

1. BATON IN HAND, JULIA MARGASON, 11, AND JULIA WHITCHER, 12, fight for attention while singing the "Rydell High School Fight Song." Margason loved making new relationships with her fellow cast mates and growing as an actress. "It was so cool to meet new people and learn so much about myself as an actress and as a person. I loved being Patty on stage, and I had so many people that were so encouraging of me. To make people who know me change their perspective of me was so satisfying because I was Patty Simcox, not Julia," Margason said. Photo by L. Sanchez. **2. WITH AN ARM WRAPPED AROUND JULIA WHITCHER, 12, TIERNAN PALMER, 10, FLIRTS AS DOMINICK "SONNY" LATERRI WHILE DANNY ZUKO, PLAYED BY KAI OKLESSION, 11, watches disapprovingly.** Palmer enjoyed the playfulness of his character who flirted with girls and embraced his immaturity. "[Sonny] was a really interesting character to play because I got to explore a complete extreme personality. He was not a nice or good person in any way, so it made it fun to play my natural flirtation to an extreme. I got to be flirtatious with everyone around me and that was really fun," Palmer said. Photo by D. Palmer.



3. WITH A GRIP ON HIS SHIRT, ANNA MAJI, 12, PULLS BRODY THOMPSON, 11, towards her during the song "Look at Me, I'm Sandra Dee." Maji used her personal experience to create a better connection with her character, Betty Rizzo, the leader of the Pink Ladies. "Rizzo was a character that really tapped into my emotions and probably, the first [character] that I've had a deep connection with. During the first lines of "There are Worse Things I Could Do", I actually started crying. It was completely natural and is easily the proudest moment in my acting career," Maji said. Photo by M. Wallace. **4. WITH THEIR HANDS INTERTWINED, JULIA WHITCHER, 12 AND KAI OKLESSION, 11, belt out the last note to "Summer Nights".** Okleson was able to enhance his acting experience through playing Danny Zuko, the leader of the Greasers. "The best part of this whole show was being able to expand my knowledge about acting. I have not been a part of theater for long and getting this part meant I had to step it up big time. I worked and worked, and in the end, I feel like it paid off," Okleson said. Photo by D. Palmer. **5. CENTERSTAGE, MATTHEW CAREY, 11, delivers a strong performance as Kenickie Murdoch during "Grease Lighting".** Carey enjoyed portraying his character's sense of style and adapting to a new persona. "The most challenging part of playing Kenickie was learning how he walks and doing more than just saying lines at the right time. Building his character and learning how he sees the world was hard because I'm so different from him," Carey said. Photo by D. Palmer. **6. ARMS OUT, JULIA WHITCHER, 12, sings the final notes of the "Sandra Dee Reprise".** Whitcher learned valuable lessons throughout the show. It was a really difficult process to put this show together, especially with this big of a cast, and I would be lying if I said there were no blunders or hindrances. There were sound and mic issues on opening night, a cast member fell in a locker during the second show, weird things happened with choreography.



7. (CONT.) But all of that only reinforced that famous saying - no matter what, the show must go on. The entire cast, crew, and I had to remember that we had a job to do and a story to tell an expecting audience, and nothing was going to stop us from performing what had become our livelihood and passion. It was a very real experience that I'll take with me for the rest of my career in theatre," Whitcher said. Photo by R. Dicker. **7. HUDDLED TOGETHER, MARTY MARASCHINO, PLAYED BY JENSEN DISBROW, 11, SHOWS MAYA KWIATKOWSKI, 10, KAYLEIGH OWEN, 11, CAROLINE CLARK, 12, THE PHOTOS OF HER SEVERAL BOYFRIENDS.** During the scene of "Freddy, My Love", the girls passionately sing about the boys they love. "It was definitely an accomplishment being able to train this complex character in the way I wanted to. I developed a character I didn't know was in me," Photo by J. Juergens

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BY TIERNAN PALMER & LAUREN SANCHEZ

IT'S THE LONG AWAITED NIGHT THAT EVERY CAST MEMBER ANTICIPATES. Working hours on end for months, students prepared and rehearsed for Grease. A show takes a lot to produce, no matter the size of cast, what show is being done, or what tech needs to be involved. Taking on the role of student director seemed like a daunting task. **EDEN GOODIEL, 12,** was more than ready to take it on. Grease presented a unique set of challenges, like it's upwards of 70 person cast and the massive amount of tech work that the show required. Thankfully, the eagerness of the production team led to immediate productivity. "As soon as the script came out I bought it. I started reading it. I started making notes, I started thinking I really want characters to do this and this scene and I'd love to see this in the set somewhere ... So basically the work started right away for me," Goodiel said. Grease was an undeniably amazing experience for Goodiel because it gave her a glimpse into the world of directing. "(The show) absolutely solidified what I wanted to do. It's funny because I thought I was happy being an actor and I thought I was happy doing all those things until I directed and I realized that this is where I belong, this is what makes me feel alive," Goodiel said.

BURNIN' UP THE QUARTER MILE

"The car went from being the most challenging part of the show to being a really easy add on at the end. I think that any alternative we could've done for grease lightning would have been building a car and I've seen other schools do that and it's not good. It's just trashy and you don't want to do it. You want to have a real car for those scenes. So yes it was absolutely worth it to get a real car," - ZACH CAYLOR, 12



LEARNING AND GAINING EXPERIENCE FROM THE UNDERSTUDIES AND THE SHOW GOES ON



"The most challenging part of being an understudy was having to watch the other one doing the part I was so close to getting. It was good so I could learn how to stay positive even if I felt I could do better. I had to stand back and be supportive of the other," - CHANDLER HINCKLEY, 10

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WHAT IS THE ONE THING YOU WILL TAKE AWAY FROM BEING APART OF THE SHOW?

"There are so many things, but the most important has to be that when you do something completely out of your comfort zone, you learn so much about yourself, and you can meet so many amazing people." - AIDAN THOMAS, 10

"When you work as a team, especially a big one, you have to work together or else the final product won't look as good as it should. Grease was tough to pull together, but in the end, it was lots of fun." - EMELINE FRANKS, 12

"Having a huge cast is fun, but can be a bit challenging at times. The biggest thing was trying to be patient and understanding with everyone, including yourself. Keeping yourself in check, as well as helping out whoever and wherever you could was great." - ARIANA ARI CRUZ, 12

"The community because the cast is super close and the rehearsals are super extensive and long. When you spend that much time with everybody, you get really close and it's super fun because you have a bunch of inside jokes with everybody, and that's probably the best part." - JAKE BOASE, 10

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