

## **SOCSA's "Grease" Is The One That You'll Want**

written by Christian McCleary, a junior at San Clemente High School 12/1/21

SOCSA's stunning rendition of Grease proves that grease really is the word, as a harmonious ensemble of teenagers struggles through the hardships of creating and maintaining healthy relationships with peers.

The beloved musical details the story of Sandy Dumbrowski (Caroline Field) as she moves to a new school and has a summer fling with a tough and charming Danny Zuko (Sebastian Bojorquez-Cantu). Expecting an end, but reuniting at Rydell High, the two love birds must find a way to handle conflicting morals, jealousy, and surrounding pressures all whilst passionately dancing and belting.

Caroline Field is the good-hearted and naive Sandy, effortlessly portraying her development from innocence to maturity via a buttery belt and timid posture that shifts later to that of a confident swagger. Her kind nature foils that of Danny Zuko's (Sebastian Bojorquez-Cantu) bad boy persona. Bojorquez-Cantu struts across the stage with the dominance of a lion ready to pounce on his prey, contributing enough confidence to justify any action. He crucially breaks into moments of vulnerability, shifting his posture to a defeated slouch, allowing connection with his audience.

Marty, a member of Sandy's gang of rebellious friends, is portrayed by Nici Curry. Curry tries to appear older than the others on stage, maintaining a lifted posture and nonchalant attitude, however directly contrasts this in her speech; Curry, pitting her voice high, clearly displays her juvenile actions. Her beautiful vocals during "Freddy My Love", performed while scampering across the stage, give her both a youthful air and a sense of maturity.

Contributing a comedic flair, Blake Basalla brightens the stage as Roger. Basalla demonstrates his comedic nature as he hops around the stage pouring his heart out about the art of mooning others. His high tone of voice creates a child-like mischievousness and highlights his half-baked pranks. Madeleine Reardon's Jan radiates her vivacious personality, complimenting Basalla perfectly. Reardon's nervous energy around Roger, demonstrated by twiddling thumbs and glances at the floor, incites audience members to root for the blossoming couple.

Well-executed technical elements match the talents of the cast. The set design by Elizabeth Field and Samuel Harraman innovatively uses the limited space on the stage. Functional doors allow sparkling hot rods to travel onto the stage quickly, maintaining the quick pace of the show.

Through the struggles of high school, SOCSA's "Grease" proves that every person involved is born to hand jive.