

Meaning, Mayhem and Milestones

ACU THEATRE 2025-26 SEASON



Welcome back to ACU Theatre and a season of "Meaning, Mayhem and Milestones."

Whether through fairytale misfits, a young woman's journey to self-acceptance, the backstage mayhem of theatrical absurdity, or the quiet heartbreak of missed connections, this season you'll encounter the beautiful chaos of being human. Each story – fantastical, heartfelt

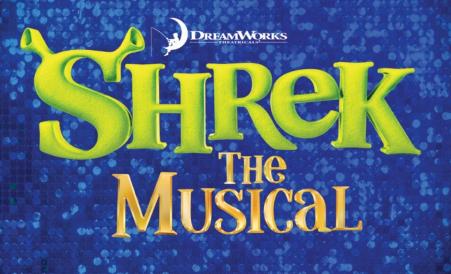
or poignantly surreal – reminds us of the meaning found through transformation, connection and the courageous pursuit of love.

Thank you for your ongoing support of ACU Theatre through the years. We can't wait for you to discover this season's hallmark productions! Our program is nothing without an audience, and we value you. Step into our 2025-26 season celebration as we experience meaning, mayhem and milestones together.

Naune Sweetinger Mecks (195)

Chair, ACU Department of Theatre

P.S. Visit acu.edu/theatre today to reserve your tickets!



Book and Lyrics by David Linsay-Abaire
Music by Jeanine Tesori
Direction by Joey Banks
Musical direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth
Choreography by Teri Wilkerson
Conducted by Dr. Steven Ward

10/30-11/2

2 p.m. Sunday matinee

8 p.m. Thu, Fri, Sat BOONE FAMILY THEATRE

≭€\$50

≥ \$25 Age 12 and younger

\$15 Student Rush

🛊 Ages 9+

"Once upon a time, there was a little ogre named Shrek..." Thus 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.



Direction by Dawne Swearingen-Meeks and Dr. Chris Hollingsworth Musical direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth

- Open seating

All ages

Join us for an unforgettable night where Broadway meets West Texas, as select area high school theatre students – chosen through a rigorous audition process– take the stage alongside ACU Theatre students. Guests will enjoy live performances in a cabaret-style setting featuring charcuterie boards, conversation and community. Dessert will be served during intermission. *Lights Up!* is a celebration of talent, mentorship and community through song.

Proceeds support ACU Theatre through guest artist residencies, scholarships and continued program excellence. Sponsorship levels range from Silver (\$500) to Diamond (\$2,500), each including tables, swag bags, season ticket packages and program recognition.



ACU Theatre welcomes Jeremy Varner and Abigail
Gatlin-Varner as guest choreographers. Jeremy has
worked at Atlanta's Tony Award-winning Alliance
Theatre and now leads Varner Creative. Abigail is
a former Radio City Rockette and has toured
internationally with Beauty and the Beast, and

serves on the precision dance faculty at Broadway Dance Center, NYC.

Step into an evening of storytelling through dance as ACU Theatre students take the stage for *One Night Only* – a dynamic dance concert celebrating traveling stories. Featuring original choreography and powerful collaborations, students work alongside a distinguished industry guest artist each year to bring inspiring performances to life on the stage. Whether lyrical, contemporary or rhythmically charged, each piece shares a narrative that speaks to the beautiful complexity of the human experience – without a single word spoken.



Book by Brian Crawley
Music by Jeanine Tesori
Lyrics by Brian Crawley
Direction by Dawne Swearingen-Meeks,
assisted by student Laci Jackson
Musical direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth
Choreography by student Kendall West

02/19-22*

7:30 p.m. Thurs, Fri, Sat FULKS THEATRE

- _ \$30
- \$10 Student Rush
- \$40 Dinner
- Ages 13+

Set in 1964, *Violet* follows a young woman on a journey across the South in search of healing and hope. Scarred from a childhood accident, she dreams of transformation through a TV evangelist's prayer but discovers something deeper along the way. Through unexpected friendships and the power of love, Violet begins to see herself— and her worth — with new eyes.

^{*}Student-only performances Sept. 22-24.

^{**}Student Rush Tickets available one hour before curtain.



