

Youth Connection Press Contact:

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Grease is the Word at Wilmette Junior High School

Local Favorite, Robert E. Bierie Returns as Director After Hiatus

For Immediate Distribution. March 10, 2014. Youth Connection's Theatre Experience at Wilmette Junior High School (WJHS) this year will be GREASE with book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey.

There will be three performances of the show including Friday, March 21, at 7:30pm, Saturday, March 22, at 7:30pm, and Sunday, March 23 at 2:00pm. The performances will take place at the WJHS auditorium at 620 Locust Road in Wilmette, Illinois. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online at www.youthconnectionwilmette.org and at the door on the days of the performances.

GREASE is directed by Robert E. Bierie, a popular veteran of North Shore theater. Bob recently retired after 17 years with the Wilmette Park District where he was Artistic Director for their theater programs. Mr. Bierie's extensive credits of directing, producing, and lighting design for both children and adult theater include Brigadoon, Sound of Music, Beauty and the Beast, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Ragtime, Annie Get Your Gun, Chicago, The Music Man, plus many more productions. Mary Kay Dreyfus, Youth Connection Program Director, says, "We are so happy that Bob came out of retirement to work with us on GREASE. The students involved in the show are receiving a truly professional experience and learning lifelong skills with Bob as their director."

This classic musical, set in 1959 at fictional Rydell High School, follows ten working-class teenagers, the Burger Palace Boys and the Pink Ladies, as they navigate the complexities of high school love and life. The story is centered around sweet Sandy and tough greaser Danny, their summer romance and their unexpected reunion once school resumes the following fall. The rollicking score, by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, recreates the sounds of early rock 'n roll and

includes such memorable hit numbers as “Summer Nights,” “Greased Lightning,” “Beauty School Dropout,” and “We Go Together.”

Filled with the hit songs everyone recognizes from the original musical and its movie adaptation, this show promises to be a delight for everyone.

GREASE is one act and runs approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. There is a cast of 26 students and crew of 8 students made up of 7th and 8th graders from WJHS.

Youth Connection is producing the musical with the help of board members, parents, and corporate sponsors. Corporate sponsors of GREASE include North Shore Community Bank of Wilmette, the Rotary Club of Wilmette, and the Woman’s Club of Wilmette.

Youth Connection is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that provides social, service, and educational opportunities to Wilmette-area 5th-8th graders. Fifth through eighth grade is a critical time in the lives of our pre-teens and teens, especially during the transition period between 3:00 to 6:00pm. Youth Connection makes sure that children who are not signed up for structured activities have a safe, secure, positive place to go.

For more information about this production of GREASE or about Youth Connection, go to www.youthconnectionwilmette.org.

Addendum

GREASE Cast:

Zak Belahmira, Kathryn Braeseke, Ben Braganca, Jack Brereton, KC David, Caroline Davis, Jonathen De Geyndt, Liesel Dolce, Veronica Fische, Kelly Foy, Katarina Glueck, Haley Hoover, Jack Hubbard, Chris Huguelet, Katie Maatman, Carly Martin, Maddie Michiels, Ellen Miller, Ella Nierman, Piper Phillips, Anson Sauer, Isis Seppelfrick, Morgan Thoem, Ella Torres, Grace Verhoog, Bethan Webb

GREASE Crew:

Stella Boeckman, Owen Cannon, Jacob Dalton, Danny Frank, Tatum Johnston,Carolynn Klingsporn, Graham Rodes, Olivia Roth

GREASE Student Director:

Sarah Buchmann

This production of “Grease: School Version” is presented through special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, INC. Book, music and lyrics by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey.