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**South
Downe**
Musical Society 

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The blockbuster smash hit musical Grease is packed with explosive energy, vibrant 1950s pop culture and all those unforgettable songs!

Wednesday 6 July - Saturday 9 July 2016

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

Grease is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), 570 Seventh Avenue, Suite 2100, New York, NY 10018. www.theatricalrights.com Songs You're The One That I Want, Sandy, Grease and Hopelessly Devoted To You are performed by arrangement with Robert Stigwood.

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Chairman's Welcome

Hello and welcome to our production of the iconic fifties-style feel good musical Grease. It's another first for SDMS and it's a show that remains timeless despite the film celebrating its 38th birthday this year (the stage show actually had its debut in 1971). Although it has since been overtaken by numerous storming productions, it is worth mentioning that Grease was the longest running musical on Broadway at its time of closing in 1980.

We've managed to assemble a terrific young (and some of us not so young cast) to provide a fresh, vibrant production under the guidance of first-time SDMS' Director and Choreographer (but experienced performer) Helen Stoddart, last seen as Yum Yum in Hot Mikado for us. Helen and the team have kept rehearsals fun yet focused, and I'm sure you will agree that everyone's passion for the show has borne fruit this week.



Next up for us will be Made In Dagenham, another debut show for SDMS and a recent hit in the West End starring Gemma Arterton. It tells the true story of striking female Ford workers, and contains fantastic Sixties style songs and some hilarious one-liners. Made In Dagenham will be at the Kings Theatre, Southsea 10 -12 November. After a well-deserved Christmas break we will then be straight into rehearsals for our April 2017 show here at Ferneham Hall, the classic Calamity Jane.

We do hope to keep you all entertained throughout the year, after all as Vince Fontaine would say "If you're having fun, you're Number One!".

Enjoy the show. And remember.....Grease is the word.

Alan Jenkins
Chairman SDMS

Executive Committee

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Members Secretary Tom Hudson
Ticket Controller Anita Waterhouse

Committee

Julie Davies
Matt Gibbins
Hayley Milton
Jane Pegler
Sue Rourke
Jonathan Shirlaw

Production Team

Director and Choreographer	Helen Stoddart
Musical Director	Alan Pring GTCL LTCL Dip Ed
Vocal Coach	Jane Pegler
Dance Captain	Kimberley Joyce
Pit Singers	Joe Marchant, Danny Owen, Trish Pring, Sue Rourke
Stage Manager	Mike Williams
Assistant Stage Manager	Ben Dulake
Crew	Keith Dulake, Rosie Wiggins
Lighting Design	Lee Stoddart
Additional lighting	ITP Lighting
Follow Spots	Jayne North
Sound and projection	Rob Sarahs (Fernehall Hall)
Props	Helen Dulake and Shelia Stoddart
Costume co-ordination	Carole Gennings and Tricia Pring
Costume supply	The Costume Workshop, Isle of Wight
Marketing	Matt Gibbins, Dave Harkness, Alan Jenkins, Anneke Poppleton, Perry Ralls
Photography	Sue Rourke
Ticket Team	Anita Waterhouse, Maureen Francis, Linda Smither, Pat Wallace
With thanks to	Scenery South, Southsea Signs and Designs, South Downe Social Group, Lauren Kempton and Rhino Sound
Programme designed by	Jim Kynvin

Band

Tenor Saxophone	Steve Tanner
Tenor Saxophone	Lara Jelliff
Keyboard	Nickie Tabear
Keyboard	Alan Pring
Guitar	Dan Franks
Guitar	Rob Lamont
Kit	John Hammond
Bass	Alan Ham

Cast List

Principals

Danny	Perry Ralls
Kenickie	Nick Williams
Roger	Matt Sackman
Doody	Olli Heath
Sonny	Matt Gibbins
Sandy	Hannah Ali
Rizzo	Kimberley Harvey
Jan	Emily Rennicks
Frenchy	Alice Mayhead
Marty	Lauren Kempton
Patty	Kelly Fuller
Eugene	Declan Robertson
Miss Lynch	Peta Reading
Vince Fontaine	Alan Jenkins
Johnny Casino	Ben Horner
Teen Angel	Steve Reading
Cha-Cha DiGregorio	Charlotte Williams

