



Grease Is The Word This Summer at the Huron Country Playhouse in Grand Bend

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – A-wop-bop-a-loo-bop, a-wop-bam-boom! Throw on your leather jacket, tease your hair, rev your engine, and get ready to hand jive as one of the most popular musicals of all time explodes onto the stage at the Huron Country Playhouse. *Grease*, the hit Broadway phenomenon that inspired one of the most successful movie musicals in history, runs for four weeks only from **August 8 to August 31** in Grand Bend.

With the production already over 75% sold out, audiences are encouraged to buy tickets as soon as possible.

Grease tells the memorable story of worlds colliding in the name of love, with a handful of high school drama thrown in. It's 1959 and the slick T-Birds and sassy Pink Ladies are about to enter their senior year at Rydell High. Over the summer, popular tough guy Danny Zuko has a secret romance with innocent new girl Sandy Dumbrowski. They had a blast, but now that they are back to school and confronted with cliques and peer pressure, will their summer dreams be ripped at the seams?

Featuring unforgettable characters and mega-hit songs like "Summer Nights," "Greased Lightnin'," "Beauty School Dropout," "We Go Together," and many more, *Grease* is an "electrifyin'" musical extravaganza that is sure to make audiences stand up and cheer.

"*Grease* is undoubtedly a worldwide phenomenon, and a sure-fire crowd-pleaser," says **Alex Mustakas**, Artistic Director of Drayton Entertainment. "It's energetic, fun, and packed with great tunes that appeal to all generations of theatregoers – we are excited to present it for the first time in Drayton Entertainment's history."

Director and Choreographer **Lisa Stevens** is at the helm of this blockbuster Broadway musical. Stevens recently choreographed the West End production of Dolly Parton's *9 to 5: The Musical* and previously choreographed the national tours of Disney's *High School Musical* and *Bombay Dreams*. Stevens also choreographed *West Side Story*, *Sister Act*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *Spamalot*, and other productions for Drayton Entertainment.

Stevens is joined by Music Director **Anthony Bastianon**, Set Designer **Paul Tate dePoo III**, Original Costume Designer **Cory Sincennes**, Lighting Designer **Michael Walton**, Costume & Wig Coordinator **Nicole Del Cul**, Stage Manager **Charles Russell**, Assistant Stage Manager **Jasmyne Leisemer**, and Apprentice Stage Manager **Lauren Broadhurst**.

A sensational cast has been assembled for this 'summer lovin' musical including **David Cotton** as Danny Zuko, the confident and conflicted leader of the T-Birds. Drayton Entertainment audiences will remember Cotton as Tony in *West Side Story* last season, as well as Marius in the 2014 hit production of *Les Misérables*, among other roles.

Chelsea Preston takes on the role of sweet and shy new-girl Sandy, who doesn't quite fit in with the popular Pink Ladies. Preston previously appeared as Amber in *Hairspray* and Cinderella in *Cinderella: The Panto* for Drayton Entertainment.

Newcomers **Caleb Di Pomponio**, **Garett Hill**, **Seth Johnson**, and **Nick Sheculski** make their collective Drayton Entertainment debuts as the too-cool-for-school T-Birds – Sonny, Doody, Kenickie and Roger respectively.

Di Pomponio previously appeared in *Beauty and the Beast* and *In The Heights* for The Arts Club Vancouver, while Hill recently appeared in *Freaky Friday* for Theatre Aquarius. Johnson previously appeared in *Mamma Mia!* at the Globe Theatre and *The Birds and The Bees* at Victoria Playhouse Petrolia, among other credits, while Sheculski appeared in *We Will Rock You* at Fallsview Casino and *The Rocky Horror Show* for Canadiana Productions.

Michelle Bouey, **Kelly Holiff**, **Clea McCaffrey**, and **Erica Peck** are the playful Pink Ladies – Frenchy, Marty, Jan, and Rizzo respectively.

Bouey has appeared in *Freaky Friday* at Theatre Aquarius, *The Wizard of Oz* at The Grand Theatre, and *RENT* at the CAA Theatre, along with *Aladdin: The Panto* for Drayton Entertainment. Holiff wowed audiences last season as Ursula in *The Little Mermaid*. She has also appeared as one of the divas earlier this season in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* in St. Jacobs. McCaffrey was in *Sister Act* for Drayton Entertainment, and has previously appeared in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *The Rocky Horror Show*, among other musicals. Peck garnered rave reviews for her performance as Magenta in Stratford's hit production of *The Rocky Horror Show* last season. She also appeared in the Toronto and National Tour productions of *We Will Rock You* and *Kinky Boots*, as well as in *Hairspray* for Drayton Entertainment.

Funny-guy Eddie Glen entertains in the dual role of Vince Fontaine and the Teen Angel. Glen is no stranger to the Drayton Entertainment stages having appeared in countless productions including *One for the Pot*, *The 39 Steps*, *It Runs in the Family*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Spamalot*, *Les Misérables*, and many others.

Niko Anastasakis, **Greg Liow**, **Stephanie Pitsiladis**, **David Andrew Reid**, **Darcy Stewart**, **Sarah Vance** and **Christine Watson** round out the terrific cast.

With a book, music and lyrics by **Jim Jacobs** and **Warren Casey**, *Grease* originated in Chicago at the Kingston Mines Theater in 1971 before debuting on Broadway the following year. The original 1972 production was nominated for seven Tony Awards. A London production opened in 1993,

followed by a Broadway revival starring Rosie O'Donnell as Rizzo in 1994, and a second Broadway revival in 2007.

In 1978, *Grease* became a hugely popular feature film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John as Danny and Sandy. The film version produced one of the best-selling soundtracks in history and is the highest-grossing movie musical of all time. The two Travolta/Newton-John duets, "You're The One That I Want" and "Summer Nights" were both number one hits and appear on the All-Time Best-Selling Singles list. The song "Hopelessly Devoted to You" was nominated for an Academy Award in 1979 for Best Original Song, and the film's title song, "Grease" was a number one smash hit single for singer Frankie Valli.

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Regular performance tickets are \$48 for adults, \$29 for youth under 20 years of age. Tickets for select Discount Dates and groups of 20 or more are \$39. HST is applicable to all ticket prices.

Grease runs from **August 8** to **August 31** at the **Huron Country Playhouse** in Grand Bend. Tickets may be purchased in person at any Drayton Entertainment Box Office, by calling the Box Office at **519-238-6000** or toll-free at **1-855-drayton (372-9866),** or online instantly at www.huroncountryplayhouse.com.

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