

Hamilton's Fraser High School

Presents

GREASE



Synopsis

Act One

The kids think they rule in small town Rydell ("Grease Is The Word") They head back to school, their last year at Rydell High. Danny is a member of the ultra-cool Burger Palace Boys, only interested in cars, chicks and hanging out with his mates; Kenickie, Sonny, Roger, and Doody. Sandy; the new girl at school; doesn't fit in with the Pink Ladies: Rizzo, Jan, Marty, and Frenchy, although they are interested in her summer romance ("Summer Nights"). Sandy and Danny are unexpectedly reunited. She is thrilled to see him again but Danny isn't sure how hanging out with a 'good' girl will affect his image.

All the boys contemplate growing up ("Those Magic Changes") and what lies ahead.

The boys, meanwhile, meet up at the garage to see Kenickie's new car, he has been working all summer to buy it. The others think it is a heap of junk but Danny and Kenickie persuade them it will be a great way to attract the girls ("Greased Lightnin")!

After being rejected by the Pink Ladies, Sandy tries cheerleading ("Rydell Fight Song") but doesn't seem to fit in there either. She bumps into Danny again but things are awkward between them.

All the kids meet up on the football field, Roger and Jan get talking and, slowly, discover they like each other and have a lot in common ("Mooning"). A party atmosphere follows, as the kids celebrate their friendships ("We Go Together").

Book, Music and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Act Two

It's time for the school dance, everyone is paired off and wearing their finest ("Shakin at the High School Hop"). Vince Fontaine is hosting the evening; much to Marty's delight. Only Sandy is missing out on all the fun; she is stuck at home with a head cold ("It's Raining on Prom Night"). Things hot up at the dance: a dance contest is announced and Danny pairs up with Cha-Cha, a top dancer. They go on to win the contest ("Born to Hand Jive") although Miss Lynch disapproves of some of their dance moves. All alone Sandy faces up to the fact that she still loves Danny ("Hopelessly Devoted to You"), however futile it may be.

Things aren't working out too well for Frenchy either. Having left high school to train as a beautician, she is finding that she may not be cut out for the job, but can't admit it to her friends ("Beauty School Dropout").

Sandy and Danny finally get together; he borrows Kenickie's car and takes her to the drive-in. Sandy is there to watch the movie but Danny has other things on his mind. Sandy is upset when he takes things too far and leaves him alone in the car, wondering if he'll ever get it right ("Sandy").

The gang all hang out at the garage listening to music ("Rock 'n' Roll Party Queen"). Sandy joins them in the hope that Danny will appear. Rizzo makes it clear that she still isn't welcome amongst them. Kenickie discovers that Rizzo may be pregnant and they have a row. Everyone hastily leaves, except Sandy, whose sympathy is rejected by Rizzo ("There Are Worse Things I Could Do"). Sandy realises if she wants things to be different then she needs to make some changes about herself ("Look At Me I'm Sandra Dee - Reprise").

All the kids at the burger bar are in for a big surprise; especially Danny; when a transformed Sandy arrives, looking hot and with an attitude to match ("You're The One That I Want"). Once again the mood is up, Rizzo's pregnancy was a false alarm; and all the kids celebrate being young and in love ("Finale").



David Sidwell: Director

Director...musical director...composer...orchestrator/arranger...pianist... David has 35 years' involvement in music and theatre under his belt.

As Musical Director, some of David's many credits include *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Chicago*, *Evita*, *Annie*, *Holly Dolly!*, *Nunsense 1&II*, *Les Miserables*, *Juke Box*, *A Chorus Line*, *Gypsy*, *Caught in the Act* (with Tina Cross), to name but a few.

David has also directed countless productions. Among them, *Hair*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Chess: The Musical*, *Big: The Musical*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *70, Girls, 70*, *Les Miserables*, *Tell Me On A Sunday*, *Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Fame*, *Seussical*, *Blood Brothers*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Crazy For You*, along with the 'audience participation' version of *The Sound of Music*, a 'new experience' *Grease*, the sensational Hamilton seasons of *The Rocky Horror Show* and *Cats*.

Working professionally with theatre groups both in New Zealand and Australia, David has had successful seasons of *Andrew Lloyd Webber & Friends* (Gold Coast and New Zealand), *Westend to Broadway* with Wellington Musical Theatre and the Wellington Sinfonia, *Tell Me On A Sunday* (Circa Theatre), the critically acclaimed Wellington productions of *West Side Story* and *Phantasmic*, the New Zealand premiers of *The Secret Garden*, *Big: The Musical*, *The Full Monty* and *Disney's High School Musical*. 2009 is a busy year and sees him directing productions of *Grease*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* and *Disney's Beauty and the Beast*.

