrek, we learn that to be loved for who we truly are is the deepest kind of love. Can't wait to let our 'Freak Flag Fly' in August!”

Those interested in auditioning are encouraged to attend the 2025 Audition Workshop in February at the Hoogland Center for the Arts. *More information about the workshops and auditions will be available on The Muni website in January.*

Looking for a holiday gift? You can purchase 2025 Muni tickets through Metrotix at TheMuni.org.

About The Muni

The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) is a not-for-profit theatrical organization that has become a Springfield summer tradition, providing the best of Broadway to enthusiastic audiences for 75 years. Its outdoor amphitheater is located at 815 East Lake Drive. For more information on The Muni, please visit TheMuni.org.

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