

## WDV Performing Arts proudly presents...



### Book, Music, and Lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey

## THE BLACKBOX THEATER Da Vinci Schools 201 N. Douglas St., El Segundo, CA 90245

[Feb. 28 - Mar. 9, 2025]

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## Your kindess and generosity are embraced!

"Arts students leave high school as artistically literate citizens, and are more comprehensively prepared to succeed in college, career and life." ~ Arts Education Partnership ~

# <u>Why Performing Arts...</u>

Participation in the Performing Arts has inimitable potential to bring countless realms of learning to life: when integrated productively, all types of personalities, physicalities, learning styles, and academic staminas have equal opportunity for success. Performing Arts students not only excel artistically and academically, they excel socially, emotionally, intrapersonally and interpersonally. They can begin to shape their identities, celebrate their truest selves, and find the conviction to walk confidently and enthusiastically through life.

Theatre programs are often referred to as "extracurricular," "frill" programs, or talent contests. On the contrary, Theatre is curricular, and is one of the most effective resources we have for activated, empowered, experiential, progressive and innovative learning. It provides opportunities for research, reflection and discussion, collaboration and connection. The theatrical processes stimulates thought and emotion, speaks to the senses, inspires discovery, initiates investigation, and creates a unique sense of community like no other. Knowledge and education acquired through the Performing Arts can be applied both on and off of 'the stage,' through all the stages of a student's life.

Thank you for embracing of our endeavors.

~ Diane Feldman



"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken." ~ Oscar Wilde

# <u>Rydell High Cast of 1959</u>

#### MISS LYNCH: Bianca Martinez

EUGENIA FLORCZYK: Bee Townsend

**EUGENIA FAN CLUB**: Liam Ferrer - PRESIDENT Noah Pasko - VICE PRESIDENT

PATTY SIMCOX: Ariadna Escamilla

### RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADERS:

Airsten Stringer Alena Okorogu Gisele Daire Noelle Scales

#### STUDENT COUNCIL:

Amirahlee Chea – PRESIDENT Serena Morris – VICE PRESIDENT Arianna Rodriguez – SPIRIT CAPTAIN Syriany Davis – SECRETARY Claire Emanuel – TREASURER

#### **RADIO HOSTS:**

Bethany Watson - VAL FONTAINE Logan Benavente - VINCE FONTAINE

CHA CHA DeGREGARIO: Samantha Sanchez

JOHNNI CASINO: Jada Mitchell

#### PINK LADIES:

Lailah Kelso – **RIZZO** Elizabeth Bowker – **JAN** Alexis Lyles – **FRENCHY** Laniah Edwards – **MARTY** Isabel Rodriguez – **BARBARA** Rebecca Ortiz – **NANCY** 

SANDY DUMBROWSKI: Natalie Trigueros

DANNY ZUKO: Adrian Hernandez

#### **BURGER PALACE BOYS:** Lincoln Faust - KENICKIE

Danny Gutierrez - **ROGER** Ash Hernandez - **DOODY** Melody Vorce - **SONNY** Andrew Morales - **MANNY** Chris Brown - **ROBBIE** 



#### **MECHANICS:**

Samantha Sanchez Jada Mitchell Ariadna Escamilla Airsten Stringer Alena Okorogu Gisele Daire Noelle Scales

#### **MOVIE PATRONS:**

Ariadna Escamilla Airsten Stringer Alena Okorogu Gisele Daire Noelle Scales Liam Ferrer Noah Pasko

#### **MOVIE SERVERS:**

Amirahlee Chea Serena Morris Arianna Rodriguez Syriany Davis Claire Emanuel

#### **DRIVE-IN MOVIE ACTORS:**

Sophia Zeledon - SHEILA EJ Saintlouis - LANCE Serena Morris - THE SCIENTIST \*Erin Whalen - THE WEREWOLF Andrew Morales, Yuli Chavez, Alejandro Luna, \*Diane Feldman - VICTIMS

#### **TEEN ANGEL:**

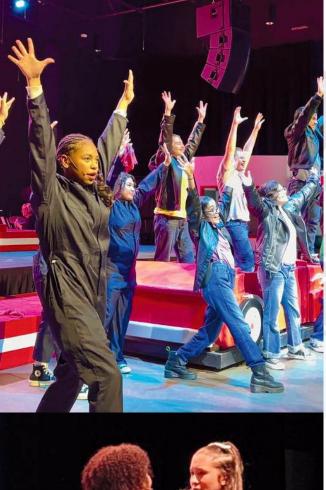
\*Erin Whalen (2/28 & 3/2) \*Joel Bonilla (3/1) \*Russell Stoll (3/7 & 3/8) +Chase Purry (3/9)

#### ANGELETTES:

Lincoln Faust Danny Gutierrez Mel Vorce Ash Hernandez Andrew Morales Chris Brown

#### **HOOKERETTES:**

\*Carla Levenson \*Jennifer Shinn +Maya Varner





\*WDV Staff Member +WDV Performing Arts Alum

# <u>Rydell High Musical Numbers</u>

## ACT ONE

	/liss Lynch, Eugenia, Patty, Cheerleaders
RYDELL ALMA MATER PARODY C	Company
SUMMER NIGHTS D	anny and Sandy w Company
THOSE MAGIC CHANGES	oody and Sonny, w/ Burger Palace Boys, Pink
Ladies and Student Council	
FREDDY, MY LOVE N	larty w Pink Ladies
GREASED LIGHTNIN' K	enickie with Burger Palace Boy <mark>s, M</mark> echanics
RYDELL FIGHT SONG P	atty, Cheerleaders, Sandy
MOONING R	loger and Jan
LOOK AT ME, I'M SANDRA DEE R	Rizzo w/ Barbara and Nancy
WE GO TOGETHER	Company
	-

