



20
26
SEASON

CANADA'S
DOCKSIDE
THEATRE



Book, Music, and Lyrics by JIM JACOBS and WARREN CASEY
Directed by THOMAS ALDERSON
Music Direction by RICH COBURN
Choreography by JESSE WEAVER

JUNE 30 – AUGUST 15





The show

Starts here!

Pre-theatre menu begins at 4:30pm

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Letter from the Managing Artistic Director



Welcome to Canada's Dockside Theatre! On behalf of the entire team here at the Playhouse, thank you for joining us for our 45th season.

I love a good puzzle, and programming the season here at the Playhouse is one of my favourites. All year I read, contemplate, reorder, and swap the shows I am considering until I have, what I hope, is the perfect lineup for our stages and for you, our incredible audience.

This season, I am delighted to share electrifying musicals, cheeky storytelling, heartfelt Canadian tales, and something entirely new for us: marionettes! This is my personal invitation to lean in, laugh loud, and see the world a little differently. Our creative teams and casts feature some of Canada's most sought after talent, and I cannot wait to see them bring each of these productions to life.

Making theatre in one of the most beautiful regions in this country is a gift. I encourage you to explore Gananoque and the 1000 Islands while you are here and connect with some of the wonderful businesses in the area who keep our little town buzzing with excitement every day.

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize the incredible sponsors, Patron members, and subscribers that make a commitment to this company each year; your support is vital in keeping the arts community thriving in eastern Ontario - thank you. Whether you're joining us for the first time or the forty-fifth time, thank you for believing in the power of live performance.

Looking forward to seeing you at the theatre,

Brett Christopher

The Thousand Islands Playhouse creates our work on the traditional land of the Anishinaabeg Nation and Haudenosaunee Confederacy. We recognize the Indigenous peoples of this land who are its original caretakers and storytellers, both here and across Turtle Island. As an organization whose primary purpose is to tell stories, we are committed to ensuring that the voices and stories of Indigenous peoples continue to be heard. Miigwetch, nya:weh, merci, and thank you to the people on whose traditional territory we are able to live, work, and thrive.



Letter from MP Michael Barrett



Welcome to the Thousand Islands Playhouse, a Canadian gem nestled in the Town of Gananoque in the beautiful Thousand Islands.

This community is home to locally owned shops and restaurants run by dedicated people who work every day to make this such a welcoming place to live, unwind, and explore.

Its rich history and location along the St. Lawrence River and the famous Thousand Islands offer remarkable attractions and stunning natural scenery that draws visitors from across Canada and around the world.

The Thousand Islands Playhouse proudly offers high quality theatre performances, brought to life by exceptional talent and views you won't find anywhere else.

It is a one-of-a-kind experience, and I extend my sincere congratulations to everyone involved for another outstanding and memorable season.

Thank you for supporting our community, and I hope you enjoy the show!



Michael Barrett, MP
Leeds—Grenville—Thousand Islands—Rideau Lakes

Letter from MPP Steve Clark



Welcome to Gananoque and the Thousand Islands Playhouse - Canada's Dockside Theatre nestled here in our beautiful region of the Thousand Islands! Whether you're visiting us from afar or closer to home, we're so happy you could join us.

I've been fortunate to live and work in this wonderful community since my early years as the Mayor of Brockville.

As a mayor and now, as the local MPP, I'm constantly reminded of how truly special our corner of Ontario is. The Playhouse and the surrounding businesses highlight how we balance natural beauty with the opportunity to see and do so much, including relaxing and enjoying a show.

Congratulations to the entire team at the Thousand Islands Playhouse for their continued efforts to foster community connection, cultural literacy, and tourism in our region. I'm so pleased that our government, through the Ontario Arts Council, is supporting the Playhouse this year with an operating grant of \$245,260. On behalf of the Province of Ontario: Welcome to our neighbourhood and let the play begin!

Steve Clark, MPP
Leeds-Grenville-Thousand Islands and Rideau Lakes

Letter from Mayor John Beddows



On behalf of the Town of Gananoque, I am pleased to welcome you to our Town and to another wonderful season of theatre at the Thousand Islands Playhouse!

Since 1982 the Playhouse has given us a window into the breadth of human experience and an outlet for the best and brightest of Canadian live theatre. I am grateful to be able to witness the passion that seems to land fully formed on its stages. This year, the Playhouse and the dedicated people without whom it wouldn't exist, have once again brought us a world of experience, ideas, questions and dreams to share.

The Town of Gananoque's appreciation of the Playhouse's vibrant contribution to the cultural life of our community is reflected in the Town's donation of both theatres to the organization. We know they are in good hands.

I know you will agree with me that the Playhouse has given us another superb program of entertainment to look forward to in 2026. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Town of Gananoque, to thank and congratulate you for your support to, and enjoyment of, the performing arts at Canada's Dockside Theatre on the St Lawrence River.

Enjoy the show!