David is an accomplished pianist and has worked with many New Zealand recording artists. He has been the pianist for the New Zealand Film Archive touring roadshows, and works extensively throughout New Zealand and Australia as an arranger and orchestrator. He also lectures in music and manages the Music Department of the School of Media Arts at Wintec.



Campbell Douglas: Musical Director

Campbell graduated from The University of Auckland in 1995 with a Bachelor of Music in composition and conducting.

During the time he conducted the Auckland Youth Orchestra, the Auckland University Singers and his own choir, The O'Rourke Singers. He was also accompanist for L'Academic de Danse.

Campbell is currently a Deputy Principal at Hamilton's Fraser High School where he has been the Musical Director for their successful productions of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Footloose*, *Joseph*, the New Zealand premiere of Disney's High School Musical, and last year's *Little Shop of Horrors*. It has been a great pleasure for Campbell to see the progression of some of the talent from these shows progress into cast members for the Hamilton Operatic Society, most recently with *Cats* and the upcoming *Beauty and the Beast*.

Campbell has also been involved with the Hamilton Operatic Society for the last 12 years. He appeared on stage in *HAIR*, was a backing vocalist for A Chorus Line and keyboard player for *Gypsy*. After moving to Auckland, Campbell became involved with Centrestage Theatre in Orewa where he was Musical Director for *The Wizard of Oz* and *Scrooge*, and keyboard player for *Jesus Christ Superstar*. More recently, Campbell has been involved as a keyboard player for the Society's production of *Les Miserables and Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story*, as Assistant Musical Director for *West End to Broadway* and Musical Director for the New Zealand premiere of *The Full Monty* and *HAIR*. Campbell also had the privilege of being Musical Director for the Society's hugely successful productions of *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Blood Brothers* and last year's season of *Cats*.



Sonja McGirr-Garrett: Choreographer

Sonja originally came from Canada where she began her career at a very young age

She first discovered the pleasure of performance and team

achievement as a member of the Canadian Gymnastics team, competing around the globe on behalf of her country. The decision to follow her dreams in pursuit of a career in musical theatre came at the age of 12 when she captured her first leading role of *Anne* in *Anne of Green Gables*. She continued her studies gaining honours in a three-year diploma in musical theatre and dance and has since enjoyed success in many styles of shows ranging from Broadway to Vegas. Some of Sonja's favourites include *42nd Street*, *Dames at Sea*, *A Chorus Line*, *Grease*, *Pyjama Game*, *Winslow Boy*, *Bells are Ringing* and *Cats*, where she was in the original Canadian company has recently completed the 20th anniversary gala performance tour.

After travelling around the world for four years, when she met her best friend and husband Simon, Sonja opened her own musical theatre and dance studio on their farm and she derives much pleasure from her wonderful rural students. Sonja still claims that her most prized role of all is playing mum to her two beautiful girls, Cassidy and Remy.



**Alexis Holmes:
Dance Captain**

This year marks Alexis' 13th year in the musical theatre world. Being involved with Sonja's M.T.D Studio for 12 years has given Alexis the love and passion for musical theatre. Hamilton Operatic Society's season of *Cats* marked Alexis' first Hamilton show and she hopes to do many more. Alexis would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that was involved in *Grease* in making it an awesome and fun experience. "Grease is the word..."



**Atrayle Edwards:
Danny**

Atrayle Edwards is thrilled to perform the lead role of Danny Zuko in Hamilton's Fraser High School's Production of *Grease: The Musical*. Having debuted on stage in the New Zealand Premiere of *Disney's High School Musical* in 2007, He has since then performed in *Little Shop of Horrors* as Mr. Mushnik, Hamilton Operatic Society's production of *Hair* and more recently, *Cats*, where he was fortunate enough to be cast as "Mungojerrie". Until completing his Certificate in Contemporary Maori Performing Arts, at Auckland's University of Technology and being awestruck after seeing *Miss Saigon* and *The Phantom of The Opera* in Australia, he would never have thought twice about Musical Theatre let alone performing it on stage. He now has taken Dance and Drama as Year 13 subjects to continue his theatrical development. Atrayle would like to thank David Sidwell, Campbell Douglas and Sonja McGirr-Garrett for showing him how the pro's really do it and helping him understand the concept of Gesamtkunstwerk within Musical Theatre, enabling him to play a lead role in this show.



**Pounamu Watene:
Sandy**

Pounamu plays the part of Sandy in this year's school production *Grease: The Musical*. This is Pounamu's second appearance on the Fraser stage as she played Chiffon in last year's school production *Little Shop of Horrors*. She also takes vocal and flute lessons and participates in the school choir.



**Ferris Leilua:
Kenickie**

Ferris has been involved with the last two school productions before taking on the role of Kenickie, playing Jack Scott in *Disney's High School Musical* and Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has completed a Certificate in Contemporary Maori Performing Arts at AUT University and has performed at *Polyfest*.