## ACT TWO

# <u>Rydell High Student Crew of 1959</u>

#### ASST. DIRECTOR / ASST. STAGE MANAGER - Sophia Zeledon\*

ASST. MUSICAL DIRECTOR / ASST. STAGE MANAGER - Aaron Peters

STAGE MANAGER / PROPS - Ryan Lewis\*

ASST. PROPS – Jasper Williams, Orson Burke, Sarah Fierros

LIGHTING DESIGN - EJ Saintlouis\*

ASST. LIGHTING DESIGN / SPOT OP 1 - Koda Gudiel

SPOT OP 2 - Damaris Gough

SOUND DESIGN - Kai Louie\*

ASST. SOUND DESIGN – Melody Palms and Chris Lopez

**PROJECTIONS** – Venizio Martinez

FILM CREW - Mel Vorce, Ash Hernandez, Alejandro Luna,

**COSTUME DESIGN** – Caper Ratchford\*

COSTUME TEAM - Amiralee Chea, Gisele Daire, Mel Vorce, Jasper Williams

HAIR and MAKE-UP DESIGN - Sherry Alvarado\*

HAIR and MAKE-UP TEAM – Hallie Marquez, Olivia Garcia, Alena Okorogu, Laniah Edwards, Isabel Rodriguez, Caitlyn Turen

SCENIC DESIGN - Arriel R. de Picciotto, Andy Campbell, Serena Morris

SCENIC PAINTING – Lia Lopez, Sophia Sanchez, Amaris Franco, Arriel R. de Picciotto, Sherry Alvarado\*

SCENIC CONSTRUCTION – James Ruiz, Orson Burke, EJ Saintlouis\*, Melody Palma, Myles Taylor, Koda Gudiel, Damaris Gough, Sam Busch

RUN CREW – Myles Taylor, Venizio Martinez, Chris Lopez, Amaris Franco, Angel Anderson

HOUSE MANAGER / USHER – CC Stasiak

SOCIAL MEDIA - Natalie Trigueors\* and Sophia Zeledon\*

## **\*STUDENT THEATRE LEADERSHIP**

# <u>The Rydell High Rock 'n' Rollers</u>

**CONDUCTOR:** Jeff Markgraf Reed 1: John Asti Reed 2: Dennis Kaye Trumpet: Paul Litteral **Trombone:** Ed Weiss **Drums:** Corky Merrill Keyboard 1: Paul Stocker Keyboard 2: Tom Griep Guitar: Pablo Garcia-Quesada **Bass:** John Hatton

## **Rehearsal Pianist** Diane Feldman



## A Note from the Director...

1971: curtain up on a little rock 'n roll musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey about teenagers navigating life the 1950s.

2025: curtain is still up! *GREASE* has become one the most popular productions of all time, and the 17th longest running Broadway musical. It is still a favorite for regional and community theaters, schools, colleges and summer stock companies across the nation and beyond.

*GREASE*, set in 1959, follows a group of high schoolers steering their way through senior year. Before our eyes we witness friendships, romances, peer pressure, rebellion, expectations, fitting in, the search for Self, uncovering Identity, acceptance, rejection, trying, failing, cliques, labels, teasing, respect, succeeding, resolving, becoming: moments of life experienced by all of us. How wonderful we have had this opportunity to delve into a piece of theatre that allows us to explore timeless, relatable, accessible, ever-relevant themes!

Although Jacobs and Casey intended *GREASE* to be a simple glimpse into the lives of teenagers in the 1950's, our excavation of the script, story and characters revealed significant, relevant and applicable themes parallelling modern contemporary life today: young people exploring self-expression, young people navigating the balancing of expectation (from self, parents, teachers, friends, society), young people making - (in the words of cherished civil rights activist, John Lewis) "Good Trouble" in an effort to establish a thriving culture of their own and distance themselves from conservative and regulating adults.

Contributing to the creation of this thriving teenage culture, was the developing popularity of rock 'n roll in the 1950s. Venues like dance halls, ballrooms, clubs, and outdoor festivals provided safe spaces for young people from every walk of life to come together and be their truest, most energetic selves. Rock'n Roll was a catalyst in breaking down walls of racial segregation. Historically, music and dance have fostered connection, camaraderie and spirit...and continue to do so today.

Directorially, I wanted to veer away from portraying the familiar *GREASE* characters as 'the usual caricatures' audiences anticipate seeing. My goal was to evolve a fresh storytelling and guide students toward building a 'real world' full of 'real people' with authentic and genuine connections. Our collective hope is - you will grow to know the characters you see on stage and take a vested interest in all their moments together.

I am so proud of our young performing artists and everything they have accomplished – both on stage and off. We have "had us a blast" working and playing together! Thank you for taking this "hydromatic" ride back to 1959 with us!

~ Diane

## **Rydell High Production/Creative Team**

### **DIANE FELDMAN**

Director / Musical Director / Producer / TK-12 Theatre Coordinator / Co-Program Design

### LINDSEY REI

Choreographer

## **ANGELICA ALVAREZ**

Technical and Scenic Design Director / Sound Engineer / Stage Manager/ Stagecraft Instructor

### WILL SCHNEIDER

Technical and Scenic Design Director / Scenic Construction / Technical Director / Stagecraft Instructor

> CALVIN MARTIN Costume Design and Construction

## SHELLY ALVARADO

Hair and Make-Up Design

JOEL BONILLA Performing Arts Academic Coach, Headshot Photography, Production Photography, Co-Program Design

CAITLYN TUREN Production Assistant / WDV BACKSTAGE Coordinator

> JEFF MARKGRAF Conductor

## <u>Meet the Rydell High Class of 1959!</u>

Natalie Trigueros as... Lailah Kelso as...







Adrian Hernandez as... Lincoln Faust as...



MARTY

Mel Vorce as..

Alexis Lyles as...

FRENCHY Ash Hernandez as... Elizabeth Bowker as...



Daniel Gutierrez as...



**DANNY ZUKO** Isabel Rodriguez as...

BARBARA

PATTY SIMCOX

Ariadna Escamilla as...



**KENICKIE** 



NANCY

Airsten Stringer as...





Andrew Morales as... Chris Brown as...





ROBBIE

Gisele Daire as...



**RYDELL HIGH** CHEERLEADER



ROGER

**Bianca Martinez as...** 



**MISS LYNCH** 

Noelle Scales as...