Mayor John S. Beddows, CD1, BMASc
The Corporation of the Town of Gananoque



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June 30—August 9, 2026



Thank you to the Thousand Islands Playhouse
for bringing more spectacular performances to
our community.

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THOUSAND ISLANDS PLAYHOUSE presents



BOOK, MUSIC, AND LYRICS BY
Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

“YOU’RE THE ONE THAT I WANT,”
“HOPELESSLY DEVOTED TO YOU,” AND “GREASE”
by arrangement with Robert Stigwood

PRODUCTION SPONSOR



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CAST

Danny
Sandy
Rizzo
Kenickie
Frenchy (U/S Sandy)
Marty
Cha-Cha (U/S Rizzo, Marty)
Teen Angel, Vince Fontaine (U/S Danny)
Jan
Patty (U/S Jan)
Roger
Doody
Sonny (U/S Kenickie, Teen Angel,
Vince Fontaine)
Eugene (U/S Sonny, Roger)
Johnny Casino, Ensemble
(U/S Doody, Eugene), Dance Captain
Ensemble (U/S Frenchy, Cha-Cha, Patty)

Will Lincoln-Gouett
Paige Foscett
Amy Holden
Alex Fellowes Smith
Zoë O'Connor
Sierra Holder
Michele Shuster
Kade McCloud
Acacia Roshel
Megan Dallan
Jameson Mosher
Luca McPhee
Ben Cameron

Thomas Winiker
Tyler Pearse

Robyn Esson

BAND

Keys
Reeds
Percussion
Guitar
Bass

Rich Coburn
Matthew Souaid
Sean Donaldson
James D. Taylor
Alec Barken

CREATIVE TEAM

Director
Music Director
Choreographer
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Stage Manager
Assistant Choreographer
Assistant Stage Manager
Apprentice Stage Manager

Thomas Alderson
Rich Coburn
Jesse Weafer
Freddy Van Camp
Beyata Hackborn
Mikael Kangas
Richard Ferer
Jessica Severin
Tyler Pearse
Emily Cornelius
Shannon Farrell

Run Time is approximately 2 hours and 5 minutes, including 20 minute intermission.

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

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Thousand Islands Playhouse engages professional artists who are members of Canadian Actors' Equity Association and the Associated Designers of Canada.

SONG LIST

ACT I

Grease
(ENSEMBLE)

Summer Nights
(SANDY, DANNY, ENSEMBLE)

Those Magic Changes
(DOODY, ENSEMBLE)

Freddy, My Love
(MARTY AND PINK LADIES)

Greased Lightnin'
(KENICKIE AND BURGER PALACE BOYS)

Mooning
(ROGER AND JAN)

Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee
(RIZZO)

We Go Together
(PINK LADIES AND BURGER PALACE BOYS)

ACT II

Shakin' at the High School Hop
(ENSEMBLE)

Born to Hand-Jive
(JOHNNY CASINO AND ENSEMBLE)

Hopelessly Devoted To You
(SANDY)

Beauty School Dropout
(TEEN ANGEL, FRENCHY, ENSEMBLE)

Alone at the Drive-in
(DANNY)

Rock 'N' Roll Party Queen
(DOODY AND ROGER)

There Are Worse Things I Could Do
(RIZZO)

Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee (Reprise)
(SANDY)

You're The One That I Want
(SANDY, DANNY, ENSEMBLE)

We Go Together (Reprise)
(ENSEMBLE)

"Hopelessly Devoted To You"
By John Farrar

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By John Farrar

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thousandislandsplayhouse





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Director's Note



Grease's popularity continues today, of course, because of the fabulous music and beloved characters, but I think it's more than that. We

love nostalgia. People like to be taken back to a time when they felt joy, when they felt alive. This show is about the dreams of young people, about coming into yourself, about living life fully by discovering how you want to live it.

The brilliance of *Grease* came from the idea to create a nostalgia show for the '50s in the '70s, and although some people in today's audience may not remember the '50s, we almost universally have a connection to this story and this music that makes us feel nostalgic for a joyful time in our lives when we were discovering ourselves. This show, which was written to be nostalgic for a certain period, has become so iconic that it is now nostalgic for itself.

It endures because it captures the nostalgia of youth - how good it feels to become who you are meant to be. Danny and Sandy are both living and behaving in ways that their environment tells them they should, but when they find each other, it sparks their journey toward living authentically. Although some characters in this show are further along on that journey, they all have work to do to become who they really want to be.

It makes sense that writing a show that took advantage of nostalgia for the '50s would be a hit then, but how could they have known it would still be a hit today? Maybe they planned it that way, or maybe if you write something with universal themes and bangin' music, it will endure... either way, I say: brilliant!!!

Enjoy!

Thomas Alderson

About the Authors

Jim Jacobs

Jim 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 long remained 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 sci-fi/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

Warren Casey 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 Kinston 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.

