



For Immediate Release: Dec. 18, 2009

THE NATIONAL TOUR OF

GREASE

STARRING PLATINUM-SELLING SINGER/SONGWRITER AND "AMERICAN IDOL" WINNER TAYLOR HICKS

WELCOMES NEW CAST MEMBERS ACE YOUNG, LAURA D'ANDRE, ALLISON FISCHER, JESSE JP JOHNSON AND JAMISON SCOTT

(Buffalo, NY, Dec. 18, 2009) The producers of the Tony Award nominated new Broadway production of **GREASE™** are pleased to announce the following new cast members for the national tour: **Ace Young** as "Danny," **Laura D'Andre** as "Rizzo," **Allison Fischer** as "Patty Simcox," **Jesse JP Johnson** as "Doody," and **Jamison Scott** as "Eugene." The new cast members joined the tour during the Charlotte, NC, run where the show played Ovens Auditorium December 1 – 6.

The National Tour of GREASE comes to Shea's Performing Arts Center, March 23 – 28, 2010 as part of the 2009-10 M & T Bank Broadway Series. Tickets (27.50-62.50) are on sale now! Call Ticketmaster at 1-800-745-3000, go to www.ticketmaster.com or to Shea's Ticket Office, 650 Main Street, open M-F, 10a-5p, Sat. 10a-2p (closed Dec. 25 & 26), Dec. 24, 10a-2p. Information: www.sheas.org. Find us on Facebook.

Ace Young made his Broadway debut in **GREASE™** in the role of "Kenickie" last fall. An "American Idol" finalist in Season 5 and a Grammy nominated songwriter, Ace has guest-starred on Fox's "Bones," co-hosted "American Idol Extra" and co-produced his debut album, *Ace Young*. He started the National Tour as "Danny" on December 4.

As was previously announced, **Lauren Ashley Zakrin** stars as "Sandy." **Lauren Ashley Zakrin** was most recently seen as the understudy for "Elle Woods" in the first national tour of *Legally Blonde The Musical*. She was a finalist on MTV's "Legally Blonde The Musical: The Search for Elle Woods."

Laura D'Andre's credits include Petra in *A Little Night Music* (White Plains) and Eponine in *Les Miserables* (San Diego). **Allison Fischer** originated the role of "Patty Simcox" in the new Broadway production of **GREASE™** and the role of "Claudia" in the Broadway production of *Lestat*. **Jesse JP Johnson** appeared on Broadway and Off-Broadway in *Xanadu*, *Glory Days* and *Altar Boyz*.

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Jamison Scott originated the role of “Eugene” in the new Broadway production of **GREASE™** and appeared in the Las Vegas companies of *Hairspray* and *Saturday Night Fever*.

“American Idol” Season 5 winner **Taylor Hicks** continues to star as “Teen Angel.” **Taylor Hicks** made his debut on Broadway in the role. He achieved widespread fame in 2006 as a contestant on the hugely successful FOX singing competition “American Idol.”

The tour also stars **Will Blum** as “Roger,” **Bridie Carroll** as “Jan,” **Kate Morgan Chadwick** as “Frenchy,” **Kelly Felthous** as “Marty,” **Dominic Fortuna** as “Vince Fontaine,” **Roxie Lucas** as “Miss Lynch,” **David Ruffin** as “Kenickie,” and **Nick Verina** as “Sonny.”

The ensemble features **Joseph Corella, Preston Ellis, Erin Henry, Ruby Lewis, Dayla Perkins, Mark Raumaker, Mike Russo, Matthew William Schmidt, Christina Sivrich** and **Elizabeth Stacey**.

After spending a hopelessly devoted summer with Sandy Dumbrowski, the new girl in town, Danny Zuko's world is thrown upside down when Sandy appears at Rydell High on the first day of school. What follows is a rock n' roll celebration of growin' up, cruisin' with friends and goin' steady. The new production of **GREASE™** features songs from the smash hit 1978 motion picture for the first time ever in a Broadway production including “**Sandy**,” the Academy Award nominated song “**Hopelessly Devoted to You**,” “**Grease**” and “**You’re the One That I Want**” - both of which were #1 hits on the Billboard Top 100 list. These songs will be heard in addition to the **Jacobs/Casey** songs made famous by the original stage production: “**Summer Nights**,” “**Greased Lightnin’**” and “**We Go Together**.”

Directed and choreographed by two-time Tony Award-winner **Kathleen Marshall** (*The Pajama Game, Wonderful Town*), **GREASE™** features book, music and lyrics by **Jim Jacobs** and **Warren Casey**. Additional songs from the movie are by **Barry Gibb, John Farrar, Louis St. Louis** and **Scott Simon**. **GREASE™** features scenic design by Tony Award winner **Derek McLane** (*33 Variations*), costume design by two-time Tony Award winner **Martin Pakledinaz** (*Thoroughly Modern Millie, Kiss Me Kate*), lighting design by Tony Award winner **Kenneth Posner** (*The Coast of Utopia, Wicked*) and sound design by **Brian Ronan** (*Spring Awakening, Curtains*).

GREASE™ is produced on tour by **Paul Nicholas** and **David Ian, Nederlander Presentations, Inc.** and **Terry Allen Kramer** by arrangement with **Robert Stigwood**.

The national tour of **GREASE™** continues as follows:

- December 1 – 6, at Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte, NC
- December 8 – 13, at the Overture Center for the Arts, Madison, WI
- December 15 – 20, at the Chevrolet Theatre, Wallingford, CT
- January 12 – 24, at the Fox Theatre, St Louis, MO
- January 26 – 31, at Proctor’s Theatre, Schenectady, NY
- February 9 – 21, at the National Theatre, Washington DC
- February 23 – 28, at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee, WI
- March 9 – 14, at the Benedum Center, Pittsburgh, PA
- March 16 – 21, at the Auditorium Theatre, Rochester, NY
- March 23 – 28, at Shea’s Performing Arts Center, Buffalo, NY
- April 7 – 18, at the Canon Theatre, Toronto, ONT
- April 20 -25, at the Hershey Theatre, Hershey, PA
- April 27 – May 2, at the Times Union Center, Jacksonville, FL
- May 4 – 9, at the Walton Arts Center, Fayetteville, AR
- May 11 – 23, at the Palace Theatre, Cleveland, OH
- June 1 – 13, at the Opera House, Boston, MA

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Shows, dates, times, prices and artists subject to change.