**RYDELL HIGH** CHEERLEADER



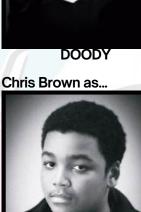
**RYDELL HIGH** CHEERLEADER







RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADER



Amirahlee Chea as...



STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Samantha Sanchez as...



STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT

Arianna Rodriguez as... Syriany Davis as...



STUDENT COUNCIL SPIRIT CAPTAIN

Bee Townsend as...

Claire Emanuel as...



STUDENT COUNCIL TREASURER

Eugenia Fan Club VICE PRESIDENT

Noah Pasko as...



**CHA CHA DeGREGARIO** 

Logan Benavente as...

**VINCE FONTAINE** 





VAL FONTAINE



**EUGENIA FLORCZYK** 

Valeria Gonzalez as...



CHESS CLUB PRESIDENT



STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY

Liam Ferrer as...

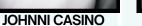
Eugenia Fan Club PRESIDENT

Yulianna Chavez as...



**CHESS CLUB** VICE PRESIDENT





Bethany Watson as...

# <u>Meet the Rydell High Class of 1959!</u>

#### Adrian Hernandez as DANNY ZUKO (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade)

Adrian is excited to show the audience his version of Danny Zuko. No matter what, he will try his hardest to prove that Danny is more than just a Greaser. Adrian now has two types of theater experience, one in elementary when he sang Tomorrow from Annie and played Gomez Addams in the musical hosted before this one. Another experience he had was the Winter showcase which he found fun in the moment till he listened to the audio and realized he had a lot of improving to do. Adrian takes a lot of his inspiration for this from himself. When it came to acting, he tried to use the same sort of acting that he sees in movies when the male protagonist is attempting to obtain his love interest in many ways. Finally, Adrian hopes everyone who watches the shows enjoys every small addition added to every character that truly makes them come to life. Enjoy the Show!

#### Airsten Stringer as RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADER (Da Vinci Science, 9th Grade

Airsten is in ninth grade, and is so excited to be joining the Da Vinci theatre community! She has had such a great experience working on this show and meeting so many new people through theatre. She has learned so much and has had such a fun time! She thanks Diane and Lindsey for being so helpful and amazing and hopes you all enjoy the show!!

#### Alena Okorogu as RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADER (Da Vinci Science, 9th Grade)

Alena Okorogu is a freshman at Da Vinci Science High School where she is currently navigating the world of acting and theatrical arts! She started theatre very young, starring in a variety of plays including The Little Mermaid, Cinderella, You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, Mary Poppins, Annie, and now her newest show—playing a cheerleader—in the beloved Grease. Alena loves to read, dance, watch tv shows, play video games, hang out with her friends, explore her fashion sense, and spend time with her family.

#### Alexis Lyles as FRENCHY (Da Vinci Connect, 12th Grade)

Alexis is very excited to be a part of Da Vinci's second-ever musical! After being in the Addams Family, she for sure wanted to be a part of the theatre family again. Over the first semester, she has learned a lot of techniques of breath control and maintaining energy. As well as making certain character decisions by playing the iconic role of French. The rehearsal process for this musical was indeed a challenge. Going from memorizing multiple lines to being dance caption for the whole cast. In the end, it all worked out. She hopes you will enjoy the creativity and work that was put into this show!

#### Amirahlee Chea as STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Connect, 10th Grade)

Amirah is insanely grateful to be a part of Wiseburn Da Vinci's second official musical! She had a marvelous time working on the Winter Showcase last year in crew with hair/ makeup, run crew and also by delivering her own poem. Additionally, she had a very fun time as a festercestor in The Addam's Family. Once again in cast, she hopes to impress the audience with her role as student council president! Amirah has loved performing since birth, and has always wanted to be an entertainer and actress. Being in theater has allowed her to indulge in both her onstage and backstage interests. She is constantly motivated and inspired by her remarkable castmates and is ecstatic to give the audience a nostalgic show through the unique character she hopes to display on stage. She thanks you all so much for supporting the Performing Arts program and gives a ginormous thank you to Diane, Lindsey and Ryan for guiding us with patient and loving hands.

#### Andrew Morales as MANNY (Da Vinci Science, 12th Grade)

#### Ariadna Escamilla as PATTY SIMCOX (Da Vinci Connect, 11th Grade)

Ariadna is extremely thrilled to be part of Da Vinci's sophomore musical! Ever since she was little, Ariadna has been very passionate about performing, whether in the shower, in front of friends, or on stage. One of her greatest joys is using her presence and voice to tell stories and transport the audience to new, undiscovered worlds. Ariadna has been part of the performing arts program at Da Vinci Schools since it first opened with Choir and later on, the Musical Theatre opportunity. Ariadna's love for drama, comedy, and music inspired her to audition for this year's production of Grease. After a long journey of hard work, obstacles and SO much fun, she is happy to perform for you as Patty Simcox!

Arianna Rodriguez as STUDENT COUNCIL SPIRIT CAPTAIN (Da Vinci Communications, 10th Grade) Arianna Rodriguez plays the Student Council Spirit Leader. This is her 1st year in theater besides a previous acting class with Diane who encouraged her to join Musical Theater and she is happy to bring joy and pride to the program. She's always had a love for the performing arts but never had the confidence to pursue such thing, especially musical theater. She's happy to finally have such friends who make her feel comfortable and proud to be different and loud like she is.

#### Ash Hernandez as DOODY (Da Vinci Comunications, 12th Grade)

Ash is a 18 year old with a long time passion for performing arts. Since being Elsa in their first musical production in their middle school, they've sought out ways to continue that thrill. They now join Grease as a last "hurrah" before graduating in 2025.

#### Beatrice (Bee) Townsend as EUGENIA FLORCZYK (Da Vinci Connect, 11th Grade)

Bee is currently a junior enrolled at Da Vinci Connect High School. She is thrilled to be returning to the program after playing an ancestor in last year's production of The Addams Family. Outside of Da Vinci, Bee has also been a part of El Segundo Youth Drama since 5th grade. Some of her previous roles include Mrs. Teavee (Charlie and the Chocolate Factory), Oz (The Wizard of Oz), Kelsi (High School Musical), Mrs. Puff (Spongebob Squarepants the Musical), and Spiker (James and the Giant Peach). In addition to theatre, Bee also loves to experiment with fashion and makeup. She would like to thank the cast, crew, and everyone else who made this show possible! Lastly, she asks that you please continue to support the arts!