Rydell Students

Emma Brown, Lily Chevalier-Watts, Scott Dowell, Lauren Elkins, Paul Goldthorpe, Emma Hall, Emily Harkness, Emily Johnson, Samantha Kelly, Charlie-Rose Lane, Vicky Midgley, Kayleigh Millen, Roxanne O'Doherty, Megan Rutledge, Gilly Williams

Rydell Teachers

Julie Davies, Sara Harkness, Rachel Munn, John Shirlaw, Gill Wallace

Cheerleaders

Danielle Cox, Emily Dulake, Becky Garnett, Kim Joyce, Becky North, Anneke Poppleton, Sarah Powney, Charlotte Williams

Understudies

Danny	Matt Gibbins
Kenickie	Paul Goldthorpe
Roger	Ben Horner
Doody	Ben Horner
Sonny	Ben Horner
Sandy	Becky North
Rizzo	Samantha Kelly
Jan	Emma Hall
Frenchy	Megan Rutledge
Marty	Kelly Fuller
Patty	Anneke Poppleton

Garage Workers

Julie Davies, Scott Dowell, Paul Goldthorpe, Emma Hall, Emily Harkness, Emily Johnson, Samantha Kelly, Vicky Midgley, Kayleigh Millen, Declan Robertson, Megan Rutledge, Gill Wallace, Gilly Williams

Teen Angel Backing Vocalists

Emma Brown, Lily Chevalier-Watts, Julie Davies, Lauren Elkins, Emma Hall, Emily Harkness, Emily Johnson, Sam Kelly, Charlie-Rose Lane, Vicky Midgley, Kayleigh Millen, Roxanne O'Doherty, Megan Rutledge, Gill Wallace, Gilly Williams

Musical Numbers

ACT I

Grease

Summer Nights

Those Magic Changes

Freddy, My Love

Greased Lightnin

Rydell Fight Song

Mooning

Look at me, I'm Sandra Dee

We Go Together

Full Company

Danny, T-Birds, Sandy, Pink Ladies, Patty

Doody, T-Birds & Company

Marty & Pink Ladies

Kenickie, T-Birds & Garage Workers

Patty, Sandy & Cheerleaders

Roger & Jan

Rizzo

Danny, T-Birds & Pink Ladies

ACT 2

Shakin' at the High School Hop

Born to Hand Jive

Hopelessly Devoted

Beauty School Drop Out

Alone at a Drive In Movie

Rock n Roll Party Queen

There Are Worse Things I Could Do

Look at me, I'm Sandra Dee (reprise)

You're The One That I Want

We Go Together (reprise)

Full Company

Johnny Casino & Company

Sandy

Teen Angel & Backing Singers

Danny & T-Birds

Roger & Sonny

Rizzo

Sandy

Danny, Sandy & Company

Full Company



Director's Notes

It is not without a sense of both relief and exhaustion that I am delighted to welcome to you to our production of Grease, a classic that is held dear to so many people's hearts, which will now forever be embedded upon my psyche even more so than before!



I must confess that I don't recall my own first introduction to Grease, but I know that it has been a firm staple of dancing school shows, school talent nights, musical theatre groups and some extremely questionable karaoke decisions since a very early age. With icons such as John Travolta, Craig MacLachlan and Shane Richie taking on those pivotal masculine roles, it's hard to say what first attracted me to the show, however, it has been a firm favourite over the years which has always held a very special place in my heart, and it is fair to say that this show will not be going anywhere soon!

When staging this production there were some difficult decisions to make in terms of which of the original songs to utilise and which of the film songs to include. As you will see we have utilised a mixture of both in order to play tribute to the classics, whilst also keeping alive the memories of the film that so many of us hold dear.

Having been a member of SDMS for more years than I even care to think about, it is with an immeasurable sense of pride that I have taken the helm with this production. Given their incredible hard work and dedication, I am both delighted and proud to present to you tonight our team's achievements in the 65 hours of rehearsals completed since the beginning of May.

