



NewsCAST

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HERVEY FOLSOM, EDITOR
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(256) 820-CAST



GREASE OPENS CAST SEASON WITH A STRONG BEAT Opens September 23

Grease, the well known, popular, rollicking musical (the book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs & Warren Casey) will open September 23 and end October 3, a run of two weekends. Thursdays are pay-what-you-want nights, and remember, we offer matinees at 2:30 p.m. on both Saturdays and Sundays.

Even with such a fun, lively musical with a good dancing beat, artistic challenges have kept everyone working hard. According to Eric Traynor, Musical Director, the wide vocal ranges can be tricky, lots of energy has to be going on for the dancing, and getting the steps down perfectly and singing at the same time is not easy. "The actors are getting a workout," Traynor assures us.

The musical is named for the 1950s working-class youth subculture known as the *Greasers*. Danny, Frenchy, and Doody, and friends go to the fictional Rydell High School, but there's much more than English and algebra to be learned by this gang. These kids navigate the complexities of love, cars, popularity, drive-ins, and deep problems. But they have themselves for support. The score attempts to recreate the sounds of early rock and roll. More seriously, the show attempts to tackle the social issues of teenage pregnancy and gang violence. Some say *Grease* is the most popular musical ever. Sock hops and oldies dances are popular now; in *Grease* you'll get inside some of the lives and minds that are doing the dancing.

And we welcome Eric Traynor to CAST as musical director. He directed *Beauty and the Beast* just recently at JSU, *The Little Mermaid* this summer, and for the JSU coming season he will be directing *Tuesdays With Morrie*, Elton John & Tim Rice's *Aida*, and *Southbridge*.

Tickets may be purchased at: Farmers & Merchants Bank, Anniston, Golden Springs Pharmacy, NobleBank, Anniston and Oxford, Crow Drug in Jacksonville, Cheaha Bank, Oxford and Jacksonville, JC Morgan Art Gallery in the Quintard Mall

Letter from the Editor

Dear Patrons,

Let us entertain you! Let us persuade you, inform you, impress you, make you smile, chuckle, and even shed a tear while our plots and actions make you think twice about realities we confront every day. We will tell important stories this season about different cultures in America on our McClellan stage, bringing to light the talent of some great playwrights, great actors, and great musicians..... After *Grease*, we present *Miracle on 34th Street* in November and December, then in February, *Dearly Departed*, a comedy (film version *Kingdom Come*, starring Whoopi Goldberg). The Spring production's title is still to be announced. We will be emailing announcements of auditions. If you aren't yet on the email list, call 820-CAST.

Yes, the word is VARIETY, to keep you interested, with a host of characters, from believable to quirky to odd, from complex to simple, mixed with humor and music, and we want you to be a part of the fun. So come, watch us work our magic as we present a musical, a holiday show, another

comedy and a production to be announced for this season. To get your tickets, call 820-CAST. Season tickets, at \$50 for adults, \$25 for students will also be available to buy at the door. Individual tickets are \$20 adults and \$10 for students. Donations are much, much appreciated as our expenses are great.

Patrons, the curtain is about to open, so let's get ready, sit back in our seats and enjoy! See you at the theater.

Hervey Folsom

Hervey Folsom, Editor

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Having seen the original production of *GREASE* off Broadway when I first lived in New York City, I have always felt a connection to the show. I remember that it was a part of the original concept that the cast was older than teenagers, because it is basically a flashback to the memory of the students of the 1950's. I was almost a teenager in 1959 when the action occurs. I had a grey and pink poodle skirt. I had a virgin pin. I was in a hula hoop contest (I lost). The film of *GREASE* has just been re-released and continues to entertain audiences around the world. There are some differences in the film and the stage production, including some songs that are different. We are delighted to present the stage production, as it was originally intended, and we know you will be delighted to share in the fun I originally had when I first saw the then unknown musical, which has become the most popular musical ever. The 50's were a transitional time in our history and we now celebrate that glorious transition with you. Clap your hands, tap your feet, sing along and smile with us.

Kim Dobbs
 Kim Dobbs, Artistic Director



Latest News from our CAST family

Tim Doyle and Pati Tiller recently performed at Theatre of Gadsden. Tim's role was in *Southern Hospitality* and Pati's was in *A Long Day's Journey Into Night*. Congratulations for the good work, actors! Congratulations to Tim for his Cameo award given August 28 at the Elliott Community Center.

Robin Bauer will be coordinating dancing at the after-school arts program for Anniston High and Anniston Middle School at the Kilby Home on the grounds of Anniston High. It is sponsored by Creative Arts, Inc.

Caleb Clark, Jacob Cummings, and Kaylon Gilley have roles in the Jacksonville Opera Theatre's "Daniel and the Dreamcatcher", which will be presented at schools through May, 2011.

Several of our actors went to see *Joseph & the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (starring Jacob Cummings) at Gadsden State in July and really enjoyed it. Let's support other theaters in northeast Alabama. It's a way to make a strong connection between the theaters.

Young Artists for a Better World and Kool Kids will be having a recital on Friday, October 8th at 7:00 PM at the McClellan Theatre. Everyone's invited!

Props Needed

- 1950's record player
- 1950's portable radio
- 1950's fan magazines
- 1950's female baggy gym suit
- Virgin pin
- Peter Pan collar Blouse (small)
- Black Leather Jacket
- Hula Hoops
- Kimono (wild and garish)
- 6 Lunchroom trays
- 8 Matching Graduation robes & caps
- Baseball bat
- Lead pipe and chain
- Zip gun (homemade)
- Car antenna
- 5 Beer quarts
- Plastic punch bowl and cups
- 1950's Male letter sweater

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