#### Bethany Watson as VAL FONTAINE (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade)

Bethany is very excited to be a part of Davinci School's performing arts production of Grease! Their previous experience in musical theater include WDV's first production of The Addams Family (Cousin Itt) and performing arts winter showcases in 2023 and 2024. Bethany just doesn't have an interest in musical theater, but also enjoys drawing, animating cartoons, and making stuffed animals and puppets. They are so grateful that you came to see Grease and hope you enjoy the show!

#### Bianca Martinez as MISS LYNCH (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade)

Bianca has always loved musical theater, especially live! She has been a part of theatre classes since elementary school. Now, this is Bianca's second year of musical theater and she continues to have a love and appreciation for it. Last year she played THING in **The Addams Family**, and now she has embraced this opportunity to take a step forward and play MISS LYNCH! Performing Arts has always been an interest of hers, and she is grateful how much participating has immensely helped her improve her vocals and acting! Bianca continues to step out of her comfort zone and thrive in this fantastic Da Vinci theatre journey.

#### Chris Brown as ROBBIE (Da Vinci Communications, 9th Grade)

#### Claire Emanuel as STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY (Da Vinci Science, 9th Grade)

Claire Emanuel is thrilled to be a part of this production and continue expanding her knowledge of theater. She has previously performed as Mrs. Roosevelt and the Dogcatcher in Haven's production of Annie Jr., and has appeared in three Da Vinci theater showcases. She is in ninth grade at Da Vinci Science and very excited to keep learning.

#### Daniel Gutierrez as ROGER (Da Vinci Communications, 11th Grade)

Daniel Gutierrez is excited to be participating in his second show with Da Vinci Performing Arts! Some previous roles have been Victor Frankenstein in WDV 2023 Winter Showcase, Fester in The Addams family, and various others. He has had such a fun and great time during this process and is proud to be in such an amazing community within theatre. He thanks Diane and Lindsey for everything. He hopes you all love the show as much as he has loved perfecting and performing it for you!

#### Elizabeth Bowker as JAN (Da Vinci Science, 10th Grade)

Elizabeth is just "mooning" over her WDV Theater debut in GREASE! This show joins the ranks with some other favorite musicals she's performed in, such as Into the Woods, Mary Poppins, and Beauty and the Beast. Outside of theater, Elizabeth enjoys being part of the Society of Women Engineers at DVS. She hopes this production of GREASE reminds you to find joy and stay true to yourself. Much gratitude to Diane, Lindsey, Will, Angelica, student leadership, and her fellow castmates. Thank you for this amazing opportunity and community!

#### Gisele Daire as RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADER (Da Vinci Connect, 10th Grade)

Gisele is ecstatic to participate in Da Vinci's upcoming musical, Grease! This is her fourth production with the theater program here at Da Vinci. But she has always been passionate about performing. Her passion for performing started with dance classes when she was three and singing whenever or wherever she got the chance. At four, her interest in theater was sparked when she saw her big sister, Aliya, play The Queen of Hearts in Alice and Wonderland. She has been fascinated with fashion design from a young age, as well. She feels that Da Vinci's theater program, that allows her to be both cast and crew, is the perfect place for her to express both her passions: performing and designing. Gisele is so excited and proud to share all the work the cast and crew have put in for the past six months and hopes that everyone enjoys the show!

#### Isabel Rodriguez as BARBARA (Da Vinci Science, 10th Grade)

Isabel / Buggy / Belle is excited to participate in Da Vinci's second musical, GREASE! During her lifetime she has played in multiple musicals and performances such as The Jungle Book in fourth grade, The Lion King in fifth, numerous plays for her middle school, and she starred in The Greatest Showman. During her free time she loves to sing, play music, do art, and most of all read! One of her favorite quotes is "It was books that made me feel that perhaps I was not completely alone. They could be honest with me, and I with them." — Cassandra Clare. Isabel has dedicated her life to the arts and music, and aspires to be a singer/songwriter and actor. She is thankful for the support of her family and the love and friendship she gets from her amazing theater family. She pursues her dreams in honor of her grandmother Evelyn, who always supported her no matter what. She hopes one day she'll make her family proud. Thank you Cast and Crew!

#### Jada Mitchell as JOHNNI CASINO (Da Vinci Design, 9th Grade)

Jada is a 15 year old girl is who attends DVD. She's someone who's been into musical theater since her 6th grade year, but unfortunately was never able to partake in it until now! She has the honor to take the role as JOHNNI CASINO in the show GREASE. She's excited to be able to step into this position, and hopes to bring a new light and fun entertainment to the show! She is ready to give you a sense of just what GREASE is truly about.

#### Lailah Kelso as RIZZO (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade)

Lailah Kelso, who just goes by Kelso, has a passion and love for singing that has been with her since birth. Almost a natural calling, Kelso has gained confidence and joy in singing, performing, and making other people laugh, cry, and smile. Throughout her years, she has been in musicals like Les Miserables and Addams Family. Also, plays like The Interview of the End. This opportunity opened her door for the love of acting and being on stage. Kelso has captivated the audience and has brought out the beauty in the crazy character she plays on stage. Kelso is overwhelmingly grateful and thrilled to work with her peers. She is hoping the audience enjoys the musical. Her eyes are set on the prize, and she hopes they see how much emotion she puts into the powerful character of Betty Rizzo.

#### Laniah Edwards as MARTY (Da Vinci Communications, 10th Grade)

Laniah is ecstatic to be a part of this year's show Grease! She's always shared a deep love for theatrical arts and was never afraid to get up on stage and be herself. It's a joy to her to be able to play Marty, and she is very grateful to receive the opportunity to do so! Enjoy the show! Grease is the word!

