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## 2021 PRODUCTION HANDBOOK

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After the unconventional but amazing success of THE WEDDING SINGER in 2020, Ringwood Secondary College is delighted to perform the absolute classic that is – **GREASE**. This show is to be performed by our year 11 and 12 students only.

This show has never been staged at Ringwood Secondary College and we are beyond excited to introduce students and the entire school community to this automatic, systematic, hydromatic world of the 1950's.

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### ABOUT THE SHOW

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Here is Rydell High's senior class of 1959: duck-tailed, hot-rodding "Burger Palace Boys" and their gum-snapping, hip-shaking "Pink Ladies" in bobby sox and pedal pushers, evoking the look and sound of the 1950's in this rollicking musical.

#### **SHORT SYNOPSIS**

*It's 1959, and Rydell High School's senior class is in rare form. The too-cool-for-school "Burger Palace Boys" are stealing hub-caps and acting tough and their gum-snapping, chain-smoking "Pink Ladies" are looking hot in bobby sox and pedal pushers. The 1950s high school dream is about to explode in this rollicking musical that is both an homage to the idealism of the fifties and a satire of high schoolers' age-old desire to be rebellious, provocative and funny. At the heart of the story is the romance between hot-rodding gangster Danny Zuko and the sweet new girl in town, Sandy Dumbrowski. They had a secret romance in summer, but now back in the context of school, peer-pressure and cliques make their love a bit more complicated. Can Danny maintain his cool dude status and still make demure Sandy his girl? The whole gang sings and dances around Danny and Sandy's romance, through such hit songs as "Greased Lightnin'", "We Go Together", and "Mooning", recalling the music of Buddy Holly, Little Richard and Elvis Presley that became the soundtrack of a generation.*

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### THE AUDITION PROCESS

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#### **General Audition and Dance Call**

Auditions for cast are open to year 11 and 12 students enrolled at Ringwood Secondary College in 2021.

The cast size this year is expected to be smaller than usual due to certain restrictions. The production team will also take into consideration the dimensions of the stage, costuming and administration requirements. Therefore, the audition process is competitive. Auditions are conducted individually and in front of a panel of production team members as appointed by the director. Casting decisions are entirely at the discretion of the production team and are made in accordance with the specific requirements of the show.

Students must select and prepare one song from the list below. For each song, the sheet music and backing track excerpt to be used in the audition can be found on the AUDITIONS page of the production website sometime after **Tuesday March 9, 2021**. (Keep checking back – it might take a while to compile. A Facebook notification will go out when it is ready.)

Students will also be asked to complete a ‘cold read’ of some dialogue from the show. You will be asked to read the dialogue in an appropriate American accent. The dialogue will not be made available before the auditions.

Students must sign up for a general audition slot on one of the following afternoons:

- **Tuesday March 16 between 3.30pm and 7pm**
- **Wednesday March 17 between 3.30pm and 7pm**

Signing up is an online process and must be completed through the website:

[www.rscproduction.com.au/auditions.html](http://www.rscproduction.com.au/auditions.html)

**DANCE**

\*\*\*\*In addition to the general audition, there will be a **compulsory** dance call on **Friday March 19 from 3.30pm until 5.30pm**. GREASE is a heavy dance show and all prospective leads, principal dancers and ensemble members **MUST** attend. This year, a video will be sent out with a section of choreography for you to pre-learn before the dance audition. Please note that anyone who attends the dance call only, without signing up for a main audition (or vice versa), cannot be considered for a position in the cast. You **MUST** attend a general audition on either Tuesday or Wednesday.

Audition songs for females**	Audition songs for males**
<i>Hopelessly Devoted to You</i>	Those Magic Changes
<i>Freddy My Love</i>	<i>Greased Lightning</i>
Look at Me I'm Sandra Dee	Born To hand Jive
It's Raining On Prom Night	Beauty School Dropout
<i>We Go Together</i>	<i>We Go Together</i>

You can access the backing tracks on Spotify by using the link below:

<https://open.spotify.com/album/3KGHoRpHLdxZkUIZMn3vLV?si=vY0sJQJbS0ei93IYJ1Wc8A>



Tracks are also available on Youtube.

All candidates will be considered for all roles, irrespective of their song choices at auditions. However, it would make sense to choose a song that gives an indication of your desired role or highlight your performance/vocal strength. **\*\*You may sing a song written for either gender.**

### Callback Auditions

Following the general auditions, some students will be invited to a subsequent **callback audition** either at lunchtime or at 4.00pm – 8.00pm on **Tuesday March 23**. There will be two sessions.

**Session 1** will run at lunchtime

**Session 2** will run from **5.30pm until 9.30pm**.

As always, no inference about casting decisions should be drawn from whether or not students are invited to this audition. Also not all roles will be called back.

