

SUMMER NIGHTS

At Actors Cabaret, Grease is the word

Throughout the opening night performance of *Grease* at Actors Cabaret of Eugene, I noted that my 8-year-old companion, and the elderly gentleman next to him, were both alternately laughing, clapping or simply enthralled. Young and old, they were watching a musical from the 1970s about teenagers from the 1950s; they were both loving it.

The collaborative brainchild of Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs, *Grease* first opened in 1971 at Chicago's Kingston Mines Theater, a pioneer in that city's "off-loop" alternative scene. The '71 incarnation was by all accounts bawdier than either the cleaned-up 1972 Broadway version (which would see one of the longest runs in Broadway history) or the iconic 1978 film adaptation. And even though a slurry of dramaturgs have removed any whiff of salaciousness over the years, the show's remarkably fresh, even with its PG rating. (I'd call it a "G," but those T-Birds are still pretty obsessed with boobs, even in 2014.)

A brief synopsis: It's 1958 and star-crossed teens Sandy Dumbrowski (in the stage play she's a nice Polish girl from Chicago, not Olivia Newton-John from Australia) and Danny Zuko fell hard for each other on a beach in the summer, but now that they're in different cliques at ol' Rydell High School, they just can't be together.

With a strong set of pipes, Jordon Nowotny as Danny exudes confidence and a sense of fun. Sandy, played by 16-year-old Samantha Tucker, gains momentum as the



JORDAN NOWOTNY, SAMANTHA TUCKER, RACHAEL MEYER, SAMANTHA WHITE, NAOMI TODD AND MADISON BAKER

play rolls along. At times, the chorus eclipses newcomer Tucker's voice, but she shines on her own.

Among the strong ensemble of T-Birds, the ebullient Jack McGaughey as Roger stands out in "Mooning." Tag-a-long nerd Eugene, played by Cody Mendonca, delights as his alter-ego "teen angel" in "Beauty School Drop Out."

All the Pink Ladies are pretty terrific. Madison Baker's daffy Jan, Rachel Meyer's smoldering Marty and Naomi Todd's well-meaning Frenchy make a great entourage for the real focus: Betty Rizzo, played with aplomb by

Samantha White, whose tour-de-force stage presence and nuanced vocals set the bar for the production.

With direction and choreography by Michael P. Watkins, the show's pacing is consistently snappy and its blocking organic and lively. The dances add zip to the already entertaining score, and the performers' enthusiasm sells every bouncy move. The mid-century set design by Joe Zingo sparkles and his clever props continually transform the tiny ACE stage with their inventiveness. ■

Grease runs through Aug. 9 at Actors Cabaret of Eugene.

EVENTS CALENDAR



**Cool Your Body
Warm Your Spirit
Eco-friendly AC**

FIRST TWO CLASSES FOR THE PRICE OF ONE
KUNDALINI YOGA AS TAUGHT BY YOGI BHAJAN

3635 Hilyard | yogawesteugene.com



*West Coast
Dog & Cat Rescue*
SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

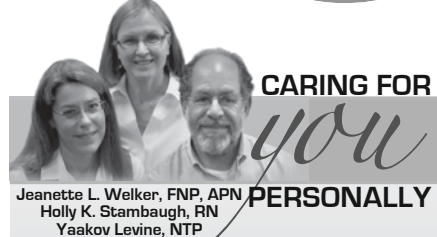
July 20th 6pm - 9pm



SWEET CHEEKS WINERY
27007 Briggs Hill Rd
Eugene, Oregon



advance tickets \$35 online:
westcoastdogandcat.org
day of event: \$40



CARING FOR
you
PERSONALLY

Oregon Optimal Health
1200 Executive Parkway, Suite 360
Eugene, OR 97401

541.762.1155
541.762.1154 (fax)

www.oregonoptimalhealth.com
info@oregonoptimalhealth.com

Neck Pain

MVA Insurance Accepted
Advanced Methods
Gentle and Effective
37 years experience
jeffreyburch.com

(541) 689-1515

LMT 9092



CLASSIFIEDS

To place a classified ad: **CALL** 541.484.0519 **EMAIL** classy@eugeneweekly.com
WEB classifieds.eugeneweekly.com **WRITE** 1251 Lincoln St. Eugene, OR 97401
VISIT our office Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

LINE ADS: \$11/3 LINES
ADDITIONAL LINES: \$4

EVENTS

Events

UKULELE PLAYERS Win a hand-built ukulele in our raffle! Oakridge Ukulele Festival Aug. 1-3 www.oakridge-lodge.com/events

FOR SALE

Clothing

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE® THRIFT SHOP
1149 Willamette, 541-485-3721.
Tues - Sat 10-4

REMIX APPAREL EXCHANGE located at 1449 Mohawk Blvd in Springfield is the newest and grooviest, men's and women's resale clothing store/art studio. While you search through our constantly changing name brand inventory, enjoy all the local artist's work on the walls and coming through the speakers.