#### Liam Ferrer as EUGENIA FAN CLUB PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Communications, 10th Grade)

Liam Ferrer is a 15-year old aspiring media artist that takes an interest in anything horror and story oriented. One who's always in for a good story, he joined this production for more reasons than one. He's quite dramatic and expressive at times, which gives him a lot of potential for the stage. Although not that social, Liam has quite a group of people in his life he can rely on, trust and love. He's been in theater for quite a while, and although high school theater is tougher than anything he's faced yet, he views it as a challenge he won't back down from. He views himself as a "conscientious thinker who questions life, the universe and everything daily." A very jittery and energetic person, Liam, at the moment, wants nothing but to harness the raw energy that people give and turn it into something amazing. His message to you: "Sit back, relax, and watch as our energy amazes you tonight."

#### Lincoln Faust as KENICKIE (Da Vinci Communications, 12th Grade)

Lincoln Faust is a senior at Da Vinci Communications and is deeply grateful for the Da Vinci Schools Theater Program, which has allowed him to grow from a learner to a performer! He is especially thankful for the guidance of Theater Director Diane Feldman, Choreographer Lindsey Rei, and the supportive staff and peers. Lincoln has a passion for acting and has enjoyed every opportunity to perform! After his high school graduation in June, he is set to deploy with the U.S. Navy on July 7th!

#### Logan Benavente as VINCE FONTAINE (Da Vinci Communications, 10th Grade)

Logan is ready to present your main brain Vince Fontaiiiine. This is his first-ever theater show, and it has been a blast! Theater has been an experience like no other and has taught him all sorts of lessons about life, managing time, and self care. He'd like to thank his parents for always being there and adapting to the new theater schedule with him. He'd also like to thank everyone who made this show possible, his friends who have been along for the ride, and Mark, who he hopes isn't reading this. Grease is the word!

#### Melody Vorce as SONNY (Da Vinci Communications, 12th Grade)

Melody has always loved the stage. Something about the feeling of the lights, laughter, and sense of community and belonging always felt like home. Last year, when news of a theater program hit, she didn't hesitate to sign up, despite having a busy schedule, because theater has a draw that is irresistible. A year later, and that passion has only grown. Having the opportunity to play Sonny on stage feels like such an honor, but being around all of these amazing people and finding a true community is truly more than she could have ever dreamed of. Thank you to Diane and the theater family of Da Vinci Schools.

#### Natalie Trigueros as SANDY (Da Vinci Design, 12th Grade)

Natalie Trigueros is thrilled to take the stage for her final musical performance here at Da Vinci! Previously Wednesday Addams in last year's school musical "The Addams Family", Natalie is filled with gratitude for the incredible opportunities the WDV Performing Arts has given her. After she walks the graduation stage in June, she plans to continue pursuing her dream by majoring in musical theater, a passion she has carried within her since she was a little girl. She is so excited to finish this musical season off with a bang as the iconic Sandy Dumbrowski, a role that is beyond human words for her. She extends her heartfelt thanks to the significant people in her life who have gotten her where she is today. Loving, caring, and supporting her unconditionally. She can't wait for you, the audience, to experience this fantastic show both cast and crew have extraordinarily crafted, GREASE. Natalie will forever be Hopelessly Devoted to this remarkable program, experience, and community.

#### Noah Pasko as EUGENIA FAN CLUB VICE PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Communications, 9th Grade)

This is Noah's first time trying theatre, although he has always been interested in acting. For many years, Noah has wanted to be a television actor, and work on movies and shows. Starting out with this program has been an enlightening experience, and has shown him how working in performing arts is. Noah would like to thank all the friends that have helped him through the process of participating in this musical, and his family for always being there for him. Grease is the word!

#### Noelle Scales as RYDELL HIGH CHEERLEADER (Da Vinci Communications, 9th Grade)

This is Noelle's first real play (where they turn the lights off and have bios yay!). She is ecstatic to bring to life this energetic, confident character. At the age of 10 Noelle took two theater Summer camps -aladdin where she played the Cave of wonders and Cinderella where she played an evil step sister. She enjoys all things art, and is known to be very dramatic, so theater is the perfect place for her. She would like to thank the new Da Vinci Performing Arts program for giving her the opportunity she might have never sought out on her own.

#### Rebecca Ortiz as NANCY (Da Vinci Science, 10th Grade)

Rebecca is incredibly grateful to be a part of the production of Grease! From a young age, Rebecca loved to dance, sing, and create anything of the arts. She participated in talent shows during elementary school and was a part of her church choir until middle school. She struggled with confidence and was too afraid to perform until she finally took that leap of faith in this year's Grease production! The WDV performing arts program has opened up doors for her that she never thought to walk through. Now, her dreams of performing on stage have become a reality and she doesn't plan on stopping. She's excited to perform as Nancy from the iconic Pink Ladies and has worked hard to make the character her own. Grease is the first production she's performed in and she plans on being a part of many more!

#### Samantha Sanchez as CHA CHA DeGREGARIO (Da Vinci Communications, 10th Grade)

Samantha is very excited to come back to the performing arts program for the second time. Last year, Samantha danced in the ensemble of the The Addams Family Musical. She's thrilled to be in this year's Da Vinci's production of Grease. After years of dance classes, she has been loving it ever since. She was so excited to help everyone as dance captain, and she hopes everyone enjoys the show!

#### Serena Morris as STUDENT COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade)

Serena is really excited to participate in theater. She's previously been in Aladdin, and Pirates of Grammar Island in elementary school. But now she gets to add theater into her high school experience. Serena really loves dancing and enjoys dancing in Grease, but she also does jazz dancing outside of theater. It's Serena's first year at Da Vinci Design, as she's transferred from Connect. She's really grateful to be able to immerse in theater and grow with a great community. Serena is really grateful to Da Vinci Schools, and Diane for the production. Serena dedicates her performance to her church that gave her, the Aladdin theater experience.

#### Syriany Davis as STUDENT COUNCIL SECRETARY (Da Vinci Connect, 10th Grade)

Syriany is super excited to be part of Grease! When she was younger, she always loved being a part of musicals and singing. Although she is usually a very self-conscious person who is often worried about embarrassing herself, or even talking to people she doesn't know, musicals help her because she gets to act as someone else. She has been in musicals such as You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown as Sally, Lion King (ensemble), and Guys and Dolls(ensemble). Syriany was in choir and had private singing lessons throughout elementary to middle school, and recently picked it back up. She hopes to expand her creativity in the future and be able to have a chance to play bigger roles. She loves and appreciates all the cast members! Enjoy the show!

