

Review: Grease

By Amber Roderick

Grease at Theatre Royal Plymouth

TRP is finally back to being a full theatre, and what better way to celebrate than with the famous feel-good musical 'Grease'.

Many of us musical lovers have waited a long time to get back into the theatre after a sad time for the arts industry. *Grease* is a perfect way to remember going to the theatre is the best night out.

Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey's 1971 musical 'Grease' is a well-known musical, which originated from the 1978 film starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John. TRP is a brilliant place to host such a fun, energetic and cool musical, especially with such a vibrant and stylish set.

This version of *Grease*, directed by Nikolai Foster, uses the ensemble in every possible moment, which brings an energetic and full-bodied performance throughout. The direction from Foster is exciting, unique and uses the cast brilliantly.

The story brings us to the fictional Rydell High School in 1950s America where Danny Zuko is the leader of a male gang and meets Sandy Dumbrowski during his summer break. Sandy starts at Rydell in the next semester, and we slowly see their romance blossom – after Danny's initial embarrassment.

During the story, we meet a variety of characters from across the school as they find their way through adolescence – experiencing sex, alcohol, smoking, crushes, embarrassment, and pregnancy scares.

The soundtrack is inspired by 50s hits from the rock 'n' roll era, which brings upbeat and catchy songs to compliment the excitement of a teenagers life perfectly.

You will recognise hits including *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightnin'*, *Hopelessly Devoted to You* and *You're the One That I Want*. They are ultimate classic musical songs, with an incredible cast to compliment them.

Foster has a clear desire to put the grit back into the musical, rather than focusing more on Sandy's vulnerable innocence. He zooms in on the other characters more,

which brings a more wholesome and ensemble story together.

The musical may be set in the 1950s, but the style, fun, music and easy-going story line is just as relatable now as ever. The costumes have a clear 50s feel and the cool hairstyles are enough to carry the show on their own.

With commitment from the cast and creatives, this show is clearly for musical lovers, but is also perfect for those not so familiar with musicals and is a perfect musical to start your love of theatre with.