SAVONA'S BITCHIN' BOHEMIAN BOUTIQUE
Righteous rags for big & small.
New & resale. E. 13th & High

TADASANAGOATS.COM
the Bohemian Yogini Shop
Yoga Clothes, Tapestries, Incense

Computers

NEXT STEP REUSE STORE Mon-Sat 10-6pm, Sun 11-4pm. Refurbished electronics, office furniture and more. ReUse is the New Recycle. 541-868-0904. 980 McKinley Street

Misc.

KILL BED BUGS! Buy Harris Bed Bug Killer Complete Treatment Program/Kit. (Harris Mattress Covers Add Extra Protection). Available: Hardware Stores, Buy Online: homedepot.com (AAN CAN)

KIDS

Camps

OREGON TUTOR SUMMER CAMPS Filling the gap in our community. Summer Camps include: Spanish k-5, Early Literacy k-1, Writing grades 5-8, Algebra Prep grades 7-9 & more. Individual & Home Tutoring. All ages 541.733.1749

BULLETIN BOARD

Announcements

HELP 2 HEAL & TRANSFORM
Our Earth / World
Practice Transmission Meditation
www.transmissionmeditation.org
WE ARE NOT ALONE

NEXT STEP DONATION DROP-OFF OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK Mon-Sat 8:30-5pm. Closed Sundays. 2101 W. 10th Ave. www.NextStepRecycling.org

Lost & Found

FOUND: PHOTOGRAPHS on Lincoln St./West 3rd. Family photos, many from Calif, Cordelia, Dixon Ca. Contact Eugene Weekly office to claim: 541-484-0519, 1251 Lincoln St.

Wanted

CASH FOR CARS: Any Car/Truck. Running or Not! Top Dollar Paid. We Come To You! Call For Instant Offer: 1-888-420-3808 www.cash4car.com (AAN CAN)

LONELY? ME TOO!

Fun, fit, handsome, swm, seeks friends/pen-pals write: James Trammell 19709487, 82911 Beach Access Rd, Umatilla, OR 97882 **PS SMILE!**

Pets

FOUND STRAY CAT. Near Scott Rd and 18th, Springfield. Found about 4 weeks ago. Friendly black cat. 541-747-9993

GREENHILL HUMANE SOCIETY Everybody Deserves a Good Home. Fri-Tues 11am-6pm, Closed Weds & Thurs. 88530 Greenhill Rd, 541-689-1503 green-hill.org Look for our Pet of the Week!

SHELTER ANIMAL RESOURCE ALLIANCE
S.A.R.A.'s Treasures Gift & Thrift Shop.
Volunteer, Donate, Shop, **ADOPT!**
871 River Road, Open Daily 10am-6pm.
541-607-8892 sarastreasures.org
LOOK FOR THIS WEEK'S RESCUED CAT.

Adoption/Family Services

PREGNANT? THINKING OF ADOPTION? Talk with caring agency specializing in matching Birthmothers with Families Nationwide. LIVING EXPENSES PAID. Call 24/7 Abby's One True Gift Adoptions. 866-413-6293. Void in Illinois/New Mexico/Indiana (AAN CAN)

HELP WANTED

APARTMENT MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT. Looking for team of two. Great atmosphere. Apartment + salary. Contact 2teamposition@gmail.com

CNA2 ACUTE CARE clinical time is done at the HOSPITAL Learn & practice your skills where you want to work! Be seen by potential employers! Tuition & Textbook \$520. Must have current unencumbered Oregon CNA 1 number. Preregistration required. EMT ASSOCIATES 541-844-1328 EMTASSOC.COM, EMT.ASSOCIATES@COMCAST.NET

SDANCERS Tired of your current club! **SWEET ILLUSIONS** has day & night shifts available. No experience, can train. Excellent tips! 541-852-8625 or 541-517-7196 **THE HOTTEST CLUB IN LANE COUNTY!**