#### Valeria Gonzalez as CHESS CLUB PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Design, 11th Grade )

#### Yulianna Chavez as CHESS CLUB VICE PRESIDENT (Da Vinci Communications, 9th Grade)

Since she was a little girl, she loved movies and dreamed of being in one someday. As she got older, she went to a theater performance and realized that acting and dancing were things she wanted to do. In middle school, she joined more activities like clubs and sports and even won first place in an art contest twice, which made her feel proud. She also got the chance to be in a video at school, and once she was in front of the camera, she knew she liked it. When she got to high school, she joined an interview program that helped her get comfortable with being on camera. In ninth grade, she decided to try out the theater program with Mis. Diane and discovered that theater was one of her passions. Her first role was in \*Grease\* as Dana, a member of the chess club, and even though it was a small part, she was grateful for the experience and was determined to do her best!



# <u>Meet the Production/Creative Team!</u>

### DIANE FELDMAN (Director / Musical Director / TK-12 Theatre Coordinator)



Diane is a Los Angeles-based director/musical director, accompanist, theatre educator, and actress who is beyond grateful life planted her at Da Vinci Schools! What a gift it has been for her to sow theatrical seeds and watch them take root and grow. Her cherished performing arts students continue to fill her heart daily, and she is continually in awe of how they have evolved into responsible, confident and dedicated artists in such a short time. What a blessing it is to raise the curtain together on year two of Musical Theatre Production!

Diane has been training and educating youth and young adults in the art and craft of theatre for more than 30 years. She believes passionately in the empowering possibilities of the performing arts, and loves utilizing them to teach valuable skills and share meaningful lessons that can be applied both on and off the stage. She has created and established several drama and musical theatre programs for elementary, middle and high schools in both Los Angeles and New York that remain in operation today and continue to serve over 500 students annually. Diane is also Founder/Artistic Director of the award-winning Children's Civic Light

Opera Theatre Company (CCLO<sup>™</sup>), one of the Los Angeles area's longest running, most comprehensive educational musical theatre programs for evolving young performing artists ages 5-25. Proudly, several of her alums can be seen on Broadway stages as performers (HAMILTON, PARADE, MOULIN ROUGE, PIPPIN, MAMMA MIA, CHICAGO), designers, musicians, and production staff. She continues to train these talented storytellers and cherishes the many years of friendship they continue to celebrate. Diane looks forward to maintaining a meaningful connection with her WDV students through the years, as well.

Diane is delighted to be on staff at Debbie Allen Dance Academy where she teaches Acting and Musical Theatre in their RISE program. Additionally, she is a vocal, acting, and audition prep coach (and enjoys teaching piano when the moments permit.) Recently, she returned to the stage portraying the lead character of Rebecca in playwright, Jennifer Maisel's, EIGHT NIGHTS. She has a master's degree in Music and Performing Arts Professions (emphasis in Educational Theatre) from New York University, holds a Single Subject Teaching Credential in Theatre, and is a member of Actor's Equity Association, happily receiving her membership performing in Theatre for Young Audiences tours and making young

people giggle all across the country.

Diane celebrates theatre as a catalyst for personal, academic and artistic exploration, growth and impact. She enjoys designing and facilitating arts-blended curriculum, and believes theatre is one of the most powerful, most transformative resources we have for developing informed, confident and capable individuals, and thriving communities.

Thank you to the production and design teams for SO many magnificent moments! Your time and talent make every day an absolute joy!

Thank you, family and friends, for your continued support, not only of me, but of all the young people with whom I work! (Dad - you would've LOVED everything about Da Vinci! And you would've loved seeing some of your shirts on some of our actors!)

And, finally, to the audience - thank you for being here with admiration and applause!

### LINDSEY REI (Choreographer)



Lindsey is a passionate theatre and dance educator and loves sharing those passions with the next generation of theatre lovers. Musical Theatre was her very first love. She attended Hamilton Academy of Music for high school (Diane was actually HER high school theatre director!). Then continued studying Theatre and Dance at Cal State Fullerton and at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy. She has been performing and choreographing across stages all over the United States for over 30 years. After taking some time away from the theatre world to be a Mommy to her daughter (Sophie), she was strongly encouraged (by Diane!!) to come out from early retirement and be a part of bringing theatre and dance to the students at Da Vinci. Boy is she soooooo glad that she joyfully accepted that gentle nudge. It has been such a true joy to help grow and expand this program alongside Diane.

A VERY special thanks goes to Sophie and Noah for supporting her and putting up with the intense rehearsal hours and late nights of putting on a show! "I'd also like to give thanks to the families of Da Vinci for taking a chance on Diane and I and allowing your children to spend countless hours with us to put on this special show. We love your kids and have LOVED watching all of them learn and grow and create. It has been so much fun! Enjoy the show!"

### CALVIN MARTIN (Costume Design and Construction)



Calvin Martin is a dancer, choreographer, and costume designer who has worked nationally and internationally. He has participated in the ballroom scene on and off for 14 years. Hailing from Brooklyn, NY, Calvin is a versatile dancer, choreographer, costume designer, and arts educator with over 20 years of experience. His extensive career includes choreography work in diverse locations such as Africa, Los Angeles, Berlin, China, and New York. Beyond his choreography, Calvin has made a mark as a costume designer, crafting pieces for the ballroom community as well as for dance and musical productions. Passionate about education, he teaches dance within the school system, using the arts to empower and inspire young people.

### WILL SCHNEIDER (Technical and Scenic Design Director / Scenic Construction / Technical Director / Stagecraft Instructor)



Will Schneider is excited for his first production being one of the Technical Theater Consultants for DaVinci Performing Arts' musical Grease! He studied at California State University, Fullerton for a Bachelor's in Theatre Arts with emphasis in Technical Design and Production; and is a skilled Technical Director, Scenic Designer, and Carpenter with experience in many other areas in theatre. He is currently a Co-Consultant for the Stagecraft Seminar at DaVinci Schools, a Theater Technician at Los Alamitos High School, and is a Production Crew Member at Go Button Productions. He is very thankful for all the students' hard work putting this special production together and hopes they all take something away from this experience!

