

Operations Director at The Sharon Helped to Build the Set for 'Once'

The Tony Award-winning musical is coming to The Villages April 29-30.

By MICHAEL FORTUNA
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THE VILLAGES

Musicals come together through the efforts of many different people, from actors to set designers to costume designers to musicians.

Jason Goedken, director of operations at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, lent a hand on what would become "Once," the Tony Award-winning musical.

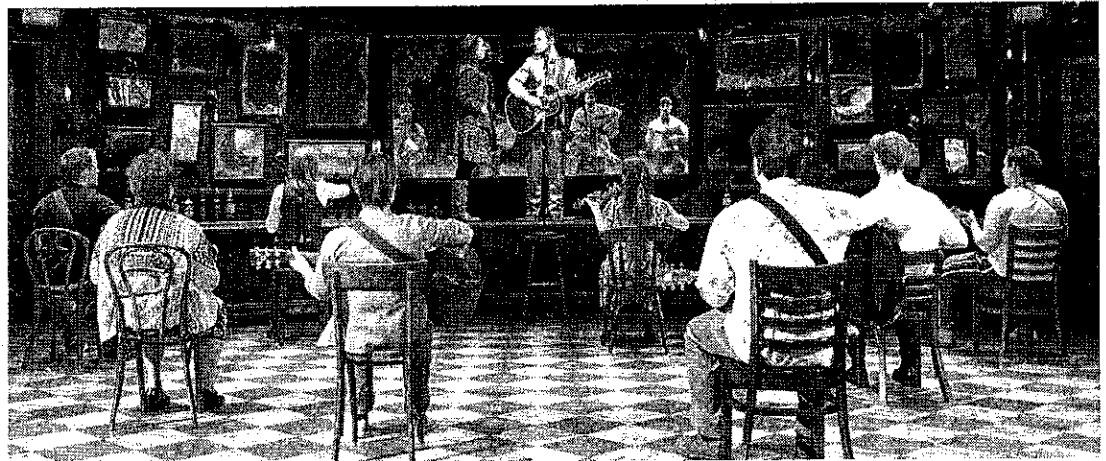
Now the touring version of the production will make a stop at The Sharon for three performances: 7 p.m. April 29 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 30.

"It's really nice to start working on a show of that magnitude, and then have it go on to win Tonys, and five years later, it's touring through my theater," Goedken said. "It's really cool. Especially if some of the pieces I worked on are still with the show. I don't know if that will be the case, but it definitely will be interesting if it is."

The musical, directed by John Tiffany and written by Enda Walsh with music and lyrics from Glen Hansard and Marketa Irglova, follows an Irish street musician who comes close to giving up on his dream when a young Eastern European pianist takes a liking to his love songs.

All the actors on stage play instruments.

"It's a great show," Goedken said. "It's very different, in a good way. The music is really cool. It's a love story that is at the right place and the wrong time. I think people will be really surprised at what it has to offer."



Joan Marcus

The set used for the musical "Once," which will be performed April 29-30 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center, has a personal connection to Jason Goedken, operations director at The Sharon. He helped build the set when it was at the New York Theatre

'ONCE' COMING TO THE SHARON

"Once" will be performed at 7 p.m. April 29 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. April 30 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$50 to \$100, and are available at any Villages Box Office location or online at thesharon.com.

The musical is based on the movie written and directed by John Carney and starring Hansard and Irglova.

"The stage version is accurate," Goedken said. "It follows (the movie) closely."

During a four-month span while working with the New York Theatre Workshop,

Goedken oversaw the process of building the set for the show. Made to look like an Irish pub, it's a curved set with a steel frame featuring various mirrors along the set's wall.

The set went to Broadway with a few minor changes. Goedken isn't sure if the same set is a part of this tour.

He also was responsible for rounding up the myriad instruments used in the musical, everything from the guitar, banjo, mandolin, harmonium,

ukulele and percussion.

The workshop serves as a springboard for plays to be seen in front of an audience.

"If it did well, it could go to Broadway," Goedken said. "Rent" started there. That was a very big one that did a lot of big things. "Once" won a bunch of Tonys."

While at the workshop, Goedken worked as an assistant production manager and assistant technical director, among other duties.

"Once" ran at the New

York Theatre Workshop from November 2011 to January 2012.

Goedken saw the musical in its finished form at the workshop, but didn't see it when it transferred to Broadway.

"(This show at The Sharon) will be my chance to see it," Goedken said.

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