

The Flame

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS OF THE FIRESIDE THEATRE

It's almost time for GREASE!

BACK IN 1980 THE LONGEST RUNNING SHOW IN BROADWAY HISTORY WAS A MUSICAL COMEDY THAT HAD RUN FOR NINE YEARS. THAT MUSICAL COMEDY WAS GREASE. IT HAD SURPASSED THE RUNS OF SUCH MEGA HITS AS FIDDLER ON THE ROOF AND MY FAIR LADY.

Nowadays, with shows like THE LION KING which has been running for twenty one years and PHANTOM OF THE OPERA which has been running for thirty years, a nine year run may not sound like much, but when you take into account that GREASE has been performed in 25 countries around the world, has spawned a popular film version as well as a sequel; has inspired a reality TV show; has been revived on Broadway twice, has had three national tours; has won three Theatre World Awards, two Drama Desk Awards, and been nominated for ten Tony Awards, it paints a pretty impressive picture of this fun, little musical about teenagers in the 50's.

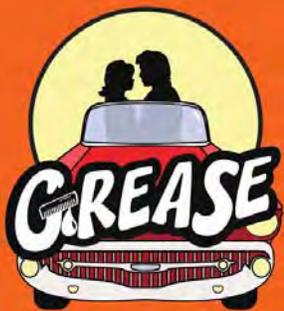
Believe it or not I have never directed GREASE (and the Fireside has never produced it). There aren't a lot of classic hit musicals that I haven't worked on so when I get the chance to do something new (for me), I get really excited.

GREASE is a nostalgic, fun-filled musical with great music and dancing but it's also a show about dreams and wishes. It is simply one of the most entertaining shows in Broadway history. It speaks to

many generations from those of us who were around in the fifties to Generation X and their children to today's millennials.

I will be going to NYC in early June to cast the show and I am expecting a huge turnout because in addition to GREASE being one of the most popular shows for audiences it is a show that most young musical theatre actors want to do. So I am confident that we will have a stellar cast.

GREASE is traditionally one of the best selling shows in regional theatre so you'd better make plans to see the show while there are still seats to be had. To help with that, we've just added ten performances to our regular schedule to help meet our early demand for seats. There will now be Friday matinees on October 12, 19, and 26 plus seven Friday evening shows from September 14 - October 26. I guarantee you won't be disappointed. I know I can't wait to direct it and I can't wait for you to see it.



SEPTEMBER 6 - OCTOBER 28, 2018

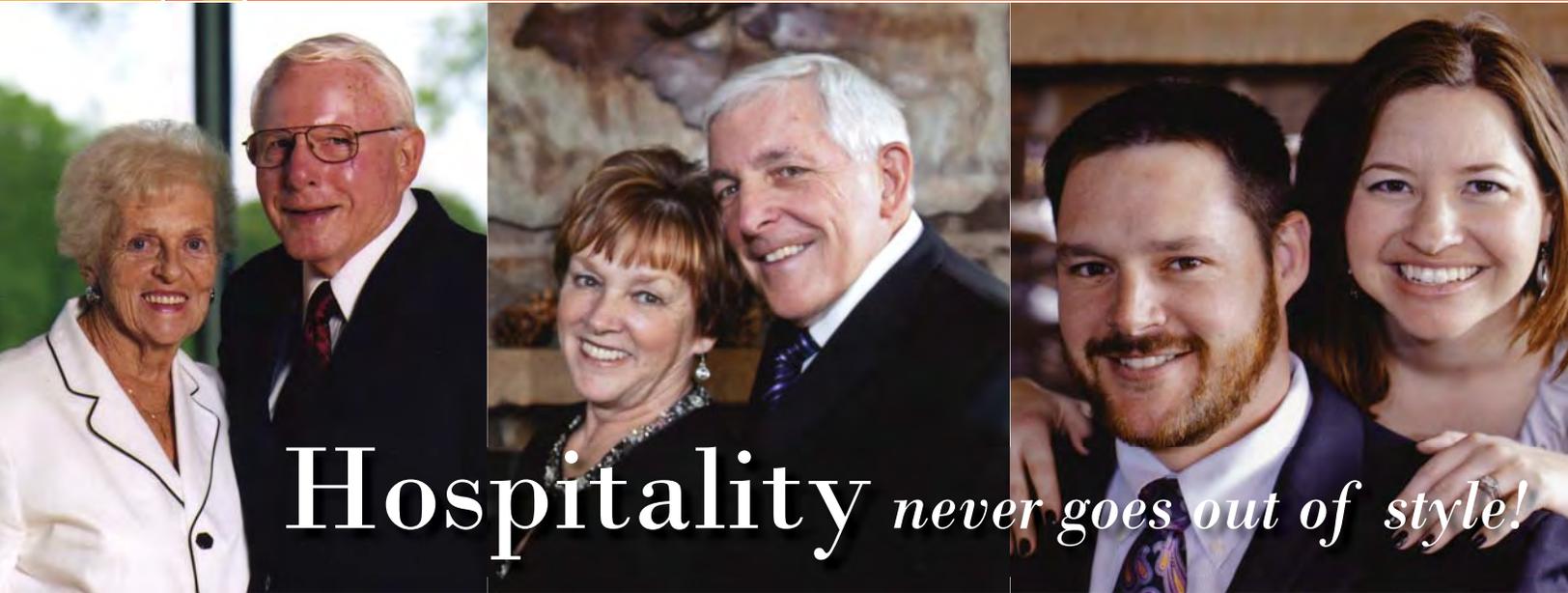
"It is simply one of the most entertaining shows in Broadway history."
— Ed Flesch

