

A Note From the Director

Andrea Garrett

I used to hate *Grease*. I'm slightly too young, and my parents are slightly too old to have been a part of the original craze, so *Grease* was never played in my house. I don't think I even saw the movie until I was about 11 or 12. I just didn't get it. There's not much of a plot, and although the music is memorable, I didn't think it was all that great. To top it all off, the only stage versions I saw over the years were really bad high school productions. I just didn't see why anyone would want to produce *Grease*, let alone be in it.

Then, I began working at my first professional theatre. Granted, it was a dinner theatre and I was only a waitress- but I was still working in a real theatre. And of course, the first show they cast me in was *Grease*. I was cast after the girl playing Cha-Cha was fired (this wasn't based on my talent- it was just because I was there). I had no rehearsal time with the cast, and only went through the Cha-Cha/Danny dance sequence about 4 or 5 times before my first time onstage. I don't think I've ever been so terrified! But that night, and every other night for the next 62 performances, I had more fun onstage than I had ever had before! *Grease* is fun! And I finally understood its appeal- why audiences love it so much- it is fun!

When Jason and I were planning this season, the only thing set in stone from the beginning was this production of *Grease*. After much discussion, it was decided that I would direct, and I was actually excited. I thought it would be great to put my own touch on such an iconic show. When CSU-Pueblo Music Department came on board supplying Barbara Beck as the music director, I knew we were about to embark on what would be a pretty good production. Then came the cast. . .

This cast is amazing. I don't know where they came from! Four of the lead characters have never even performed in a musical before! Most of the cast members have little or no dance training. But as we began working on this show, setting our standards high, the cast met every expectation we set. The cast has attempted everything we've asked, and even better, has pulled it all off!

I am so proud of this group. Their amazing attitudes and dedication have been inspiring to me. They have worked incredibly hard and have made this rehearsal process an absolute joy. I can't wait for them to share what they have done with an audience- I'm sure the audience will love them as much as I do.