**Hana Tuki:
Rizzo**

Hana is no stranger to the stage, having been a cheerleader in HFHS' production of *Disney's High School Musical*, and playing the role of Chrystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Outside school, Hana is a gifted dancer and a member of the Fusion Dance Company, travelling to LA in 2007 for the World Hiphop Championships and being a member of the second placed group in the dance competition 'battlegrounds' in Sydney last year.



**Marie Thomson:
Marty**

Marie has been involved in the theatre from an early age. *Grease* will be her third musical with HFHS, having previously had company roles in *Disney's High School Musical* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, and she has thoroughly enjoyed playing the role of 'Marty'. Music is a passion for Marie and she spends time composing songs on the piano and guitar, as well as singing. Marie hopes to continue with performing arts after leaving school at the end of this year.



**Brianna Park:
Jan**

This is Brianna's first time on stage for HFHS but she has been involved in performing arts since a young age, worked with Starmakers and performing in their productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Sleeping Beauty*. She has previously danced with Dance FX Studio and studies music and drama at school as well as taking vocal lessons.



**Tyla Armstrong:
Frenchy**

Tyla has been on stage since a very early age but this is her first appearance for HFHS. She has enjoyed her time playing Frenchy in *Grease: The Musical*. Tyla studies drama at school and is an aspiring film maker.



**Alex Tarrant-Keepa
Sonny**

Alex has performed in a large variety of roles over the last couple of years. We first saw him onstage for HFHS as Zeke in *Disney's High School Musical* followed by a member of the company of *Little Shop of Horrors*. In 2008, Alex played the role of *Othello* in the school entry for the *Sheliah Winn Shakespeare Festival*, winning the regional competition and gaining 3 awards at the national festival. Alex went on from there to be chosen to be part of The New Zealand Young Shakespeare Company which is travelling to London in June of this year to work at the Globe Theatre under professional direction. Alex has also completed a Certificate of Contemporary Maori Performing Arts from AUT University from where he spent a year working with Auckland based dance company Torotoro, performing with them in last year's Tempo Festival. Last year Alex was chosen as the Arts Person of the year at HFHS.



**Robbie van Dijk:
Roger and Teen Angel**

Robbie moved to Hamilton from Whakatane in mid 2008 and joined in with Fraser High School's Stage. He challenge straight away. He has always loved performing and has been involved in numerous school shows. In the two years before moving to Hamilton he was involved in various shows with Whakatane Theatre including *Les Miserables*, *Godspell*, *Bugsy* in *Bugsy Malone* and a lead in the New Zealand premiere of *Eurobeat*.



**Taliesin Ward
Doody**

Taliesin has been involved in the music scene at Fraser since he started at the school in 2005. As this is his last year at school, Taliesin has decided to give acting a go. Taliesin has really enjoyed working with such a gifted cast and supportive director, and will continue his pursuit of musical experiences after leaving school.



**Alicia Abrahams:
Cha-Cha**

Grease: The Musical, is Alicia's first appearance on stage and she is relishing playing a character completely opposite to her nature in real life. Alicia has been involved in Performing Arts, particularly Dance, for a number of years.



**Tania Hamilton:
Patty**

Tania's role as Patty Simcox in the production of *Grease* is one of a number of Performing Arts activities she has taken part in over her last four years at Hamilton's Fraser High School. In 2007 she played the role of Sharpay in the New Zealand premiere of *Disney's High School Musical*. In 2008 Tania completed a Certificate in Contemporary Maori Performing Arts from AUT University. She has taken part in numerous Stage Challenge performances and has a huge passion for the performing arts in general. Tania is looking forward to performing in *Grease* in her last year at Fraser.



**Greg Quinn:
Eugene**

This is Greg's first school production. He has previously preformed shows with Starmakers but changed to playing shows in a band for three years. Without much acting experience or taking Drama or Dance at school Greg; now presented with the opportunity of *Grease: The Musical*, has decided to get back into his acting/performing self through the role of Eugene.



**Mandy Faulkner:
Miss Lynch**

Having studied and taught Drama England, Mandy has been in part Hamilton's Fraser High of School for the past fifteen years and has been involved with most of the school productions during this time. This is the second school production she has been privileged to have a part in, having played the part of Ms. Darbus in *Disney's High School Musical*. In 2008 she directed the school's entry for the University of Otago *Sheliah Winn Shakespeare Festival*, which gained three awards at the national festival in Wellington.

Vince Ruatoe: Johnny Casino

Vince returns to the HFHS stage a guest capacity playing in the part of Johnny Casino. While still a student Vince performed in the successful seasons of Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat and Disney's High School Musical. Since leaving school, Vince has been involved with Hamilton Operatic Society's productions of Blood Brothers, Hair, and CATS.