P2 GREASE IS THE WORD!

P3 30 YEARS OF TEACHING, 50 FIRESIDE FIELD TRIPS!

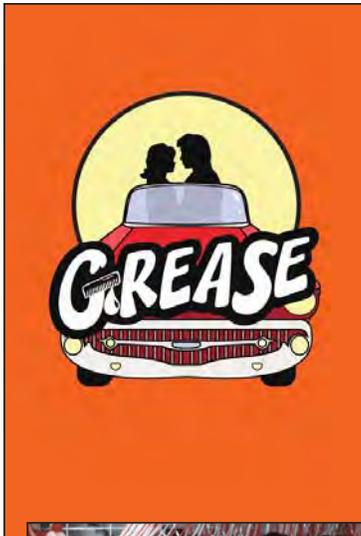
P5 ROASTED SWEET CORN CHOWDER!

P7 FALL IN LOVE WITH FALL!



Hospitality *never goes out of style!*

GREASE, THE SHOW THAT'S BEEN REQUESTED MORE THAN ANY OTHER IN OUR 41 SEASONS OF THEATRE, IS FINALLY COMING TO THE FIRESIDE STAGE! WHY THE LONG WAIT? WHEN A SHOW IS THIS POPULAR IT CAN ALSO AFFORD TO PLAY "HARD TO GET." YOUR WAIT IS OVER, THOUGH, AND THIS FALL THE SHOW YOU LOVE THE MOST WILL BE LIVE ON STAGE AT THE THEATRE YOU LOVE THE MOST!



GREASE is a 1971 musical by Jim Jacobs and Warren Casey, named after the 1950's working-class youth known as "greasers." It's set in 1959 at the fictional Rydell High, based on an actual Chicago High School, and probably not that different from most of the high schools in America at that time. There are always cliques of kids; the popular kids, the new kids, and common themes like love, friendship, teenage rebellion, and adolescence. They tackle a few issues, but mostly they sing and dance and everyone - both on stage and in the audience - has a really great time.

not the same. Songs and scenes have been revised over the years for various productions, all in an effort to make it even better than the original - which ran for 3,388 performances on Broadway. At the time that was the longest run in Broadway's history!

A lot of famous names have appeared in a production of GREASE over the years. John Travolta's role of Danny was played by Richard Gere and Patrick Swayze in London. Rosie O'Donnell and Brooke Shields both played Stockard Channing's "Rizzo" during the 1994 Broadway revival, and Vanessa Hudgens (of High School Musical fame) played her on the Fox TV production. We'll have our own cast of fabulous singers, dancers and actors selected from our New York auditions.