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2026 SEASON

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ORCHESTRATIONS AND MUSIC SUPERVISION BY BOB FOSTER
CHOREOGRAPHY BY MARC KIMELMAN | IN ASSOCIATION WITH THEATRE AQUARIUS

OCT 22 - NOV 8, 2026 | KINGSTON GRAND THEATRE

SHOW & TICKET INFORMATION
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CAST



Will Lincoln-Gouett

DANNY

For TIP: *Jesus Christ Superstar*

Elsewhere: *Maggie, The Play That Goes*

Wrong (The Charlottetown Festival); *Maggie, Hairspray* (Theatre Aquarius); *Grease* (The Winter Garden Theatre); *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Western Canada Theatre); *Jersey Boys* (Tweed & Co.); *Mamma Mia!* (YES Theatre); *The Canadian Festival of New Musicals: In Real Life* (Canadian Stage/Musical Stage Company); *Jersey Boys* (Mayfield Dinner Theatre); *The Phantom of the Opera* (Theatre Sheridan)

Other: Will is truly grateful to be back performing at Thousand Islands Playhouse, a short drive from where he was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario. He is a Toronto-based actor and musician with a bachelor's degree in Music Theatre Performance from Sheridan College. Gratitude and love to my supportive family and friends.



Paige Foscett

SANDY

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *We Will Rock You* (Mirvish); *Footloose* (Stage West

Calgary); *Anne of Green Gables* (Tweed & Co.); *Wizard of Oz: A Panto* (Drayton Entertainment); *Groundhog Day* (YES Theatre); *Rock of Ages* (Elgin Theatre); *American Idiot, Bittergirl* (Stephenville Theatre); *Footloose* (The Grand Theatre)

Other: Aside from performing, Paige is also a director and producer for music videos and film/television. Big love & thanks to my community, so excited to spend the summer at TIP. @paigefosk



Amy Holden

RIZZO

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Rockin' The 50's* (Victoria Playhouse Petrolia); Lead Vocalist

(Norwegian Cruise Lines)

Other: Over the past couple years, she has also developed and performed the golden-age jazz cabaret series *Holden & Finn: Under My Skin*, which has appeared at venues including Buddies in Bad Times, Second City, Koerner Hall, Base31, and Simcoe Street Theatre. Endless gratitude to Mum and Dad, whose support has never wavered, and to all of you, who support live theatre and art-making! A wop ba-ba lu-bop a wop bam boom!



Alex Fellowes Smith

KENICKIE

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Sister Act, Footloose, Legends of the 80s* (Stage West

Calgary); *Elf the Musical* (Magnus Theatre); *Million Dollar Quartet* (Tweed & Co./Dream Co.); *Escape to Margaritaville, Billy Elliot: The Musical* (Theatre Calgary)

Other: Select Film/TV: *Black Summer* (Netflix), *Heartland* (CBC), *The Reckoning* (Hallmark Movies & Mysteries), and *The Next Star: Supergroup* (Bell Media). Alex is a Toronto-based performer, musician, and teacher grateful for the support of his family, friends, and representation at Talent House. Alex is thrilled to be making his debut at Thousand Islands Playhouse this season. This performance is dedicated to Bev.



Zoë O'Connor

FRENCHY (U/S SANDY)

For TIP: *Jersey Boys*

Elsewhere: *Finding Neverland* (Drayton Entertainment); *Life*

After (Mirvish); Disney's *Frozen* (Neptune Theatre/Theatre Aquarius); *Screwball*

Comedy, *Jenny's House of Joy* (The Foster Festival); *Into the Woods* (The Grove Theatre); *Jack! A Beanstalk Panto* (Capitol Theatre Port Hope); *Cabaret* (Ovation Productions); *Ghost: The Musical* (Starvox Entertainment)

Upcoming: *I'm Every Woman*; *The Whitney Houston Songbook* (Capitol Theatre Port Hope)

Other: Zoë is a proud Bermudian-Canadian artist. Thank you to my family in Bermuda for always cheering me on across the ocean. I love you immensely. This show is for the *Grease* record I won at trivia in 2020 and regrettably never collected. Instagram: zoe.o.connor



Sierra Holder

MARTY

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Company* (Talk is Free Theatre); *A Strange Loop* (Soul

Pepper/Musical Stage/Crows Theatre); *Beaches* (Theatre Calgary); *Robin Hood*, *Wizard of Oz*, *Peter's Final Flight* (Ross Petty Panto)

Upcoming: *Cinderella* (Ross Petty Panto)

Other: Sierra is so thrilled to be making her TIP debut surrounded by so many dear friends. Human beings are all we have, thank you for being with us! xoxo insta :@sierr_uh



Michele Shuster

CHA-CHA (U/S RIZZO, MARTY)

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Annie*

(Stratford); *Kimberly Akimbo* (Dry Cold Productions); *Escape to Margaritaville* (Theatre Calgary); *Elf*, *Shrek* (Neptune Theatre); *Let's Dance* (Canadian Tour)

Upcoming: *Cabaret* (Canadian Stage).