Nick Wilkinson: Vince Fontaine

Nick was thrilled to be invited to be a part of HFHS' 2009 production of Grease. He has met many friends through the school over the past years, both teachers and students alike. Nick has been extensively involved in theatre in numerous capacities for many years now as a producer, writer, director and actor. This is the third time Nick has performed in Grease; the first time being his first ever high school production back in 1995. Other shows to his credit include The Rocky Horror Show, Blood Brothers, The Full Monty, Hair, Joseph, Les Miserables, Cats, Chess and Jesus Christ Superstar.

Ashlee Fisher: Matinee and Saturday

We welcome back Ashlee (HFHS Graduate 2007) to play the part of the Rizzo for a matinee and Saturday evening performance. Previous to this Ashlee was a Top 10 Finalist on New Zealand Idol and played Gabriella in HFHS' New Zealand premiere of Disney's High School Musical.

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Hamilton Operatic Costumes ; Kathie Young

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Offset Printers

Fiona Holden

Marty Wilson

Cast

Danny: Atrayle Edwards
Sandy: Pounamu Watene
Kenickie: Ferris Leilua
Rizzo: Hana Tuki
Ashlee Fisher
Jan: Brianna Park
Marty: Marie Thomson
Frenchy: Tyla Armstrong
Sonny: Alex Tarrant-Keepa
Roger: Robbie van Dijk
Doody: Taliesin Ward
Patty: Tania Hamilton
Cha-Cha: Alicia Abrahams
Eugene: Greg Quinn
Miss Lynch: Mandy Faulkner
Vince Fontaine: Nick Wilkinson
Johnny Casino: Vince Ruatoe
Teen Angel: Robbie van Dijk

Company

Callum Braithwaite
Ili Chapman
Andy Faiaoga
Henry Liu
Sam Sotogi
Zac Stokes
Lei-Alan Walters
Brooke Buysman
Topaz Cameron
Maia Crawford
Sophie Ivanovich
Rachel Moor
Abbie Pilott
Jade Verstraten
Tanwen Ward

Band

Campbell Douglas: Keyboard I
Jesse Te Weehi: Keyboard II
Jason Henderson: Guitar I
Angela Rogerson: Bass Guitar
Sarah Sharp: Saxophone I
Tristan McHardie: Saxophone II
Michael Shroeder: Drums
Clive Burnell: Trumpet

Backing Vocalists

David Artis
Fiona Artis
Amanda Tilsley
Nick Wilkinson
Ashlee Fisher
Vince Ruatoe

Production Personnel:

Director: David Sidwell
Choreographer: Sonja McGirr-Garrett
Musical Director: Campbell Douglas
Dance Captain: Alexis Holmes
Producer: Karyn Porton
Assistant Producer: Nicole Hardy
Cast Manager: Karyn Porton
Director's Assistant: Kate Trigger
Stage Manager: Kate Trigger
Assistant Stage Managers: Karyn Porton, Wendy Hubbard
Backstage Crew: Gardenia Davidson, Faith Grey, Jodie Jacobs, Arya Malek, Luke Overton, Sam Pennington, Pena Reupena, Alofa Sotogi, Alo Sotogi, Tua Taufo'ou, George Thompson
Head of Flies: Ron Braithwaite
Fly Crew: Daniel Barlow, Caleb Borlase, Daryl Fuller, Jared Ivanovich, Andrew Jacobs
Properties: Joss Robertson
Assistant Properties: Nicole Hardy
Costumes: Nicole Hardy
Costume Alterations: Cherie Cooke, Sue Fayter, Robyn Tuki
Hair and Make-up: Marty Wilson
Sound Design: Hamilton City Theatre
Lighting Design: Aaron Chesham

Lighting: Kate Trigger
Follow Spots: Nicole Hardy, Sarah Quinnell
Dressers (evenings): Clare Bennett, Virginia Crawford, Nancy MacMillan, Angela Peters, Liz Tombleson, Robyn Tuki
Dressers (matinees): Mel Cameron, Cherie Cooke, Misty Taoho, Deana Jeffries, Loren Giles, Rhiannon Jones
Publicity: Karyn Porton, Nicole Hardy
Set Construction teachers: Joseph Sopers, Reo Iti, Keith Buick, Malcolm Davison, Joseph Sopers, Andrew Simpson
Set Construction students: Sean Bettridge, Dion Carroll, Dylan Connor, Justin Cox, Regan Curran, Romin De Jesus, Jared Dyer, Brandon Hamilton, James Knight, Jamie Lyttle, Jordan MacQueen, Daniel McAuliffe, James Ridgway, Danny Rookes, Shavneel Sharma, Jordan Slater, Alex Smith, Robert Van der Kroft, Sladyn Thom
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Front of House: Debra Dove and team

GREASE

