

COF THEATER PRESENTS

GREASE

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Directed by Thomas Davison

April 11 & 12 at 7:30pm
April 13 at 2:00pm
Tower Auditorium at Mass College of Art and Design
621 Huntington Ave, Boston, MA
2025

Content Advisory: Today's performance contains portrayal of mature themes including language and images of implied sexual situations, smoking, and alcohol use.

COF THEATER PRESENTS

GREASE

Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

Directed by Thomas Davison

Music Director
Avi Randall

Choreographer
Holly Stone

Assistant Director
Campbell White, Simmons

Stage Manager
Rose Currie, Wentworth

Production Manager
Carolina Soto

Fourth Wall Coordinator Amanda McCluskey, MassArt Lighting Designers
Erik Fox
Amber Kovacs, Wentworth

Costumes Chair Anna Sa, Simmons *Props Master*Madison Idzi, Simmons

Assistant Stage Managers Isa Carreno-Vogt, MassArt Rabi Elmassih, Wentworth



BURGER PALACE BOYS

DANNY	Sam DeRose, MassArt	
KENICKIE	Anthony Mora, MassArt	
SONNY	Reef Bishop, MassArt	
ROGER	Liam DePietro, Emmanuel	
DOODY	Robert Fontenelli, MassArt	

PINK LADIES

SANDY	Rhiana Boutot, Wentworth	
RIZZO	Megan Calos, MassArt	
MARTY	Leila DeAngeles, MCPHS	
JAN	Tiffany Esteves, MCPHS	
FRENCHY	Emma Murray, MassArt	

TEEN ANGELS	Salem Olivier, MassArt Evan Bouvier, MassArt Jacob McGrail, Wentworth Pedro Aguilar, MCPHS	
EUGENE	Shaun Brothers, Wentworth	
VINCE FONTAINE	Joseph Latteo, MassArt	
PATTY	Grace McCarthy, MCPHS	
CHA-CHA	Linnea Schenker, MassArt	
MISS LYNCH	Sofia Totino, MCPHS	
MISS G	Mandy Strobel, MassArt	
JOHNNY CASINO	Mimi Pare, Simmons	

Cast Cont.

The Ramblers

Maren Rininsland, MassArt Meg Courtney, MassArt Lila Vair, MassArt Salem Olivier, MassArt

Beauty School Choir Featured Singers

Gigi Davis, Simmons
Natalie Morris, MassArt
Nia Powell, MCPHS
Olivia Stone, Emmanuel
Reis Bailey, MassArt
Lucky Eschauzier, MassArt

Featured Dancers

Allison Morley, MassArt Megan Burgess, Simmons Sabrina Thai, Simmons

Ensemble

Abby Shadden, Emmanuel Carly Pontier, Simmons Charlotte Sckaål, Simmons Sakshi Nandan, MassArt Sarah Howe, Simmons Sienna Jeffries, Simmons Sommer Russell, Simmons

THE BAND

Keyboard Avi Randall Saxophone Elise Hill *Guitar* Aaron Kan Bass Josh Bass *Drums* Sam McClurg



BACKSTAGE CREW

Rose Currie, Isa Carreno-Vogt, Rabi Elmassih Kristine Candy Antionio, Sophie Barcohana, Yonah Friedman, Amy Loveless, Kevin Torres

SET CONSTRUCTION

Kristine Candy Antionio,
Wentworth
Isa Carreno-Vogt, MassArt
Rose Currie, Wentworth
Rabi Elmassih, Wentworth
Yonah Friedman, Simmons
Kevin Torres, Wentworth

PAINT

Kristine Candy Antionio,
Wentworth
Sophie Barcohana, MCPHS
Lea Cabaero, Simmons
Isa Carreno-Vogt, MassArt
Yonah Friedman, Simmons
Amy Loveless, MassArt
Clarissa Weaver, Simmons

LIGHTS & SOUND BOARD OPS

Lights: Ena Edmonds, Simmons **Sound:** Julia Leite, MassArt

COSTUMES

Audrey Fernau, MassArt Aster Jodoin, MassArt

PROPS

Kristine Candy Antionio, Wentworth Sophie Barcohana, MCPHS Lea Cabaero, Simmons Yonah Friedman, Simmons Amy Loveless, MassArt

Musical Numbers

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GREASE	"Grease" - Johnny Casino and The Ramblers, Company		
Scene One: REUNION	"Alma Mater" - Miss Lynch, Miss G, Patty, Eugene, Company "'Alma Mater' Parody" - Burger Palace Boys		
Scene Two: CAFETERIA	"Summer Nights" - Sandy and Danny, Pink Ladies, Burger Palace Boys, Patty, Company		
Scene Three: LOCKER ROOM	"Those Magic Changes" - Doody, Burger Palace Boys and Pink Ladies		
Scene Four: PAJAMA PARTY	"Freddy, My Love" - Marty and Pink Ladies, Featured Singers		
Scene Five: STREET CORNER	"Greased Lightnin"' - Kenickie, Burger Palace Boys and Greasers		
Scene Six: SCHOOLYARD	"Rydell Fight Song" - Sandy and Patty		
Scene Seven: PARK	"Mooning" - <i>Roger and Jan</i> "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee" - <i>Rizzo</i> "We Go Together" - <i>Company</i>		
15 minute intermission			