Original movie and Fox TV versions of GREASE.

As is the case with most shows that have both stage and movie versions, the two are



You've heard it said, "Good things come to those who wait." You've waited long enough. "GREASE is the word." See you this fall!



Learning from each other

“Our band program is like a family. I care deeply about each one of these students.”
– Todd Halverson

**TODD HALVERSON DIRECTS
BAND FOR GRADES 5 - 12 AT
CAMBRIA-FRIESLAND, WI.**

Todd Halverson grew up in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and went off to UW Eau Claire to become a music teacher. He began his career in Bloomer for a couple of years directing their High School band before moving back to Beaver Dam for a position as band director for Cambria-Friesland's grades 5 - 12. Twenty eight years later he's planning his retirement for the end of this school year. It only took a few minutes on the phone with him to realize his district has some really big shoes to fill!

Todd acknowledged that a lot of teachers use a small district as a stepping stone to something "bigger and better" but he fell in love with his district right away and committed his career to them. He enjoys the small, tight-knit community and working in a building that teaches K - 12 so everybody knows everybody else. Yes, with a career that long he's taught multiple generations, and he calls the younger ones his "grand band kids."

The bands have taken many field trips over the years, with enough fund-raising efforts to earn Todd the title of "Pizza King." He's led tours to Florida where they march at Disney World, as well as trips to New York, Toronto, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Nashville. These are once-in-a-lifetime

experiences for some of these students. Yet we're very proud to say that their most frequent field trips are to The Fireside which they've been doing since 1994. Band parents enjoy the opportunity to chaperone and often bring the rest of their family back for return visits. One extra touch Todd's students look forward to is that they pre-order cookie crunchers for all of the kids - a yummy ice cream and oreo drink you might just want to try yourself sometime!

Todd thinks he's seen 50 shows at The Fireside, generally with 60 - 70 students in tow. This spring he brought both the middle school and high school bands and choirs in two separate trips to see Disney's NEWSIES, and it may be their favorite one of all. He's fortunate to have great participation from the students that has grown nicely over the years. He started with a band of 18 and grew that to a high of 74. Declining enrollments have him at 53 now but that represents over half of the student body. They're an active group. It's a common occurrence for his Homecoming halftime show to have most of the band in uniform joined by a few appearing in their cheerleader outfits or football uniforms.

"Allowing the students to be active in more than one activity just helps them be more

well rounded," Todd said. He's grateful that the coaches and administrators share his belief on that and support his goals for the band program. "Even with all of the funding challenges schools across the state are feeling, and small districts in particular, I've never once felt my program was in jeopardy."

As he reflected upon his teaching career and upcoming retirement, Todd had this to share: "When you go into teaching you first want to educate kids, but as you grow with a program through the years, it becomes more like family. Teaching grades 5 - 12 I have the same students for eight years, seeing them come in as 9 year olds and watching them become young adults. You get to know them, as well as their parents and siblings. I care about each one of them, how they're doing, and where they're going in life, and I love when they come back to visit realizing how important the band program had been to them. It's a real honor to share these kids' lives."

It's been an honor for us to work with Todd over the last 24 years, too and sharing the magic of live theatre with his students. We were also thrilled to honor him with a Flame of Friendship Award - a well deserved honor for a wonderful career!

Flame of Friendship Awards

APRIL 22, 2017



Flame of Friendship Awards

APRIL 14, 2018



2018 Flame of Friendship Honorees

PICTURED WITH RYAN KLOPCIC

LUCY BIRSCHBACH
DIVINE MERCY CONGREGATION



TODD HALVERSON
CAMBRIA-FRIESLAND HIGH SCHOOL



Grand Prize Winners!



Grand Prize Drawing Winners:
Gayle Kennedy of Wayne Township Seniors (Michael Aram frame), Matt Luther of San Camillo (Waterford Lismore Essense Gold Candlesticks), Diane Wurm with State Bank of Freeport (hand blown Waterford bowl from their Evolution line), Mary Stallings from Dundee Township Park District (W-Sky vase from Waterford), and Lucy Birschback from Divine Mercy (Waterford's Crystal Fiona Hurricane Lamp). Congratulations to all!

