

# **GREASE**

**Braintree & Witham Times Review by Ron Fosker**

**The names come at you thick and fast: Elvis, Pat Boone, Debbie Reynolds, Shelley Fabares, Ricky Nelson, Lucille, Blueberry Hill.**

**Yes, we are in the fifties.**

**In 1959 in fact, in the era of leather jackets, greased back hair and flowing petticoats, all prominently on display here.**

**Like any other era, we are reminded, there was also juvenile delinquency (stolen hub caps and a prospective gang fight), unwanted pregnancies and teenage personality clashes.**

**But above all there was the music.**

**Given the less than dazzlingly original plot – boy meets girl, they fall out and get back together again – director Nikki Mundell-Poole wisely foregrounds the music by locating the band above the stage and lets the large cast loose on a wide variety of vibrant colourful dance routines.**

**This is what WOW do best and they have rarely bettered the bounce and vitality of the production numbers in which the whole cast produce a cellarful of noise.**

**Although the story revolves around Danny and Sandy's on-off romance, this is a show that allows a full range of characters to occupy the stage, as evidenced in the finale when the ten principals take their bow together.**

**Ashton Reed, Sarah Williams, Rhianna Howard , Bella Tull and Hatty Gribben bitch and bicker beautifully as the high school clique the Pink Ladies, while Ben Huish, Ed Tunningley, Mark Ellis, Jack Martyn and Chris Tierney hover gloweringly around them in typical teenage boy fashion.**

**The solos are well handled by the main characters as well as brief moments in the spotlight for Katie Galley and Tim Rolph and a splendid cameo by 12-year-old Callum Hoskin.**

**But it is the big numbers that stand out, notably the two John Travolta--Olivia Newton-John No.1s You're The One That I Want and Summer Nights, together with the megamix finale.**

**The show sold out its week-long run, a further tribute to the pulling power of this outstanding young troupe.**