There are numerous unsung heroes to thank in making this production exactly what it is, and hopefully I haven't neglected to share with them the thanks of all the cast. It is my personal wish to thank every single person who has helped us on this road to performance, as without you all helping out in your own ways, this simply would not have been possible. There are far too many individuals to mention, however a particular vote of thanks must go to all those cast members who have gone above and beyond, not only rehearsing, but contributing in various invaluable ways behind the scenes.

Now, enough from me, please, sit back, immerse yourself in Rydell High and enjoy!

Helen Stoddart



Perry Ralls - Danny

Perry studied at the Arden School of Theatre in Manchester where he was awarded a 1st Class BA Hons Degree in Musical Theatre. Roles whilst training include Joe Casey in the Madness musical Our House, understudy Beast and Lumiere in Beauty & the Beast, Salford. Since graduating Perry has worked professional performer for P&O Cruises and TV. Having been heavily involved in the amateur and semi-professional scene previous roles include, The Mikado in Hot Mikado - SDMS, Georg in Spring Awakening, Bennett in Punk Rock - Rootless Tree, Franklin Hart in 9to5 - Music Theatre South, Bernstein in Dogfight - Music Theatre South, Road Show, The Wolf in Into The Woods - CCADS Theatre. Perry has co-founded the CYC Youth Choir in Portsmouth and is principle conductor. Alongside this, Perry works as a repertoire advisor, compere and Choir Director for the Portsmouth Schools Music Festival.



Nick Williams - Kenickie

Nick is delighted to be playing Kenickie in his third production with SDMS; especially as he shares the characters passion for fast cars! Historically, Nick has portrayed Koko in Hot Mikado and Aaron from Legally Blonde with us. He is also a regular performer with other theatre groups in the area. As always, he would like to thank his friends and family for their on-going support, but also his wife Charlotte (Cha Cha Digregorio) for running lines on demand!



Matt Sackman - Roger

This musical is significant for singing teacher Matt Sackman, as this was the first show he was cast into a principal role at the tender age of fourteen. Now he has boomeranged back to Grease, and is extremely flattered that he can still get away with playing a teenager! As well as performing in many of SDMS's musicals, Matt has been involved in the creative team of several productions and formally served on its committee. Some of his more recent roles with the company include Emmett (Legally Blonde), Lazar Wolf (Fiddler on the Roof) and Stewpot (South Pacific). The next time you see Matt on stage, he will be married to fellow SDMS member, Amy Devine!



Olli Heath - Doody

Never one to turn down a comedic role, Olli is very excited to be taking on the role of the youngest member of the T-Birds, Doody! After recently playing Judas in HMS' Jesus Christ Superstar and performing in Views From A Hill on Hayling Island last month, Olli is looking forward to joining his friends at SDMS for his third show with the company, which is yet another one to strike off the performing bucket list! Chang-chang!



Matt Gibbins - Sonny

Matt studied Contemporary Performance Art at Winchester University and now works within the Musical Theatre department at Chichester University. Credits while studying include Peter Pan (John Darling), Jekyll and Hyde (Simon Stride) and Guys and Dolls (Curtain Call winner for Best Choreography). Credits since training include Antony and Cleopatra (Octavius Ceasar), Twelfth Night (Malvollo - Curtain Call winner for best actor), Polar Bears (Sandy), Romeo and Juliet (Mercutio - Curtain Call winner for best actor), Songologues Vol 1/Vol 2 (Creator/ Director), Legally Blonde (ensemble), One Flew Over The Cuckoos Nest (Warren), CATS (Munkustrap), Hot Mikado (ensemble). Matt is excited to be playing his first named role with South Downe's and dedicates his performance to his family for their overwhelming support! Enjoy the show!