Additionally, there will be an 'Advance Dance Callback' on **Monday March 22** at Lunchtime. This will be organized by request only.

### Cast Announcement

The cast for 2021's production of **GREASE** will be published on the website at 5pm on **Friday March 26th**. Those who auditioned unsuccessfully will be afforded priority in joining other areas of the show. We may choose to double cast some principal roles, but this should not be taken as a given.

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## **CASTING REQUIREMENTS – GREASE**

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GREASE is a show with an array of lead roles, cameos, acting roles, dance parts and terrific ensemble participation. Prospective auditionees are expected to do some research into the show, the characters and potential interpretations. There will be a pre-audition info session on **Thursday March 4** where new and returning students can have all their questions answered.

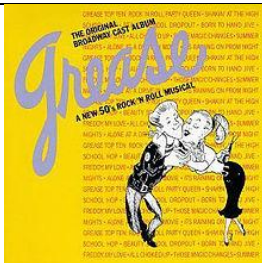
The Production Team encourages everyone to relax and do their absolute best in the audition. However, they are also on the lookout for candidates who can demonstrate that they have considered possible interpretations of character and song.

### Character Breakdown

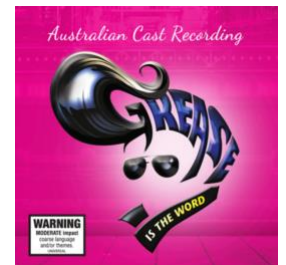
- **DANNY ZUKO** - The leader of the Burger Palace Boys; good-looking, strong and confident, with an air of easy-going charm.
- **SANDY DUMBROWSKI** - New girl in town; sweet, wholesome, naive, cute, and innocent.
- **BETTY RIZZO** - Leader of the Pink Ladies; tough, sarcastic and outspoken but vulnerable.
- **FRENCHY** - A dreamer; good-natured but not too smart, she is heavily made up, fussy about her appearance, particularly her hair. She can't wait to finish high school so she can be a beautician.
- **MARTY** - The 'beauty' of the Pink Ladies; pretty and looks older than the other girls, but betrays her real age when she opens her mouth. She tries to act sophisticated.
- **JAN** - Funny, loud, compulsive eater and awkward member of the Pink Ladies. Loud and pushy with the girls, but shy with the boys.
- **DOODY** - The youngest of the guys; small, boyish and open, with a disarming smile and a hero-worshipping attitude towards the other guys. He also plays the guitar.
- **KENICKIE** - The second in command of the Burger Palace Boys; tough-looking, tattooed, surly and avoids any show of softness. He has an offbeat sense of humor.
- **SONNY LaTIERRI** - A member of the Burger Palace Boys; funny Italian-American, he is a braggart and wheeler-dealer who thinks he's a real lady-killer.
- **ROGER** - The anything-for-a-laugh stocky type of boy; a clown who enjoys winding people up, he is full of mischief and is always dreaming up half-baked schemes and ideas.

- **VINCE FONTAINE** - A typical 'teen audience' disc jockey; slick, egotistical and fast-talking. He is also a veteran 'Greaser.'
- **CHA-CHA**, a.k.a. Charlene DiGregorio - The best dancer at St. Bernadette's; a loud mouth, she wins the dancing competition with Danny.
- **EUGENE FLORCZYK** - The class valedictorian; physically awkward, with weak eyes and a high-pitched voice. He's a typical 'apple-polisher' - both smug and pompous, but gullible.
- **JOHNNY CASINO** - All-American, rock-star "greaser" student at Rydell High, whose real name is Clarence.
- **MISS LYNCH** - A no-nonsense, serious, loud, English teacher.
- **PATTY SIMCOX** - A typical cheerleader; attractive, athletic, sure-of-herself, but can be given to bursts of disconcerting enthusiasm. She's a bit of a pain and unpopular with the Pink Ladies, and can twirl a baton.
- **THE PINK LADIES** - The club-jacketed, gum-chewing, hip-swinging girls' gang who hang around with the Burger Palace Boys.
- **THE BURGER PALACE BOYS** - A super-cool, DA-haired, hard-looking group of high school wheeler-dealers... or so they think.

