

Magic Changes at Orange Lutheran's "Grease"

written by Lizzy Doan, a senior at Fountain Valley High School

Set in the energetic and romantic times of the 1950s, Grease follows students at Rydell High as they try to fit in a cliquy environment. They journey to find a true belonging in their friendships, activities, and especially in love.

Juliana Zonni (Sandy Dumbrowski) excellently played the part of the new girl in school with her eagerness, naivety and gorgeous vocals. Her vocal tone and vibrato was impressively exhibited during "Summer Nights" all the way through belting with emotional vulnerability in "Hopelessly Devoted." Zonni commanded the stage and showed excellent character growth throughout the show beginning with a shy, more closed off posture to becoming bold and sassy in the ending song "You're the One that I Want."

Kyle Monson was a standout performer, playing the charismatic but goofy Doody. His song "Those Magic Changes" showcased his powerful voice and his comedic timing. Playing his guitar and partying with the other T-Birds, Monson had great chemistry with everyone onstage. Peyton Simon (Roger) and Monson portray an engaging and quirky friendship in their duet "Rock 'N' Roll Party Queen." Simon's bright vocals paired well with Monson's and his comedic talent paved the way for the show-stopping song "Mooning."

Brogan Driscoll (Eugene) never broke character with his nerdy, hunched over posture and nasal, high-pitched voice. Even though he had limited stage time, his presence was shown even in scenes where he didn't have dialogue. In particular, he acted as if he didn't know how to dance or talk to girls while he was in the background. He also executed every piece of choreography, never breaking character.

The hair and makeup team impressively made many '50s curlers for the song "Beauty School Dropout" out of pool noodles, which encapsulated the dreamy and over-the-top nature of the song.

The marketing and publicity team did an excellent job spreading the word to their community about "Grease." While visiting elementary schools in their "Grease on Tour" program, the students were able to successfully publicize their show with performances, bracelets, and flyers to a younger audience. They also had many fundraisers including t-shirts, root bear floats, and a night at Ruby's Diner while always staying updated on their social media.

With many outstanding performances and impressive promotions, "Grease" at Orange Lutheran created a truly remarkable production.