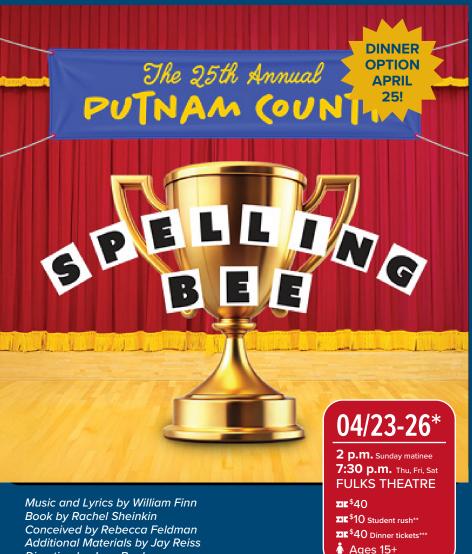
Written by Steven Dietz ACU BFA Theatre student director **ONE BOOKS** downtown Abilene

≖€\$15

- Open seating

All ages

We want to believe that serendipity brings us together, but is that just a myth? Mining the comedy of missed connections, This Random World asks the serious question of how often we travel parallel paths through the worldwithout noticing. From an ailing woman who plans one final tri, to her daughter planning one great escape and her son falling prey to a prank gone wrong, this funny, intimate and heartbreaking play explores the lives that may be happening just out of reach of our own.



Additional Materials by Jay Reiss Direction by Joey Banks Musical Direction by Dr. Chris Hollingsworth

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a heartfelt musical comedy that follows an eclectic group of six teens who compete for the spelling championship of a lifetime. While candidly disclosing hilarious and touching stories from their home lives, the tweens spell their way through a series of (potentially made-up) words, hoping never to hear the soul-crushing "ding" of the bell that signals a spelling mistake. A riotous ride, The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee is a delightful den of comedic genius.

^{*}Talkback, Saturday, April 24. **Student Rush Tickets available one hour before curtain. ***Dinner, Saturday, April 25.

Tickets

To order tickets for individual shows or ticket packages, visit *acu.edu/theatre*, mail in the form at right or call the box office a **325-674-ARTS**. For best value, consider one of the season ticket packages below.

SHOWSTOPPER PACKAGE: \$155 (\$25 savings) – All five show Includes seats for the entire season: Homecoming Musical, Cornerstone, Dance Premiere, Winter Musical and Spring Play.

FAB FOUR: \$130 (\$20 savings) – Your selection of four shows Choose four of the five shows: Homecoming Musical, Cabaret, Dance Concert, Winter Play and Spring Musical.

OPENING NIGHT: \$110 (\$70 savings) – Be the first to see the showBest savings of all packages for opening nights (or Sunday matinee)
of all shows. If you need to switch your ticket to another night, you pay
the full price differenc.

ADD ONS:

- Add three-course dinners at a price of \$40 each for Feb. 21 (Violet) or April 25 (Spelling Bee).
- Add tickets for the Lights Up! fundraiser for \$45 each.
- Add student-directed production tickets for \$15 each.

			Show- stopper	Fab 4	Opening Night
		Full price	All shows	Choose 4	All shows
Lights Up!	Cabaret	\$ 45	included		included
Homecoming Musical	Shrek The Musical	\$50	included		included
Dance Show	One Night Only	\$40	included		included
Winter Musical	Violet	\$30	included		included
Spring Musical	Spelling Bee	\$30	included		included
	Your price per package	\$180	\$155	\$130	\$110
	Savings		\$25	\$20	\$70



Save the dates:

Abilene Shakespeare Festival The Winter's Tale and The Comedy of Errors June 10-14, 2026

Order Form

CONTACT

NAME	ADDRESS			
HOME OR CELL PHONE	CITY, STATE, ZIP			
WORK PHONE	EMAIL			
PAYMENT				
Type of payment: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard	☐ VISA ☐ Discover ☐ A	Am. Express		
CARD NUMBER	EXP. DATE	CSV		
Number of Showstopper packages @ \$ Number of Fab 4 packages @ \$130 each	\$			
For your Fab 4 package, place an "X" Cabaret Shrek The Musical One Night Only Violet		it included		
☐ Spelling Bee Number of Opening Night packages @ Number of dinner add-ons @ \$40 each second seco	\$ \$ \$			
Number of fundraiser tickets for <i>Lights Up!</i> Nov. 14 @ \$45 each = Number of student-directed <i>This Random World</i> @ \$15 each = TOTAL DUE =				

Detach and mail to ACU Theatre Box Office at:

Abilene Christian University ACU Box 27843 Abilene, Texas 79699-7843 **Abilene Christian**

University

ACU Box 27843 Abilene, Texas 79699-7843

acu.edu/theatre • Box office: 325-674- TS Audition info: app.getacceptd.com/acutheatre

Audition info: *ap*

BFA THEATRE AUDITIONS:

Freaky Friday

September 26, 2025 in person audition December 5, 2025

in person/virtual audition
January 23, 2026

virtual audition
February 20, 2026

February 20, 2026 in person audition

March 20, 2026 in person/virtual audition