Associate Director/Choreographer: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Theatre Aquarius). Actor/Assistant Choreographer: *Escape to*

Margaritaville (Mayfield Theatre)

Other: Michele is an inaugural member of the CGDC Associate Program and has choreographed and directed across Canada. Special thanks to Thomas and the TIP team, Talent House, Mama Shust, Ed, and her chosen family. Thank you for supporting live theatre. XO



Kade McCloud

TEEN ANGEL, VINCE FONTAINE (U/S DANNY)

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Mamma Mia!* (Neptune Theatre);

Rock of Ages (Rogue Productions); *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Singin' in the Rain* (The Phoenix Theatre Company); *Newsies*, *Daddy Long Legs* (Hale Centre Theatre); *35mm: A Musical Exhibition* (Arizona State University)

Other: Arizona State University and Memorial University of Newfoundland graduate. Kade spent 6 years performing in the United States, having relocated back to Canada last year and is now based in Toronto. Outside of performing, Kade also freelances as a Newfoundland dialect coach, having worked on The Phoenix Theatre Company's production of *Come From Away* in January of this year. Huge thanks to the entire team for this unforgettable experience!



Acacia Roshel

JAN

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *In Real Life* (Musical Stage Co./Theatre Sheridan);

Legally Blonde, *The Canterbury Tales*, *Meat* (Theatre Sheridan); *Yours Truly*, *Casino Rossland* (Gold Fever Follies); *Passion Play* (Badlands Amphitheatre)

Other: Fresh out of the Honour's Bachelor of Music Theatre Performance Program at Sheridan College (class of 2026), Acacia is so

excited to be joining the cast of *Grease* at the Thousand Islands Playhouse this summer. Born and raised in Alberta, Acacia feels right at home making theatre in a small town. Huge thank you to her wonderful family, friends, teachers, and mentors for their unconditional support and encouragement. Special thanks to each and every audience member too, thank you for supporting live theatre! Catch you at the beach after the show :)



Megan Dallan
PATTY (U/S JAN)

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Shrek* (Young People's Theatre); *Waitress*

(Theatre Aquarius/Grand Theatre); *The Sound of Music*, *Grow* (Grand Theatre); *Hogan's Hoedown* (Victoria Playhouse)
Upcoming: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* (Theatre Aquarius)
Other: *Cruel Intentions* (Amazon), *Priscilla* (A24), *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC), *Fear Thy Neighbour* (Amazon). Co-founder of Beyond Melodies Co. @beyondmelodiesco



Jameson Mosher
ROGER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Merrily We Roll Along*

(Shifting Ground Productions); *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Junie B. Jones* (TYT Theatre); *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Canadian Opera Company)
Other: Thank you to friends and family for supporting the dream, and an extra special thank you to my partner Ellie! Couldn't do it without y'all! @jay_mosher2



Luca McPhee
DOODY

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Kimberly Akimbo* (Mirvish Productions/Segal);

In Real Life (Sheridan/Musical Stage); *Iris* (*Says Goodbye*) (Mixtape Projects); *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Falsettos* (Bowtie Productions); *Alice by Heart* (Thaumatrope Theatre); *Levels the Play* (Capital Sound Collective); *The Calling* (Makeshift Theatre)

Other: Special thanks to Shari and Ari for always believing in them, and to their two favourite people in the world Solana & Annelise for their endless love and support.



Ben Cameron
SONNY (U/S KENICKIE, TEEN ANGEL, VINCE FONTAINE)

For TIP: *Mary Poppins*
Elsewhere: *Jack and the*

Beans Talk: A Marry Magical Pantomime (Torrent Productions); *Big Fish*, *Armchair Confidential*, *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* (Theatre Sheridan); *Piper* (Bad Hats Theatre/Theatre Sheridan)
Other: Benjamin is thrilled to be rejoining the company at Thousand Islands for his second season. Outside of performing, Benjamin is a passionate writer and composer with multiple works in development. Alongside his writing partner, Kiki Nicole, he is one of this year's Recommender Grant recipients from The Musical Stage Company for their new Canadian musical, *STELLAR*. Benjamin would like to thank his family, Emma at GGA, and Anna for their constant love, kindness, and support.



Thomas Winiker
EUGENE (U/S SONNY,
ROGER)

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Kimberly Akimbo* (Segal/

Mirvish); *The Music Man* (Stratford Festival); *Finding Neverland, Elf the Musical, Disney's Newsies, Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Drayton Entertainment)

Other: Thomas will be getting his BFA in Musical Theatre at Carnegie Mellon University next year! Thank you to all friends and family for their unwavering support.