Hannah Ali - Sandy

After performing in Legally Blonde as Pilar, her first show with South Downe Musical Society, Hannah is thrilled to be playing the part of Sandy in Grease. It is role she has wanted to play since she was a young girl and the rehearsals have kept her smiling all week. Hannah has previously played the role of Andy in Stepping Out, Anne in Sondheim's A Little Night Music and been part of the ensemble in Sweet Charity, Sister Act, as well as taking on the role of director for a compilation concert, West End 2 Broadway. Hannah also is currently working on an exciting project very different to musical theatre in the form of country music! Hannah performs under the name Lily Garland and currently has her debut single, co-written with ChartHouse Music, available to buy on iTunes and Amazon Music. Hannah would like to thank her family for their continued support (and babysitting) especially her son Joshua, who is her biggest fan and harshest critic!



Kimberley Harvey - Rizzo

In Kimberley's fourth show with SDMS, she is thrilled to have been cast as Betty Rizzo; a saucy, sarcastic & tough character that she has enjoyed embracing from start to finish. Previous appearances with SDMS include being a featured soloist in Showstoppers & playing the part of Margot in Legally Blonde. Rizzo is Kimberley's biggest role to date and she would like to take this opportunity to thank Helen & the Production Team for their support and the chance to play such an iconic part. 'Let's go get em!'



Emily Rennicks - Jan

Emily is delighted to be playing the role of Jan, in her fifth show with SDMS. After previously starring in Sunshine of Leith as Cleaner 2 and in Legally Blonde as Store Manager/Cashier/News Reporter, Emily is excited to be playing her first part with an actual name. Previous roles include Marie Tussauds in 'The Scarlett Pimpernel', Kate Murphy in 'Titanic' and Ida in Bath Spa University's production of 'Honk!' Emily is thrilled to have been given the opportunity to work with such a talented cast and creative team, and has enjoyed the process immensely. 'Anyone for a Twinkie?'



Lauren Kempton - Marty

Every girl who has ever been into shows has always dreamed of one day being a Pink Lady- so Lauren is thrilled to be playing the part of Marty ('Maraschino. You know, as in cherry!!). She is relieved to have managed to secure this part before the age of 30-just. Previous roles with SDMS include Elle Woods in Legally Blonde, Nellie Forbush in South Pacific, Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls and Lady Number 1 in Hot Mikado.



Alice Mayhead - Frenchy

Alice has performed with SDMS once before as Young Kim Ravenal in showboat way back in 2003 and is tickled pink to be taking to the stage with this fantastic company to be the pinkest of Pink Ladies, Frenchy. Alice's adoration of character roles has also led her to perform as Gertrude Mcfuzz in 'Seussical' and Gertie Cummings in 'Oklahoma' but she has not performed in a full production for three years so she's feeling shiny and new, and pink of course!



Men back l-r Declan Robertson, Steve Reading, front l-r Alan Jenkins, Ben Horner.

Ladies l-r Kelly Fuller, Peta Reading, Charlotte Williams



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Show Synopsis

It's 1959 and a new school year for seniors at Rydell High School. After an eventful summer, the T Birds and the Pink Ladies settle back into their school routine and parody their school's Alma Mater. New girl at school Sandy Dumbrowski is pulled into the pack of Pink Ladies who quiz her about her summer romance with a mysterious man. Whilst she tells the girls about their emotional connection, Danny Zuko tells his side of the story to the T Birds, focusing much more on the physical. Danny and Sandy soon bump into each other in the corridor, and whilst Sandy is excited to see Danny, he brushes her off trying to be cool.

Marty hosts a pajama party to initiate Sandy into the Pink Ladies. They talk about wine, cigarettes and try to pierce Sandy's ears. The boys meanwhile tease Kenickie about his new broken down car, nicknaming it 'Greased Lightnin'.

At school Sandy is recruited to join the cheerleaders by class president Patty Simcox. Danny tries to apologise to Sandy but she refuses to speak to him, wishing they hadn't met. Rizzo teases Danny about picking a real life 'Sandra Dee'.

The High School Hop opens Act II and the kids from Rydell High are partying in the school gym. Sandy stays at home feeling sorry for herself, singing about it raining on prom night. The dance is hosted by their favourite DJ Vince Fontaine who leads a hand jive competition amongst the couples. Danny dances with Cha Cha from a rival school, causing much upset. Sandy hears about Cha Cha and feels betrayed.

