

'Grease' Lightning Strikes

Off-Broadway cast performs tonight at Rudder Auditorium

By Kendra Kingsley
THE BATTALION

Jeff Noland, a junior speech communication major, has never been a "Grease" fan. "Most people I knew did not make a big deal about it, so I did not bother trying to see the movie ('Grease')," Noland said. "Some guys told me it was a chick flick, and that turned me away from it too."

Noland said he changed his mind after a friend offered him an extra ticket to tonight's show. "I thought this would be an excellent chance to see what everyone is talking about," he said.

On Tuesday and Wednesday night, Rudder Auditorium will become Rydell High School, complete with the "Pink Ladies," leather jackets and popular hits from the 1978 movie "Grease."

For Megha Patel, junior genetics major, the OPAS-sponsored production will be a trip down memory lane.

"I grew up watching 'Grease,' going back to the elementary school days, and my sister and I now have every word to every song and have every dialogue completely memorized," Patel said. "I was excited to hear that the show was coming to College Station because I've never had a chance to see it live. I just wish I could see it with my sister, too."

Victoria Bundonis, who plays Rydell High's principal, Ms. Lynch, said she received a phone call from the casting director of the stage production of "Grease" to audition for the role.

Although she was busy with another role at the time, Bundonis sent in an audition tape and

landed the role.

The three-dimensional aspect of the production and the talented cast bring the play to life, and the stage production is more of an ensemble piece where all of the characters get "a piece of the pie," Bundonis said.

Tonight's production of "Grease" will be the first to have licensed the use of two of the most well-known songs, "You're the One That I Want" and "Hopelessly Devoted."

Bundonis said the best part of being in the play is seeing and hearing the audience's reaction.

"The audiences go wild. They sing along, and you can look into the audience and see them doing the hand jive," Bundonis said.

The play reminds many adults of the past, but it is a fun production for any age, Bundonis said.

Bundonis said that they have performed "Grease" in many college towns and they always have a wonderful audience.

"Everybody in the world seems to love the movie," she added. "Everyone has seen it."

A dance contest is held 15 minutes before the start of each show.

The actor playing Vince Fontaine hosts the contest and encourages audience members to join him on stage to compete.

The winner of the contest will be picked by the audience.

The contest is not only a good way to kill time, but it also gets the audience excited about the show.

Bundonis said a receptive audience completely relaxes her while she is on stage. "Everyone is there for two hours to have fun," she said. "I can't ask for a better job."

"The audiences go wild. They sing along, and you can look into the audience and see them doing the hand jive."

— Victoria Bundonis
Miss Lynch



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Top: Sandy Dumbrowski hanging out with the Pink Ladies Bottom: Danny Zuko telling a story to the T-Birds

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THE BATTALION
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