Tyler Pearse
JOHNNY CASINO,
ENSEMBLE (U/S DOODY,
EUGENE), ASSISTANT
CHOREOGRAPHER,
DANCE CAPTAIN

For TIP: *Mamma Mia!*

Elsewhere: Select Theatre: *Waitress* (Theatre Aquarius/Grand Theatre); *Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812* (Mirvish/Crow's Theatre); *Shrek The Musical* (Young People's Theatre); *Wizard of Oz* (Canadian Stage); *Rock of Ages* (More Ent./Elgin Theatre); *Jukebox Hero* (Annerin Prod./Ed Mirvish Theatre); *Oliver!* (Stratford Festival)

Upcoming: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Theatre Aquarius)

Other: Select Film/TV: *Paw Patrol* (Nickelodeon); *Ginny & Georgia* (Netflix); *Murdoch Mysteries* (CBC). Training: Canadian Guild of Directors and Choreographers AAP (CGDC), RBC Apprenticeship for Choreography/ Movement Direction (Musical Stage Co.), Sheridan College, Etobicoke School of the Arts. Tyler is excited to be back at TIP with such an exciting cast and creative team. Thank you to Talent House, and to the gracious support of my friends and family. Instagram: @tylerpearse



Robyn Esson
ENSEMBLE (U/S
FRENCHY, CHA-CHA,
PATTY)

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Mamma*

Mia! (Neptune); *Jersey Boys* (Mayfield); *Jersey Boys, Evita, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, The Prom* (Drayton); *The Addams Family, The Little Mermaid, Beauty and the Beast, Mary Poppins* (Capitol Theatre); *The Last Five Years* (1890 Junction); *Norwegian Cruise Lines; Tokyo Disney*

Other: Much love always to Mom, Dad and Gar for being the rocks, beams of light and love in my life. Follow along the silliness with me @robynesson

BAND



Matthew Souaid
REEDS

For TIP: *Jersey Boys, Mary Poppins*
Elsewhere: *The Sound of Music* (Côte St-Luc

Dramatic Society); *Kimberly Akimbo, Beautiful: The Carol King Musical* (Segal Center); *Les Producteurs* (Gestev); *Timeless Broadway, Broadway Dreams, Our Time* (Lyric Theatre); *Guys and Dolls* (Lakeshore Players); *Beauty and the Beast* (MCT); *Curtains* (Starcatcher); 9 to 5: *The Musical* (WISTA); *The Prom, Into The Woods Jr.* (Royal West Academy); *Newsies, Grease* (Riverdale High School)
Other: Matthew is a woodwind doubler (Clarinets, Flutes and Saxes) based in Montreal who specializes in Rock, Pop, Theatre, Funk, Jazz and Classical music. He studied Jazz Performance at both Vanier College and McGill University. As a freelance musician, Matthew performs regularly with Disco Fever Experience and has recorded with many artists such as Karen Myatt, Downtown Fiasco, Zoungla, Emma McDonald,

Stephanie Urquhart, OP/UM, Ricardo Manuel, Mark Wylie, The Maximum Chill, and The Anti Non-Conformists.



Sean Donaldson
PERCUSSION

For TIP: *Jersey Boys*, *The Sound of Music*, *Bitter Girl*, *Mamma Mia!*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Mary*

Poppins, *9 to 5: The Musical*

Other: Sean is a freelance orchestral percussionist performing throughout Ontario. He also plays drums with a number of jazz, fusion, and popular music groups in the Kingston area.



James D. Taylor
GUITAR

For TIP: *9 to 5: The Musical*

Other: James is a Kingston-based

guitarist and composer who's been making music across genres for over 20 years. He's played with artists such as Great Lake Swimmers, Maylee Todd, Yuka, Cat Clyde, and The Human Rights, having appeared on over a dozen albums. A Humber College grad, James is also a dedicated music teacher and has a passion for helping others grow through music and creativity.



Alec Barken
BASS

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *The Buddy Holly Story* (Kingston Grand/Kinsmen); *Kelli*

Trottier (Kingston Grand/Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts)

Other: Alec is a long-standing Kingston musician.

CREATIVES



Thomas Alderson
DIRECTOR

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Spring Awakening* (St. Lawrence College); *Stag and Doe*

(Tweed & Co.); *The Wizard of Oz* (St. Clair College); *Dear Jack*, *Dear Louise* (Victoria Playhouse Petrolia). Assistant Director: *Rent*, *La Cage Aux Folles* (Stratford Festival)

Upcoming: *Murder for Two* (Tweed & Co.)

Other: Select Acting: *Bed and Breakfast* (Orillia Opera House); *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* (Young People's Theatre); *Chicago* (Globe Theatre).



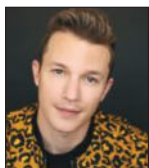
Rich Coburn
MUSIC DIRECTOR,
KEYS

For TIP: Debut

Elsewhere: *Treemonisha* (Volcano Theatre);

The Sound of Music, *The Wizard of Oz* (Côte Saint Luc Dramatic Society)

Other: As Associate Conductor for Volcano Theatre's *Treemonisha* (named one of the *The New York Times*' Best Classical Performances of 2023) and Music Director for musical theatre and opera, my work spans a wide range of musical roles. I am endlessly curious and always learning. I have worked as a sound designer for Pointe-à-Callière Museum, and have pioneered techniques for recording singers with virtual instruments with support from the Canada Council. I was also hired as organist at Christ Church Calgary - whose choir regularly sings at Westminster Abbey - without formal organ training. My most treasured musical experience is playing with my identical twin, also a pianist.