At the Burger Palace the gang run into Frenchie who has dropped out of Rydell High and now also Beauty School. Danny takes up the track team in order to win back Sandy, but she is not impressed. Cha Cha's boyfriend's gang have challenged the T Birds to a rumble, but Danny is too focused on winning Sandy back. He invites her to the drive in movie, but moves too fast for her and ends up being alone once again. Jan hosts a party in her basement and the group listen to each other sing and wonder about life after High School. Rizzo reveals that she may be pregnant, and tells Kenickie that he is not the father. She struggles to find sympathy, saying 'There are Worse Things I Could Do'. Sandy also questions what she can do to fit in, and the girls come up with a plan. Sandy is transformed into a 'greasers' ideal woman, with leather pants and big hair. Danny is astounded at the change and the two are finally together. Rizzo finds out she isn't pregnant after all, and the gang are all happy as they rush towards their final days in High School.



The Stage Show

Grease the stage show is a 1971 musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey with additional songs written by John Farrar. Named after the 1950s United States working-class youth subculture known as greasers, the musical is set in 1959 at fictional Rydell High School (based on William Howard Taft School in Chicago, Illinois) and follows ten working-class teenagers as they navigate the complexities of peer pressure, politics, personal core values, and love. The score attempts to recreate the sounds of early rock and roll. In its original production in Chicago, Grease was a raunchy, raw, aggressive, vulgar show. Subsequent productions sanitized it and tamed it down. The show mentions social issues such as teenage pregnancy, peer pressure and gang violence; its themes include love, friendship, teenage rebellion, sexual exploration during adolescence, and, to some extent, class consciousness/class conflict.

The Film

Grease the movie is a 1978 American musical romantic comedy film directed by Randal Kleiser and starring John Travolta, Olivia Newton-John, Stockard Channing and Jeff Conaway.

Released on June 16, 1978, the film was successful both critically and financially at the box office, becoming the highest grossing film of the year. As of 2016, the film remains the highest-grossing movie musical in the United States. Its soundtrack album ended 1978 as the second-best selling album of the year in the U.S., behind the soundtrack of Saturday Night Fever, another film starring Travolta. The soundtrack is also the top-selling soundtrack in history.



Here are 10 facts about Grease even the most savvy Grease trivia buff may not know.

Even the biggest Grease fans will tell you that they discover something new when they watch it for the umpteenth time, and as more time passes, more interesting information about the film emerges.

- 1** Grease may be the word, but it's never said even once in the entire script! Only the word greased (with a "d") is sung in the song 'Greased Lightnin'.
- 2** As Olivia Newton-John's Sandy is approaching Rydell High for the first time, she tells Didi Conn's Frenchy, "I'm no stranger to heartbreak," to which Frenchy replies, "Why? You got psoriasis?" It's a reference to a Tegrin ad that, considering Grease was set in 1959, wouldn't exist for another five years.
- 3** The day they filmed the scene for 'Look At Me, I'm Sandra Dee' — a song in which Stockard Channing's Rizzo sarcastically bellows 'Elvis, Elvis, let me be; keep that pelvis far from me' — was August 16, 1977, the day Elvis Presley died.
- 4** John Travolta's sister, Ellen Travolta, plays a diner waitress with a single line, "Oh, there's Danny and Sandy," while watching the dance on TV.
- 5** The songs "Grease" (sung by Frankie Valli), 'Hopelessly Devoted to You', 'You're the One That I Want', and 'Summer Nights' all became top-10 Billboard hits, but only 'Summer Nights' came from the original Broadway production. The other three songs had been written specifically for the film.
- 6** In fact, 'Hopelessly Devoted to You' wasn't even written until the film was halfway done, and it wasn't recorded and filmed until everything else was complete. That didn't stop it from receiving an Oscar nomination for Best Original Song, though.
- 7** Rydell High is actually three different real Los Angeles high schools. The facade is Venice High School, the interior is Huntington Park High School, and the field is John Marshall High School.
- 8** Grease won every People's Choice Award for which it was nominated: Favorite Motion Picture Actress (Olivia Newton-John), Favorite Motion Picture Supporting Actress (Stockard Channing), Favorite Musical Motion Picture, and Favorite Overall Motion Picture.
- 9** After the success of the first movie — it's the top-grossing musical in the US to date — Grease was supposed to have three sequels; however, after Grease 2 bombed at the box office, those plans were cancelled.
- 10** Travolta and Newton-John reunited in 1983 for the critically panned romantic comedy Two of a Kind, and then again in 2012 for a Christmas album, This Christmas, which had better sales in Newton-John's home country of Australia than in the US.