ACT II

Scene One: ONSTAGE

Scene Three: DRIVE-IN MOVIE

Scene Five: INSIDE BURGER PALACE

Scene Four: JAN'S PARTY

The Ramblers, Company "Hopelessly Devoted to You" - Sandy "Since I Don't Have You" - Johnny Casino and The Ramblers "Johnny B Good" - Johnny Casino and The Ramblers "Born to Hand-Jive" - Johnny Casino and The Ramblers, Company "Blue Moon" - Johnny Casino and The Ramblers Scene Two: FRONT OF BURGER PALACE

"Beauty School Dropout" - Teen Angels, Beauty School Choir

"Sandy" - Danny

"Shakin' at the High School Hop" - Johnny Casino and

"There Are Worse Things I Could Do" - Rizzo

"Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee' Reprise" - Sandy

"Rock 'N' Roll Party Queen" - Doody and Sonny

"You're The One That I Want" - Sandy and Danny, Pink Ladies and Burger Palace Boys

"We Go Together' Reprise" - Company

Director's Note

Welcome to this COF Theater performance of Grease!

Part of the fun of doing a popular show like *Grease* is that almost everyone knows the songs and the characters. It feels like putting on an old and well-worn leather jacket. One of the biggest challenges then, is to take the material and come at it with a fresh set of eyes; to really explore the songs and characters, to discover the dynamics, ideas, and unique chemistry of this cast & crew, and as a result, create it anew.

Interestingly, the original version of *Grease*, which premiered in 1971 at the Kingston Mines Theater in the Old Town section of Chicago, was a very different show then the version we all know today. It wasn't even a musical in the traditional sense, more of a play with some songs thrown in. It was an "edgy" affair, too, with foul language, explicit scenes and a "stick it to man" attitude, reflective of the social and political mores of the time as well as the hard scrabble, Chicago streets where the show was created. Producers Ken Waissman and Maxine Fox saw the show and suggested to the playwrights that it might work better as a musical, and told them if the creative partners were willing to rework it and they liked the end result, they would produce it off-Broadway. The team headed to New York City to collaborate on what would become the *Grease* we all know, a tamer version than the original, but with some of the "outsider" DNA intact. *Grease* opened at the Eden Theatre in downtown Manhattan in 1972, moved to Broadway a few months later, and earned seven Tony Award nominations including Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical. The show went on to become a West End hit in London and a hugely successful film (for which Jacobs and Warren wrote additional songs).

So, it has been a true pleasure working with this incredibly talented and dedicated group of students over the past two months to explore this material and create our own production of *Grease*. At the start of rehearsals we had stated goals of having some "serious fun", committing to the show and to each other, and working to come together as an ensemble. We have done that, and I could not be prouder of this cast & crew.

I'd like to give special thanks to our Music Director Avi Randall who worked with the cast and soloists to teach the music, harmonies, and bring out their voices to sing the great musical numbers of this show; to our Choreographer Holly Stone for their creativity, patience and skill to choreograph and teach some very fun and kickin' dance sequences; to our Stage Manager and crew chief Rose Currie, a senior at WIT, who took on the responsibility to head up our set and build crew, which she did with leadership and creativity (including the design and build of "Greased Lightning"); and to our Assistant Director, Campbell White, a senior at Simmons, whose leadership and impressive organizational and interpersonal skills were on full display throughout the entire rehearsal process.

So please, sit back, relax, and "A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop, a-wop-bam-boom" we hope you enjoy the show! TD

About the Authors

JIM JACOBS (Book, Music and Lyrics). Jacobs, who created Grease (in 1970) with Warren Casey, was born and raised on the mean streets of Chicago's far northwest side. During the golden era of rock 'n' roll (1956-1960) he was a guitar-playing "greaser" student at Taft High School. In 1963, Jacobs met Warren Casey when they were both cast in a local theatre production of A Shot in the Dark. Seven years later they wrote what was to become one of the greatest musicals of all time. Grease opened in 1971 in a former trolley barn called the Kingston Mines Theatre in Chicago. A year later, Grease made it to Broadway and "Greasemania" took off, resulting in one of the longest running shows in Broadway history. The 1978 movie became and remains the highest grossing movie musical of all time. Originally an actor, Jacobs has been seen on television, in motion pictures, regional theatre, national tours, and on Broadway. He is the co-author of several other plays and musicals including Island of Lost Coeds, a musical spoof of the low budget scifi/horror/jungle movies of the 1950s, which he wrote with Warren Casey. In May 2014, Mr. Jacobs was presented with an honorary doctorate degree from Columbia College in Chicago. He currently resides in Southern California and remains active in the theatre, especially with the American Theatre Company of Chicago.