## RECOMMENDED RECORDINGS



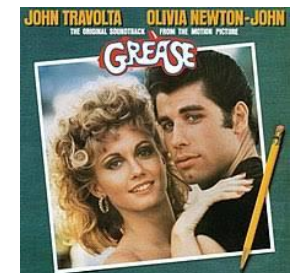
There are MANY official cast recordings of GREASE in English, PLEASE note that the MOVIE SOUNDTRACK is very different to the STAGE VERSIONS. Each version of the soundtrack is a bit different as the 50's style and song standards have been open to interpretation for each of the professional recordings and productions. One recording you



might find easily is the 2013 Australian Cast Recording (available on Spotify). **PLEASE NOTE:** There are several songs that are different on each recording)



The recordings (available on iTunes and Spotify) are good to listen to, however, remember that it won't necessarily match up exactly with what we are going to ask you to perform. Nonetheless, they are essential listening for anyone intending to join the cast and familiarize themselves with the show.



## NATURE OF THE COMMITMENT

Before choosing to audition, it is important to understand the nature of the commitment required. Accepting a position in the cast implies a commitment to the time and cost involved.

### TIME

Review the 2021 Production Calendar document. There is an expectation that everyone is available for the call times as published on this schedule. We are always flexible when appropriate notification of absence is communicated well in advance. Any potential conflicts must be addressed and resolved immediately.

It is a student's responsibility to organize work, sport, dance and other commitments around our schedule, particularly in Term 3. Failure to honor these commitments or notify of absence in advance is disrespectful to the company as a whole.

There is a further expectation that all cast members will prepare fully for each rehearsal and practice their songs, lines and routines on a regular basis.

Regular rehearsals will always happen on Tuesday afternoons from **3.30pm until 6.30pm**. **Please note that leads will be required to remain behind for some additional rehearsal after this. Decisions about this will be finalised early in Term 2.** Weekly schedules will be published in advance, and it may be possible that some cast will finish slightly earlier on some weeks. However, we need everyone to be available up until **6.30pm**.

Additionally, there will be lunch time rehearsals for lead roles and specialist dancers (**on Mondays**). These will be run to give the attention and focus that a lead role requires.

## **COST**

Cast members are responsible for the following costs:

- Production Levy (Cast) – this raises money to offset costs associated with costuming, the Production T-Shirt, one copy of the **souvenir DVD** (either Friday or Saturday night), copying of rehearsal material and afternoon tea at regular rehearsals.
  - \$90 per cast member
  - \$75 per cast member if more than one from the same family (includes a second DVD per family)
- Production Camp – compulsory for all cast and orchestra (July 17-19)
  - \$240-\$265 per student – cost to be confirmed in Term 1.
- Other expenses may include some basic cast supply personal costume requirements.

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## **FULL CAST MEETING AND SHOW LAUNCH EVENING!**

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On **Tuesday April 20** we will be holding the GREASE PRODUCTION LAUNCH and Parent Information Evening. This will be from 7pm – 8pm and there will be a performance by the cast! Rehearsals will have already been running for a month with music and some movement. This will be the official launch of the company for GREASE and is designed to kick start the production. In addition to dealing with the basic information and questions we will ensure that all administrative matters are completed. Opportunities for parent involvement will also be outlined.

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## **EXTRA pArts**

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Extra pArts aims to support the Performing Arts program of Ringwood Secondary College by providing practical assistance where possible. It encourages parents with an interest in the Performing Arts and the RSC program to contribute their time and skills in an informal, supportive and social environment.

All parents are welcome to assist, the only requirement will be attending an OHS Training session, which is a DET regulation and also supplying to the College a copy of a Working with Children's Card.

The major operation for this group is in the costume room and there is always demand for anyone who has some time to volunteer. Sewers are particularly encouraged to lend a hand, but all help is valuable and any skills are welcome. We also provide backstage and front of house assistance during the season.

Parent representatives will speak at the Information Evening about how much fun it is to be

involved. Certainly, we cannot succeed as we do without this valuable support.

## MARKETING AND TICKET SALES

Tickets for GREASE will go on sale to members of the company and their families on **Tuesday May 18**. General sales will commence on **Tuesday May 25**. All sales will once again be funneled through the production website. This year there may be reduced seating do to government advice and standards.

Please note – in the production calendar there is the provision for extra performances on **August 12. & 13**. This is to compensate for the possibility that we will not be able to fill the RSC Hall to capacity. The Production Team will inform cast and their families when a decision has been made about these performances.

Thank you for your interest. We know it’s going to be another terrific year and this will be a great production. See you all soon.

Please visit [www.rscproduction.com.au](http://www.rscproduction.com.au) for more information.