Inside the Kitchen

with Chef Mike



Hi everyone, I'm excited to tell you all about our menu for GREASE. We're featuring a new soup for your first course, one we created for a Saturday evening menu but have not yet served with a Featured Menu - Roasted Sweet Corn Chowder. The corn we use is grown locally in Wisconsin and shipped to us twice a week to prepare for roasting. The roasting process is done by placing the corn in roasting pans, then coating them with butter, salt, and pepper. The corn is roasted in a 350 degree oven until lightly browned. While the corn is roasting, we prepare the chicken stock base. When the corn is ready, we cut off the corn and add it to the stock with some more yummy ingredients. After 10 - 15 minutes we add the heavy cream, then puree until smooth. What a great way to start out a fall meal!

Your main course features a Buttermilk Marinated Chicken Breast with Lean Pork Back Barbecued Ribs and a Baked Potato filled with a Monterey Jack Cheese Sauce with Broccoli Buds and a side of our house made Coleslaw.

For dessert, you'll love our house made Lemon Chess Pie, a real crowd favorite topped with Fresh Whipped Cream and Diced Strawberry Coulis. Wow, what a meal! YUMM!! YUMM!!


Executive Chef

SEE WHAT'S COOKING

Menu



GREASE

Featured Menu September 6 - October 28, 2018

Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday Matinees,
Saturday Evenings*, and Sunday MIDDAYS.

Roasted Sweet Corn Chowder

Garnished with Jones Cherrywood Smoked Bacon.

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Chicken and Ribs

Our Signature Lean Pork Back Ribs glazed with our special Barbecue Sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone. Accompanied by our Buttermilk Marinated Southern Fried Baked Fresh Chicken Breast. Served with a Baked Potato stuffed with Steamed Broccoli Buds in a Monterey Jack Cheese Sauce and our Homemade Coleslaw.

Lemon Chess Pie

Creamy Lemon Custard garnished with Fresh Whipped Cream and Diced Fresh Strawberry Coulis.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entree selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Roasted Farm Fresh Vegetables. Lemon Chess Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk are included.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with an assortment of Quick Breads and Pastries from our Bakery to enjoy with our Honey Glazed Fresh Fruit Medley with Yogurt and Natural Granola. We'll be carving Jones Hickory Smoked Ham and Roast Turkey Breast along with the buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Miniature Individual Quiche, Crisp Bacon, Maple Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Bread Pudding with Vanilla Whiskey Sauce, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin Entree, and Roasted Farm Fresh Vegetables. Lemon Chess Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk are included.

*Saturday Evening's menu also includes Appetizer and Salad courses.

Jean's Corner of the World



For personal help with any of your bookings, call me at 800-477-9505 or email jean@firesidetheatre.com.

Another great Group Leader Appreciation Event! Everyone enjoyed themselves, but Mother Nature was not kind to our more northern leaders making travel unsafe or impossible. We moved the party from January to April expecting to avoid snow, ice and blizzards, at least that was the plan.

An invitation is extended to group leaders or tour companies who book a minimum of two different shows with 41 or more guests each, then levels are created based on a combination of the number of shows and number of guests, ranging from 82 to over 500 guests brought to multiple shows in a season. That is a lot of work on your end, and we appreciate the effort very much! Hope to see more of you at next year's event. We have fun!

At this year's event, Franki Leach was introduced as our newest member of the Group Sales Team. She has been such a fast learner. She is ready to book your group, change your count, take payments, and will be calling for payments soon. Her telemarketing may have already given you a chance to visit with her. She fits into our team perfectly, so she will be taking calls and returning voice mails along with Gay and Tanya. We are very excited and know you will enjoy working with her!