### ANGELICA ALVAREZ (Technical and Scenic Design Director / Sound Engineer / Stage Manager/ Stagecraft Instructor)



Angelica Alvarez is so proud of her first production as one of the Technical Theater Consultants for DaVinci Performing Arts' musical Grease! She studied at Boston University for Sound Design and has valuable experience in Audio Engineering, Stage Management, Lighting Design, and many other areas in theater. She is currently a Co-Consultant for the Stagecraft Seminar at DaVinci Schools, a Theater Technician at Los Alamitos High School, and is a freelance Audio Engineer locally. She is very proud of all the students' hard work and commitment to making this show the best it could be. P.S. She is also a very skilled scenic painter as seen by the signage work presented in the show!

### CAITLYN TUREN (Production Assistant / WDV Backstage Coordinator)



With Diane as a mom, Caitlyn could not avoid being exposed to theatre and having a love for it. She was a member of her mom's theatre company for years when she was young, but shifted to the world of dance where she trained professionally in ballet for 10 years with the Los Angeles Ballet. She danced 16 Nutcrackers across five venues each December throughout her time with Los Angeles Ballet, performing on stages such as The Dolby Theatre and Royce Hall. In high school, she continued to pursue her passion for dance and was a member of the varsity hip-hop team where she competed at several dance competitions throughout Los Angeles. In addition to her love for dance, she also works on recording music, where she gets to explore writing original songs. Currently, she is studying communications at CSUN, and hopes to enter the field of music in publicity and marketing. She is so proud of all the students, and all their growth and hard work throughout this production. Working with the talented staff and amazing kids has been incredible, and she hopes you all enjoy the show!

### JOEL BONILLA (Performing Arts Academic Coach, Headshot Photography, Production Photography, Co-Program Design)



Joel is so grateful to be a part of the Wiseburn Da Vinci Performing Arts team as an Academic Coach! Working with these incredibly talented students has been such a rewarding experience—he truly cherishes every moment, whether it's supporting them in class, capturing their headshots, or freezing special memories through production photography. Being part of Grease has been especially exciting, from helping behind the scenes to co-designing this very program you're reading! Watching the students bring their characters to life with so much heart and dedication has been incredibly inspiring. Joel is beyond proud of them and can't wait for everyone to see the magic they've created!

## How much do you know about 1950's slang?!

Test your knowledge! (Answer key below...)

1. BLOW OFF a. ignore b. defeat in a race c. release anger

2. BUNDIE a. a boy in need of a haircut b. a type of car c. another name for a Principal

> 3. CIRCLED a. married b. ganged up on c. dated

> > 4. CLANKED a. yelled b. ran track c. rejected

5. CUT THE GAS a. Turn off your car b. be quiet c. fart

6. EARTH PADS a. a type of a feminine supply b. another name for a den c. shoes

7. NEST a. a good looking boy b. a good looking teacher c. a hair-do

> 8. FROSTED a. angry b. cold c. shy

9. RADIOACTIVE
a. Very popular
b. Very blonde
c. Very tired

10. LUMPY a. depressed b. heavy set c. mediocre

11. MOLDY a. rotten b. a smelly person c. a bad teacher

> 12. MUSH a. homework b. chores c. oatmeal

13. RUNNING LIGHTS a. headlights b. eyes c. street lights

> 14. SCREAM a. shout b. go fast c. fun time

15. SLURG a. a milkshake b. a tattle tale c. a best friend

8-9 9-9 10-0 11-0 2-9 3-9 4-0 2-9 15-9 8-9 10-0 11-0 12-9 13-9 14-9 15-9

# Working and Playing Together!





































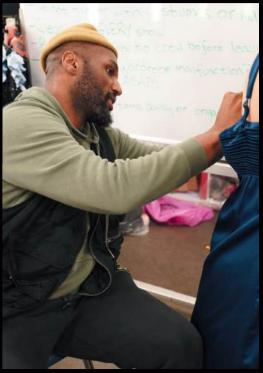




















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#### **About the Authors/Composers**

JIM JACOBS (Book, Music and Lyrics). 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 remains 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 (Author, Composer and Lyricist) 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 Kingston 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.

"The fifties - they seem to have taken place on a sunny afternoon that asked nothing of you except a drifting belief in the moment and its power to satisfy." ~ Elizabeth Hardwick ~

## To our Cast and Crew! Our adorable 'ankle biters!' WOWZA! What a show!

Your contributions to this process and production have been extraordinary! The energy you bring both on stage and behind the scenes is magical!

This is a big show filled with many moments of song, dance, set shifts, tech cues, costume changes, and more: none of you were, "dropouts!"

Though you weren't always "teen angels," you did manage not to "moon" anyone! (Yay, WDV Ringtails!)

You "rock 'n' rolled" like party Kings and Queens, and made

the many "magic changes" we asked for all along the way.

We've gotten "Choked Up" watching you bring this story to life on the stage!

Thank you for "shakin' at the high school" day in and day out these past few months. We are truly grateful you shared your time and talents with us!

We've 'had us a blast' with all of you! You are adored and celebrated! "We'll always be together!" A wop bom a loo mop And wop bam boom!

Diane, Lindsey, Angelica, Will, Calvin, Shelly, Joel and Caitlyn

"The young always have the same problem – how to rebel and conform at the same time." ~ Quentin Crisp

# ENORMOUS GRATITUDE to actor, Barry Pearl!

(DOODY in the *GREASE* film and SONNY in the *GREASE* first National Broadway Tour)



The moments you generously shared with our cast and crew were magical, memorable and magnificent! Thanks for singing with us, hangin' with us, sharing stories and making us giggle!

## We Give We Three Cheers for Thee...!

DA VINCI SCHOOLS, WISEBURN UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, DA VINCI SCHOOLS FUND, AND THE WISEBURN EDUCATION FOUNDATION - Enormous gratitude for believing in the power and possibilities of the Performing Arts! Look at the gifts you have bestowed upon our students and our community! Theatre has come to life in The Blackbox because of your generosity, kindness and open hearts! Thank you!

