



**Group: Starburst**  
**Show: Grease**  
**Venue: Samuel Cody School, Farnborough**  
**Date: Friday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2013**  
**Director: Peter Woodford**  
**Project Manager: Simon Briggs**  
**Choreographer: Liz Woodford**  
**Musical Director: Paul Darrah**

Grease is a musical about teens in love in the 50's! It's California, 1959 and greaser Danny Zuko and Australian Sandy Olsson are in love. They spend time at the beach, but when they go back to school, what either of them don't know is that they both now attend Rydell High. Danny's the leader of the T-Birds, a group of black-jacket greasers while Sandy hangs with the Pink Ladies, a group of pink-wearing girls led by Rizzo. When they clash at Rydell's first pep rally, Danny isn't the same Danny at the beach. They try to be like each other so they can be together. Danny has seemed to have changed but in the hopes of winning Sandy back, he changes into the loving, jock Danny Zuko that Sandy met during the summer permanently.

**Front of House:** The front of house is very efficiently organised and patrons are both welcomed and involved in the organisation of Starburst whose primary aim is to raise funds for those less fortunate than themselves. The displays are colourful and relevant. Everyone receives a warm welcome.

**Theatre Ambience:** The traditional school hall was clearly laid out – the company had hired in raked seating to enhance the theatre experience for the audience which was highly successful. The buzz throughout the audience is indicative of the support they receive from parents and friends.

**The Programme: The A4 sized** programme with 20 pages contains many interesting articles, fascinating pen portraits and relevant information about both the show and the charity Starburst. The article about the creation of the car was fascinating. The NODA logo was evident but not the NODA crest and the words Affiliated to the.....

**Scenery/Set/Props:** The fixed part of the set was made of two sets of steps with a 'balcony' in between and a space underneath from which the car appeared as required. Various pieces of scenery appeared on the stage and the thrust stage gave extra acting space most efficiently. The props were all appropriate and in keeping with the period. The stage crew worked well as a team supporting the cast efficiently.

**Lighting & Sound:** The lighting team very ably created the requisite areas for the various scenes. There were occasional problems with members of the cast using the balcony moving out of the light. Sound levels were exactly right and all words, both for songs and libretto, were clearly heard.

**Music:** The arrangement of the music and its execution by the band was excellent maintaining the fine balance between themselves and the singers.

**Wardrobe & Make-Up:** Costumes were superb and showed great attention to detail. They suited the cast and the period. Most of the details including shoes were spot on with the exception of a couple of pairs of boots.

**The Production:** Everyone involved was very excited about their production of this iconic show. The production team threw themselves into their roles with both enthusiasm and great skill. The choreography left the audience breathless especially during the double-time hand jive. The evening was most enjoyable for all age groups. The solo items were a delight and illustrated the high standard and the depth of talent that this company displays. Every aspect of the show was a delight and high praise should go to everyone involved. Congratulations Starburst.

A short review will appear in due course in the South-east section of the NODA website.

**Kay Rowan - District 14 Regional Representative**