Jesse Weafer
CHOREOGRAPHER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Footloose* (Stage West

Calgary)

Other: Select Acting: *Priscilla Queen of the Desert* (Drayton/Stage West Calgary); *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, *Jersey Boys* (Stage West Calgary); *Kinky Boots*, *Forever Swing*, *Jolson*, *The Wizard of Oz* (Mirvish); *West Side Story* (Drayton); *Criss Angel Believe Las Vegas* (Cirque du Soleil); *Hairspray* (Mirvish/1st Broadway National Tour); *Hello Dolly*, *The Tempest* (Stratford Festival). Select TV/Film: *Hairspray* (New Line Cinema), *Confessions of a Teenage Drama Queen* (Walt Disney Pictures), *So You Think You Can Dance Canada* (CTV - Season 3 Top 16), 2011 Junos with Shawn Desmond, 2011 MMVA'S with Far East Movement & DEV.



Freddy Van Camp
SET DESIGNER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Guys & Dolls*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Annie*, *As*

You Like It, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Something Rotten!*, *Twelfth Night*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *London Assurance*, *Wedding Band*, *Richard II* (Stratford Festival); *Humour Me* (Here for Now Theatre); *Macbeth*, *Phaedra's Love*, *Amphitryon*, *The Fall of the House of Atreus* (Stratford Festival Directors' Workshop); *Tosca* (NAC Touring Production); *Twelfth Night* (Stratford Conservatory Workshop, 2026)

Other: Freddy is the recipient of the 2024 Tom Patterson Award for Emerging Designers. freddyvancamp.ca



Beyata Hackborn
COSTUME DESIGNER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Citadel/RMTC/Grand); *The Play*

That Goes Wrong (Citadel/Theatre Calgary/RMTC/Grand); *Life of Pi* (Citadel/RMTC); *Heist* (Citadel/Grand); *Death of a Salesman*, *Little Shop of Horrors* (Citadel/ArtsClub); *Legally Blonde* (Citadel/Theatre Calgary); *The Tale of the Gifted Prince* (Theatre Calgary); *Jersey Boys* (Citadel); *The Secret Garden*, *Village Wooing*, *Playboy of the Western World*, *Overruled*, *Bright Lights* (Shaw); *The Inheritance* (CanStage); *Chris, Mrs.* (Boldly Productions); *Metronome*, *Mob*, *Horseplay* (WWPT); *Sleight of Mind* (Western Canada Theatre)

Upcoming: *Legally Blonde* (Rainbow Stage); *Little Shop of Horrors* (Theatre Calgary); *Sense & Sensibility* (Citadel/Theatre Calgary); *Heist* (Theatre Aquarius)

Other: Much love to my household of dogs & friends, to shows that embrace the theatrically absurd and of course, to my embarrassingly fervent love of Sondheim.



Mikael Kangas
LIGHTING DESIGNER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Werther*, *Barber of Seville*, *Rigoletto*, *Wozzeck*, *Madama*

Butterfly, *Nabucco*, *Fantasma* (Canadian Opera Company); *Sleuth*, *Anything Goes*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Amen Corner*, *Damn Yankees*, *Trouble in Mind*, *Glass Menagerie*, *O'Flarety VC* (Shaw Festival); *Siegfried*, *Die Walkure* (Edmonton Opera); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Theatre Aquarius); *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Beehive*, *Naked Radio* (Drayton Entertainment); *Chris, Mrs.* (Boldly Productions); *Just for One Day*, *In Dreams*, & *Juliet, Room* (Mirvish)

Upcoming: *Parfumerie* (Soulpepper); *Orfeo* (Opera Quebec); *Werther* (Opera Montreal); *Murder on the Orient Express* (Drayton Entertainment)

Other: Mikael is the Lighting & Projection Design Coordinator for the Canadian Opera Company and is a member of the Associated Designers of Canada & United Scenic Artists. www.mikaelkangaslighting.com



Richard Feren
SOUND DESIGNER

For TIP: *Sugar Road, The Piano Teacher, The Drawer Boy, Sequence, Mary's Wedding, Every Brilliant*

Thing, Perfect Wedding, Miss Caledonia, Asking For It

Elsewhere: *Strife* (Punctuate! Theatre/Tarragon); *Dangerous Liaisons, Hamlet* (Stratford); *Erased* (Theatre Passe Muraille); *What the Constitution Means to Me, Sizwe Bansi is Dead* (Soulpepper); *The Inheritance, Public Enemy, A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Canadian Stage); *The Cold War, Too Good To Be True, Confederation & Riel* (VideoCabaret); *Waitress, Heist, Controlled Damage, Grand Ghosts* (The Grand Theatre)

Upcoming: *The Last 5 Years* (TIP)

Other: Richard has been creating music and soundscapes for theatre, dance, and film since 1992. He has composed scores for eight feature films and numerous shorts; won seven Dora Awards; 1999 Pauline McGibbon Award; shortlisted for 2012 Siminovitch Prize.



Jessica Severin
STAGE MANAGER

For TIP: *Anne of Green Gables, Midsummer, The Birds and the Bees, Educating Rita, The*

Importance of Being Earnest, Suds!, Somewhere Beyond the Sea

Elsewhere: *The Lion King, Harry Potter and the Cursed Child, Once, Billy Elliot, A Couple of Blaguards, Hairspray* (Mirvish Productions); *Bluebeard's Castle/Erwartung, Aportia Chryptych, Don Pasquale, Rusalka, Madama Butterfly, La bohème, The Abduction from the Seraglio* (Canadian Opera Company); *The Full Monty* (Capitol Theatre); *Chris, Mrs.* (Boldly Productions); *Little Red Robin Hood* (Ross Petty Productions); *The Merry Widow* (Vancouver Opera); *How to Fail as a Popstar* (Canadian Stage); *Something Rich*

& Strange (Opera Atelier); *Fun Home, Passing Strange, A Craigslist Cantata* (Musical Stage Company). Ten seasons with Opera Atelier (including tours to Glimmerglass and the Royal Opera Versailles), ten seasons with Soulpepper, productions with Ross Petty Productions, Starvox, Obsidian, Tarragon, Nightwood, Theatre Smith Gilmour, Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company, Art of Time, Nuit Blanche, Drayton Entertainment, and others.

Upcoming: *La Traviata* (Canadian Opera Company)

Other: Graduate of the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto

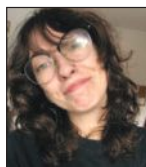


Emily Cornelius
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Dance Nation* (Coal Mine

Theatre); *Rainbow on Mars* (Outside the March). Apprentice Stage Manager: *Titanique* (Mirvish Productions); *Full Monty: The Musical* (Capitol Theatre); *Discovering Allan Sherman* (Harold Green Jewish Theatre Company); *El Terremoto, Withrow Park, Hooves Belong to the Deer* (Tarragon Theatre); *Dear Jack, Dear Louise* (HGJTC).

Other: Emily is a Toronto based assistant stage manager and musical theatre vocalist. Next up she will be running the red carpet for TIFF at The Royal Alexandra Theatre. She is thrilled to be making her TIP debut with such a fun and incredible show!



Shannon Farrell
APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

For TIP: Debut
Elsewhere: *Circle Mirror Transformation* (Alumnae

Theatre); *hang* (Obsidian Theatre); *Fierce* (Moss Collective); *(Un)done* (SM Movement).



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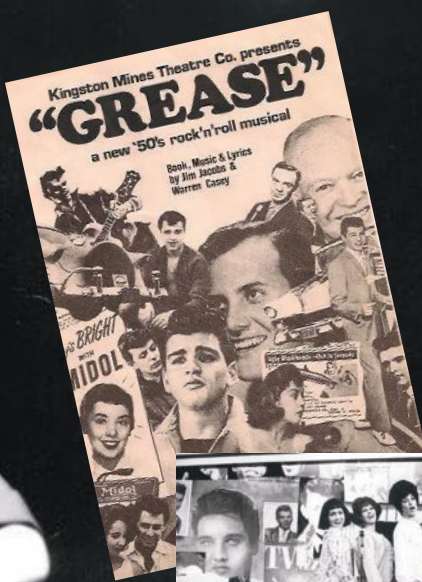
by ALLISON HESS



The musical *Grease*, first produced on Broadway in 1972, is most well known for its record-breaking 1978 film adaptation, starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. The movie version of *Grease* was the highest-grossing film of 1978, netted an Oscar nomination for the song “Hopelessly Devoted to You” and was selected for preservation by the United States National Film Registry in 2020 for being “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant”.¹ In the cultural zeitgeist, the movie version of *Grease* looms so large that it overshadows the original Broadway production, with most contemporary productions incorporating fan-favourite songs written for the movie into their staging, including “Hopelessly Devoted to You”, “You’re the One That I Want”, and the title track “Grease”. What fans might not know is that there was a *Grease* before *Grease*. Before the once-in-a-generation movie, before the Broadway hit, there was a smaller, grittier *Grease* that told a smaller story about immigrant teens navigating the realities of life growing up in the 1950s.