After Grease

John Travolta (Danny)



Travolta's acting career declined through the 1980s. His career enjoyed a resurgence in the 1990s with his role in *Pulp Fiction*, and he has since continued starring in Hollywood films, including *Face/Off*, *Ladder 49*, and *Wild Hogs*. Travolta was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actor for *Saturday Night Fever* and *Pulp Fiction*. He won the Golden Globe Award for Best Actor - Motion Picture Musical or Comedy for his performance in *Get Shorty*. He recently played lawyer Robert Shapiro in an American TV series on the trial of O J Simpson and retains a burning desire to play a Bond villain.

Olivia Newton John (Sandy)



Unfortunately, Newton-John was unable to replicate her earlier success with her next film, *Xanadu* (1980). An attempt to cash in two popular trends of the time—roller skating and disco, the movie bombed, but the soundtrack did well. While she continued making albums in the mid-1980s, Newton-John's musical career quieted down. She focused on other aspects of her life, including starting a chain of clothing stores called *Koala Blue*, and starting a family. She was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1992 but having beat that announced her separation from husband matt Latanzi.

Jeff Conaway (Kinickie)



Having first found fame alongside John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John in *Grease*, Conaway went on to play Bobby Wheeler, a struggling actor making ends meet as a cab driver, on the hit sitcom *Taxi* between 1978 and 1981. After experiencing a crisis in the mid-1980s, Conaway came to grips with the fact that he had a substance abuse problem. He underwent treatment in the late 1980s and often spoke candidly about his addictions. By the mid-2000s he had relapsed. Conaway appeared in VH1's *Celebrity Fit Club*, but was forced to leave and entered rehab. In early 2008, Conaway appeared with other celebrities in the VH1 reality series *Celebrity Rehab* with Dr. Drew. The show revealed that Conaway was addicted to cocaine, alcohol, and painkillers. Despite John Travolta offering to pay for the troubled actor to go back to rehab (an offer Conaway never took up), Jeff Conaway died in May 2011 from problems related to his drug habit.

Stockard Channing (Rizzo)



Best known in her early career for playing Betty Rizzo, Stockard went on most notably to play First Lady Abbey Bartlet on the NBC television series *The West Wing* (1999–2006). She is also known for originating the role of Ouisa Kittredge in the stage and film versions of *Six Degrees of Separation*, for which she was nominated for a Tony Award and the Academy Award for Best Actress. A 13-time Primetime Emmy Award nominee and seven-time Tony Award nominee, she won the 1985 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Play for the Broadway revival of *A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*, and won Emmy Awards for *The West Wing* and *The Matthew Shepard Story*. She also played the recurring role of Veronica Loy on the CBS drama *The Good Wife* (2012–16).

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Mrs J Palmer

Ms S Powney

Ms C Robins

Mrs C Sackman

Mr D Sackman

Susan Sweet

Mrs Patricia Temple

Mr B Tester

Mr E J Towse

Mrs J Tracey

Mr F Tracey

Eileen Walker

Mrs H Waller

Mr Arthur J Weise

Mr K A West

Mrs A M West

Mr O Whitfield

Life Members

Sonia Atkinson

Josie Beckwith

Audrey Blow

Peter Blow

Joan Budd

Maureen Francis

Carole Gennings

Charles Gennings

Ray Gibson

Sara Harkness

Alan Jenkins

Yvonne Jenkins

Cliff Jones

Myra Jones

Colin Justice

Hayley Milton

Brenda Naylor

Mike Naylor

Jane Pegler

Jean Porter

Pat Pring

Audrey Pring

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