Karl McNamara

Producer

Director

Gaynor Borlase

Choreographer/

Assistant Director

Lauren Rowe

Assistant Director

Michael Phillips

Producer

Chief Patron

Annmarie Stelfox

Production Manager

Vicki Quinn

Musical Director -

Vocal

Dane Sorensen

Musical Director

*February 2021*

## 2021 SENIOR PRODUCTION CALENDAR

### TERM 1

<b>Thursday March 4</b>	Production audition info session	Lunch
<b>Tuesday March 16</b>	Cast Auditions – Session 1 (by signup only)	4.00pm – 7pm
<b>Wednesday March 17</b>	Cast Auditions – Session 2 (by signup only)	3.30pm – 7pm
<b>Friday March 19</b>	Dance Call	3.30pm – 5.30pm
(for those unavailable for	the after school audition please advise at the time of	your initial audition)
<b>Monday March 22</b>	Advance Dance - by request	Lunch
<b>Tuesday March 23</b>	<b>Callback Auditions</b> – by request <b>Session 1</b>	Lunch
<b>Tuesday March 23</b>	<b>Callback Auditions</b> – by request <b>Session 2</b>	<b>4.00pm – 8.30pm</b>

Friday March 26	Cast published – <a href="http://www.rscproduction.com.au">www.rscproduction.com.au</a>	5pm
	Applications for non-cast positions open	5pm

## REHEARSALS

PLEASE REVIEW THE DATES BELOW – MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

Monday March 29	Specialist Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday March 30	Ensemble Singing Session 1	3.30pm – 5.30pm
	Leads Singing	5.30 – 6.30

### TERM 2

Monday April 19	Specialist Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday April 20	Rehearsal 1 – Full Cast SINGING	3.30 – 6.30pm
	Official Production Launch	7pm – 8pm
Monday April 26	Specialist Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday April 27	Rehearsal 2 (including twilight open night)	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday May 3	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday May 4	Rehearsal 3	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday May 10	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday May 11	Rehearsal 4	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday May 17	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday May 18	Rehearsal 5	3.30pm – 6.30pm
SATURDAY May 22	<b>Special Leads Character Workshop (books down)</b>	10am – 4pm
Monday May 24	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday May 25	Rehearsal 6	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday May 31	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday June 1	Rehearsal 7	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday June 7	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday June 8	Rehearsal 8	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Tuesday June 15	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday June 15	Rehearsal 9	3.30pm – 6.30pm
Monday June 21	Specialist Lunch Rehearsal	Lunch
Tuesday June 22	Rehearsal 10 Sidzprobe	3.30pm – 6.30pm

### TERM 2 HOLIDAY!!!

All cast will be required for an agreed 20 minute costuming call at some stage over this weekend. TBC

<b>Saturday July 10</b>	COSTUME CALL	
<b>Sunday July 11</b>	COSTUME CALL	
<b>TERM 3</b>		
<b>Monday July 12</b>	Leads Rehearsal	Lunch
<b>Wednesday July 14 – Friday July 16</b>	Production Camp Mt Evelyn Recreation Camp	12pm – 1.30pm
<b>Monday July 19</b>	Specialist Rehearsal	Lunch
<b>Tuesday July 20</b>	Stage Rehearsal	<b>3.30pm – 7.30pm</b>
<b>THURSDAY July 22</b>	All Day Stage Rehearsal	8.50am – 3.15pm
<b>Monday July 26</b>	Specialist Rehearsal	Lunch
<b>Tuesday July 27</b>	Stage Rehearsal	<b>3.30pm – 9.00pm</b>
<b>Sunday August 1</b>	<b>DRESS REHEARSAL</b> Costume Working Bee and Checking	<b>9am – 2pm</b>
<b>Monday August 2</b>	Tech and Stage Crew Rehearsal ( <b>CAST MOVING SET WILL BE REQUIRED</b> )	3.30pm – 9pm
<b>Tuesday August 3</b>	Full Dress Rehearsal 1 (5pm)	3.30pm – 9pm
<b>Wednesday August 4</b>	Full Dress Rehearsal 2 (5pm)	3.30pm – 9pm
<b>Thursday August 5</b>	Performance 1 – Preview Performance (12pm) Performance 2 – Opening Night– (7.30pm)	8.50am – 3.15pm 5.30pm – 10.30pm
<b>Friday August 6</b>	Performance 3 – (7.30pm)	5.30pm – 10.30pm
<b>Saturday August 7</b>	Performance 4 – Matinee (1.30pm)	11.30pm – 4.30pm
<b>Saturday August 7</b>	Performance 5 – (7.30pm)	5.30pm – 10.30pm
<b>Sunday August 8</b>	Performance 6 – Matinee (2.30pm)	12.30pm – 5.30pm
<b>Thursday August 12</b>	Performance 7 (7.30pm) (Placeholder performance if COVID restrictions constrict numbers)	5.30pm – 10.30pm
<b>Friday August 13</b>	Performance 8 (7.30pm) (Placeholder performance if COVID restrictions constrict numbers)	5.30pm – 10.30pm
<b>Monday August 16</b>	Bump out	9am – 11.30am