The original production, written by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey in 1971, was inspired by Jacobs’ high-school experience in 1950s Chicago. “You had all these inner-city kids, particularly Italian and Polish, move out to the outskirts. The Polish kids brought drugs, the Italian guys brought switchblade knives. It was ‘give me your lunch money...let’s steal a tire’. That was all new to my neighbourhood and it was rampant.”² The result was an ensemble piece that focused heavily on the under-belly of ‘50s teen culture, giving the blue-collar

¹ McNary, D. (2020, December 14). “Dark Knight,” “Shrek,” “Grease,” “Blues Brothers” added to National Film Registry. *Variety*.
² Cavendish, D. (2022, May 7). *Grease at 50: ‘The pink ladies? they’d kill you if you looked at them wrong.’* *The Telegraph*.



immigrant kids the spotlight while mocking the squeaky-clean image of teen idols seen in Sandra Dee and Doris Day movies. With the transition to Broadway in 1972, many of the Chicago-specific references were removed, the plot was tightened to focus on the Sandy-Danny romance, songs were added, and some of the rougher edges of the original show were sanded down. Jacobs said in an interview in 2009, “When we went to New York, we were told it was necessary to make the characters lovable, instead of scaring everybody. The show went from about three-quarters book [script] and one-quarter music to one-quarter book and three-quarters music.”³ The show was a hit on Broadway, running for eight years, and with the blockbuster success of the 1978 movie Jacobs’ original vision for *Grease* faded into obscurity. Thirty years after the *Grease* movie brought the T-Birds and Pink Ladies into the world’s living rooms, rumblings of a revival of the original *Grease* began to spread through the theatre community, and in 2011, *The Original Grease* premiered in its hometown of Chicago. Billed as “the restored, revised, R-rated”⁴ version, *The Original Grease* presented a less nostalgic portrayal of growing up in 1950s Chicago by offering a “slice-of-life look at corruptible and self-involved real teenagers versus its previous reputation as a synthetic and celebratory look at 1950s youth.”⁵ While many familiar songs such as “Greased Lightnin’”, “We Go Together”, and “Beauty School Dropout” were still included, the book was expanded to reflect the original ensemble focus. Additionally, harder language and references to local Chicago landmarks separated *The*

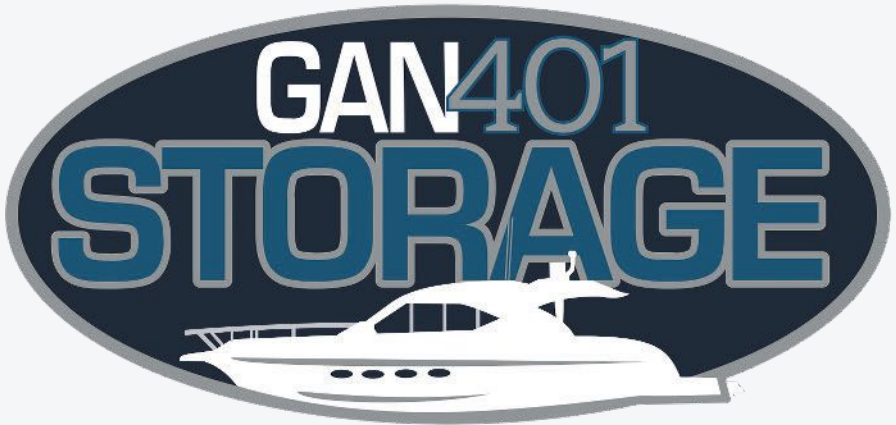
3 Jones, C., McClanahan, E., & Remijan-Toba, E. (2009, January 8). *Bring back our own, original R-rated "Grease."* Chicago Tribune.
4 Jones, K. (2011, April 23). *Restored and raunchy, the original grease begins performances in Chicago, where it all began.* Playbill.
5 Morgan, S. C. (2011, May 4). *ATC exposes the original raunchiness in "Grease."* Dailyherald.com.

Original Grease from its shinier cousin and grounded the story in a very specific community. The director of the 2011 production, PJ Paparelli, said, “Jim [Jacobs] and I have focused the revisions on capturing an authentic voice and world of working-class Italian and Polish teens and their search for their identity...I think people will be surprised by the amount of emotion in this *Grease*.”⁶ The run of *The Original Grease* in 2011 was well received, but many reviewers felt the production’s main goal was to shock its audience and emphasized to readers to leave the kids at home.

Although it’s unlikely that *The Original Grease* could ever eclipse the juggernaut popularity of the version of *Grease* known and loved by generations, it is an interesting, almost anthropological, look into the journey a play can take from concept to final version and the changes that are sometimes required to take a story from the specific to the universal. Whichever version you prefer, Jim Jacobs stands firm in his thoughts about *Grease*’s enduring popularity. “...I think it’s so loved because it’s about the first time in people’s lives - your first boyfriend or girlfriend, your first drink, first date, first car, first cigarette. All those moments. And that never gets old.”⁷

6 Jones, K. (2011, April 23).

7 Cavendish, D. (2022, May 7).



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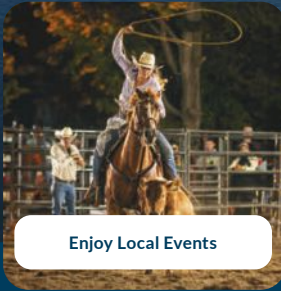


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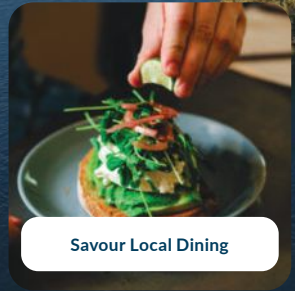
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