**CENTRAL OFFICE TEAM, SAFETY SQUAD, SUPERVISION STAFF and CUSTODIAL CREW -**Producing a musical is a vast undertaking...and we absolutely could not have done this without your kindness, assistance, support, humor, flexibility, willingness and teamwork! You continue to take such excellent care of us. You make a complicated process seem simple. You...are the very, very best there is! (Extra shout-out to Jazmin and Erick for being our wonderful night-watch!)

**DR. MATTHEW WUNDER and MICHAEL AMATO** – Your generosity is embraced more powerfully than we can explain. Your listening ears, your kind guidance, your "yes's" have welcomed deep beauty, profound meaning and significant connection between those within our school community and beyond.

VICENTE, NANCY, JOHN, CARLA, EMILY, SARA, DEBBIE – The hours, the thoughts, the ideas, the support you have shared continue to bring our theatrical dreams to fruition. We could not be more grateful! (CARLA...last year I said, "We're casting you in the next one!" I meant it! Brava, on your Da Vinci debut!)

**DR. ERIN WHALEN** – Performing Arts Supervisor and Assistant Superintendent extraordinaire ... (who can now add stage star to his resume!) What a GIFT you are to our Performing Arts community! How in the world did we get so lucky?! The joy, understanding, leadership and wisdom you share bolsters us daily! How meaningful the moments you have spent with our cast and crew – connecting with both students and staff, alike. The gratitude runs deep! Please know – The Blackbox doors are ALWAYS open! We heart you!

#### DREAM TEAM: Lindsey, Angelica, Will, Calvin, Joel, Shelly and Caitlyn!

None of this could have been possible without all of you and your unmatched hearts, souls and talents! My adoration and appreciation for each of you runnethses (is that a word?) over!! It has been extraordinary to create side-by-side and work together to bring the stage to life. Your energy, professionalism, knowledge, wisdom and love for our students fills my soul...and theirs. We laugh together, we cry together, we problem solve together, we ...have truly become a little family...who speaks in accents and makes up words. You are fabulous educators who our students trust and adore. You are rockstar theatricians making a difference in The Blackbox and in the world! We ARE: Dinsey, Willgelica, Calvino, Jo-elly, ShellySherryShelly, and Big!

**STUDENT THEATRE LEADERSHIP: Sophia, Ryan, Natalie, EJ, Kai, Caper, Sherry,** Thank you for stepping up, stepping in and making an enormous difference! What a blessing it has been to share theatre with all of you! You are treasured!

**JEFFY** – you did it again! Layers of musical loveliness with frosting on top! We could not be more grateful! Ain't nothin' like live theatre with live music! Thank you for filling the Blackbox with joyful noise!

**CORKY** - Together again! Thank you for escaping the cold of Wisconsin to come hang in the warmth of our orchestra pit! How sweet it is to hear your drum again after all these years! (Can we make this a tradition?!)

**CAITLYN** - Love you bigger than all the universes. Duh! What an exquisite impact you have made on all of us!

**AMY and ROB RAICHLEN** – To my sweet sister, Amy, and her husband – my beloved brother-inlaw of cherished and unexpected memory, Rob – I will be forever grateful to you for building my bridge to Da Vinci.

**SHERI FELDMAN** – Mom! Thank you for your generous and lasting donation of a beautiful new sewing machine!

**MRS. ALVARADO** – Thank you for sharing your hair and make-up skills (and your fabulous daughters) with us!

PROP DONORS - Thank you for providing us with items integral to the story!

SNACK and WATER DONORS - Thank you for filling our tummies with yummies!

**WDV BACKSTAGE Volunteers** – Thank you to the many volunteers who helped us in many ways! From selling concessions to running errands, you made the moments easier for all of us! May others follow your lead so we can grow an enormous group of family and friends who enjoy spending time and energy together supporting our performing arts programming!

**SOUTH BAY SOUND AND LIGHT / TOM HODDER** – One of the nicest, loveliest people we've ever met! Once again, you have made it possible for our students to be seen and heard! May our alliance continue on and on and on!

**MANHATTAN BEACH STUDIOS / MARK NICHOLAS** – ENORMOUS thanks to you and your team for continuing to capture our theatrical memories!

FAMILY INDUSTRIES - We LOVE our sweatshirts! Woohoooo!

**SUNSET PRINTING / DENNIS LANFR**E – You are a treasure! (A very patient treasure!) Thank you for printing our lovely playbills! SO MUCH gratitude!

**LAWRENCE and SALLY MARTIN of STUDIO ANTIQUES in El Segundo** – What fun we had exploring your aisles! Thank you for your generous contributions to our prop collection! (Look closely ... you'll recognize your wares!)

**DA VINCI ADMINISTRATION and FACULTY** – Thank you for believing in and supporting our students and their passions! They are so proud to share their work with you!

**TEAM PERFORMING ARTS** - What joy it is to work side-by-side! Team Performing Arts is just getting started! Here's to a future filled with a whole lot of fabulousness!

YOU, THE AUDIENCE - Thank you for enhacing the picture and for completing the puzzle!



## **Rock Around The Block**

Featuring performances by the TK - 2 Choir, High School Choir, and Studio Orchestra. Saturday, April 26, 2025 10:00am - 3:00pm Wiseburn Middle School

## Voices of Da Vinci Choir Spring Concert

Friday, May 23, 2025 6:00 - 8:00pm Blackbox Theater

## **Connect TK-8 Talent Showcase**

Friday, May 30, 2025 6:00 - 8:00pm Blackbox Theater

## WDV Performing Arts Spring Showcase

Saturday, June 7, 2025 4:00 - 6:00pm WDV Gymnasium

To our three beloved angels of blessed memory who are watching from the best seat in the house:

Sonny Feldman Manny Paraschos Rob Raichlen

We dedicated this performance to you.

We hope you're up in that malt shop in the sky devouring burgers, downing milkshakes, and dancing your hearts out to rock 'n roll. We love you. We miss you. We will carry you with us forever.