WARREN CASEY (Author, Composer and Lyricist) was born in Yonkers, New York, and attended Syracuse University. During the late '50s, he learned all about "greasers" while working as an art teacher in upstate New York. He moved to Chicago in 1962, where he hoped to pursue an acting career. He appeared in dozens of productions, including creating the role of Bernie Litko in David Mamet's Sexual Perversity in Chicago. He supported himself with jobs in retail, including working as an assistant manager of a chain of apparel stores, and as a record salesman. In the meantime, he taught himself how to play the guitar and began writing songs. Mr. Casey acted with the Chicago Stage Guild (where he met Jim Jacobs), the Old Town Players, and the Kingston Mines Theatre. The latter company staged the original production of GREASE which he wrote with Jim Jacobs. After the incredible success of both the musical and the movie, the two collaborated on Island of Lost Coeds, a musical satire of the B-movies of the 1950s. Mr. Casey died in 1988.

About the Director

Thomas Davison has directed, taught and performed theater in the United States and Europe. His directing credits include plays by Samuel Beckett, Anton Chekhov, David Ives, Sam Shepard and William Shakespeare. He studied theater at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts, is a member of The Dramatists Guild of America and the Spanish Guild of Authors & Editors, Spain. When he is not directing COF Theater he is Director of Business Development at American Public Television.

About the Music Director

Avi Randall is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, improviser, and educator from Amherst, MA. Avi focuses on the intersection of different musical genres and the ways that dance is incorporated in music from around the world. Avi is the founder of the ensemble "Saltaré", which released two albums containing everything from bluegrass to Turkish classical music. Avi is also part of the New England Contra Dance scene, and performs in the band "Dogtown". As a solo artist, Avi has released two collections of original classical piano music and a jazz-pop single.

As an educator, Avi has lectured at Hampshire College on piano technique, music history, and performance analysis. They have written and taught courses at the New England Conservatory of Music, and have taught seminars in improvisation through multiple non-profits.

They have had the pleasure of studying with Hankus Netsky, Ran Blake, Carla Kilstedt, and Mehmet Sanlikol, and are starting their Master's degree at the New England Conservatory in 2025. In their spare time, they bike, fold origami, and transcribe traditional Georgian songs.

B.M. in Contemporary Musical Arts, New England Conservatory, 2023

About the Choreographer

Raised in rural Vermont, **Holly Stone** creates dance and theater in Greater Boston. Their gender-expansive partnering collaboration–INSIDER BALLROOM–with Michael Winward has played at the Providence Fringe Festival, the Dance Complex, and MAGMA in Gloucester, and is funded by NEFA, JFK Foundation, and the City of Boston. Holly's original story ballet THE QUEEN OF NORI was presented at Starlight Stage, Windhover Center for the Performing Arts, the BCA, & Paliku Theatre in Hawaii. Holly has recently created theater with Boston Opera Collaborative, Greater Boston Stage Company, A Common Thread Theater, Arlington Children's Theatre, and Tufts University. They have a B.S. in Bioengineering & Neuroscience from Syracuse University and an MFA in Dance from Florida State University.

About CO7 Theater

Colleges of the Fenway Theater, an ensemble of the Colleges of the Fenway Center for Performing Arts, is a non-auditioned group that offers co-curricular theater instruction and performance opportunities for students at the five Colleges of the Fenway (COF). COF Theater puts on fully staged performances at the end of each semester. Productions have included musicals, plays by Shakespeare, student and faculty written plays, and works by award-winning playwrights. Participation requires a semester-long commitment and a willingness to explore and have some fun.

For more information and other performance opportunities visit the Colleges of the Fenway Center for Performing Arts at colleges-fenway.org/performingarts

Follow COF Theater on social media: @collegesofthefenwaytheater



Special thanks to Brenda Huggins, Director COF Center for the Performing Arts, and Claire Ramsbottom, Executive Director of COF

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Wentworth Institute of Technology (WIT)

"Grease" is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company.

www.concordtheatricals.com

COLLEGES OF THE FENWAY

PERFORMING ARTS

Jazz Band





SPRING CONCERT 2025

Mon. April 14, 7:30pm

Emmanuel College Auditorium Eisner Admin. Building, 400 Fenway





Bhuggins@colleges-fenway.org www.colleges-fenway.org/activities/performingarts/





PUPPET SHOWPLACE THEATER 32 STATION ST. BROOKLINE, MA



SCAN HERE

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puppet slam [noun]

- 1. a live performance of shortform puppetry acts for adults.
- 2. can be hilarious, profound, or anything in between.
- 3. includes stop animation, object theater, shadow theater, Muppet style, rod puppets, AND MORE!



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