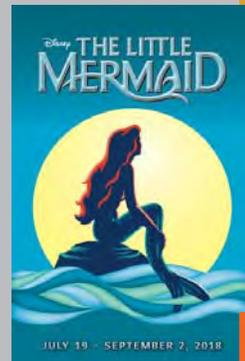
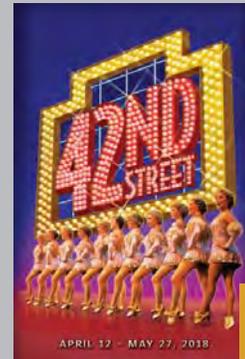
While we are celebrating your 2017 efforts and eagerly anticipating the 2019 season, we can't forget 2018! What do we have to offer, you ask? One of the best family shows in THE LITTLE MERMAID, the best 1950's era show in GREASE, and the funniest Christmas show with ELF. Three colorful, energetic, fun-filled shows to let you and your groups escape for a few hours from a real world that is not always as bright and cheery. Combine the great fun with our marvelous food to create the perfect day! Of course, adding the bakery and shopping makes the day even more perfect . . . is that possible? Yes, at The Fireside it is!



GREASE . . . What a great combination of song, dance, young love and cars! What more can one want packed into one show. Did you know that the 1959 fictional Rydell High School was based on William Howard Taft School in Chicago, Illinois? GREASE has been one of our fastest selling shows this year but seats are still open so call soon to find the date that works for you. **We've just added ten more performances!**

Box Office and Sales Manager

Promotional materials are available for all 2018 productions. You can order them on our web site or call a group sales rep to request them.





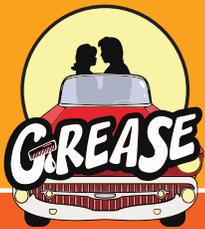
Fall In Love With Fall!

EVERY SEASON HAS ITS UPSIDE; HOWEVER, AUTUMN HAS A PARTICULAR BEAUTY ALL ITS OWN. FROM BRIGHT, BLOOMING SUNFLOWERS, TO THE GLOW OF AN ORANGE PUMPKIN, TO THE TREES' CANOPY OF RED, GOLD, AND ORANGE LEAVES, IT'S AN ENCHANTING TIME OF YEAR. AFTER A SEASON OF WARMTH, WE LONG FOR THE COOL, CRISP DAYS THAT CRY OUT FOR A COZY SWEATER. YOUR HOME AND GARDEN LIKE TO BE DRESSED UP AS WELL, AND WE'LL HAVE LOTS OF WONDERFUL DECOR CHOICES FOR YOU IN THE FIRESIDE GIFT SHOPS!



We carry Evergreen's large selection of flags and door decor with a variety of looks and messages. Kay Dee Designs' Tuscan Elegance line includes the towels and aprons shown above. Or turn over a new leaf with a fall inspired wind spinner to catch the autumn breeze. The lace-cut leaves and serene fall colors create a dazzling effect as they spin. You'll find sunflowers on figurines, canvas prints, pillows, dishes, sun catchers, and these beautiful light-up mason jars, plus lots of pumpkins to lead into Thanksgiving. We look forward to helping you find the perfect items just for you!





SAVE NOW! CALL 800-477-9505
WWW.FIRESIDETHEATRE.COM

Groups are our specialty - visit early to get the best discount!

What is a group?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 18 or more people attending a performance. You can hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your exact count, due a few weeks before your visit. You'll also qualify for a discounted ticket price and your meal gratuity is included.

For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package, for all other shows it's every 21st ticket. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities; just let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- You can save over 20% with a group booking over individual ticket prices.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 18 or more in 2018 is \$72.74 (\$68.95 tax exempt) per person.
- **PREMIER GROUP RATE offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance of GREASE from September 6 - 30, 2018.**
- **2018 Premier Group Rate is \$69.58 (\$65.95 tax exempt) per person.**
- The five-course Saturday Night Group rate in 2018 is \$76.96 (\$72.95 tax exempt) per person. For rates on optional entree selections call Group Sales.
- **2018 Premier Saturday Night Group Rate is \$73.80 (\$69.95 tax exempt) per person.**
- INCENTIVE rates are offered for groups of 13 to 17 attending Wednesday and Thursday matinees.
- 2018 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meal are offered at \$51.64 (\$48.95 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2018 School Group Rates are available for Mid-Week matinees as low as \$63.95 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.