

**Canberra
Philharmonic
Society
and
Erindale
Theatre
Presents**



Casting Brief

Philo is casting for *Grease*!

Set in 1950s Rydell High, *Grease* is a high-energy musical celebrating teen rebellion, friendship, romance, and rock 'n' roll. It loosely follows the lives, mishaps, and teenage shenanigans of two tough gangs – The Burger Palace Boys - and their counterparts - The Pink Ladies - while they navigate friendship, love and gang politics during their final year at Rydell High School in 1958. Each character presents a unique viewpoint of the timeless struggles of adolescence. Central to the musical's loose plotline is the romantic relationship between Sandy Dumbrowski and Danny Zuko and their struggles with personal identity.

We're seeking a dynamic cast of strong singers, confident movers, and bold character actors who can bring the iconic world of *Grease* to life with authenticity, humour, and heart. To be considered for a spot in *Grease* please fill out an online audition form OR request an audition by emailing auditions@philo.org.au with:

- A headshot (a selfie will be just fine)
- Your preferred day and time (e.g. Saturday morning)
- The role(s) you wish to audition for.

All auditionees must be 16+ by Friday 28 August 2026 (opening night)

If you have any questions regarding anything outlined in the pack, please don't hesitate to contact auditions@philo.org.au

Roles/ Characters

- **Sandy Dumbrowski (Soprano A3 – F#5)**
Sweet, wholesome, and grounded in strong moral fibre, Sandy is determined, resilient, and far tougher than she first appears. Though initially naïve and “Sandra Dee–cute” in the style of the classic Gidget films, she stands up for herself even when outnumbered. Over the course of the show, she embarks on a journey of self-discovery, embracing confidence, agency, and personal transformation as she fights for what and who she wants.
- **Danny Zuko (tenor D3 – B4 [with falsetto abilities])**
The well-built, nice-looking leader of the Burger Palace Boys, Danny carries an effortless, cool, easy-going charm that makes him the natural centre of attention. Strong, confident, and smooth on the surface, he masks a more conflicted side beneath the swagger — especially when his tough-guy image clashes with his genuine feelings for Sandy.
- **Rizzo (Alto A3 – C5)**
Leader of the Pink Ladies. She is tough, sarcastic and outspoken but vulnerable. Tends to have unstable relationships but sticks strongly by her beliefs
- **Kenickie (Baritone/Tenor C3-F4)**
Second-in-command of the Burger Palace Boys. Tough-looking, street-smart, tattooed, surly, avoids any show of softness. Has an off-beat sense of humor.
- **Frenchy (Alto/Mezzo A3 – D5)**
A dreamer. Good-natured and dumb. Heavily made-up, fussy about her appearance— particularly her hair. She can’t wait to finish high school so she can be a beautician.
- **Marty (Alto C4 – C5)**
The “beauty” of the Pink Ladies. Pretty, looks older than the other girls, but betrays her real age when she opens her mouth. Tries to act sophisticated.
- **Jan (Alto A3 – C5)**
Loud and pushy with the girls, but shy with boys.
- **Doody (Tenor D3 – A4)**
Youngest of the guys. Small, boyish, open, with a disarming smile and a hero- worshipping attitude toward the other guys. He also plays the guitar.
- **Roger (Tenor D3 – A4)**
The “anything-for-a-laugh” stocky type. Full of mischief, half-baked schemes and ideas. A clown who enjoys putting other people on.
- **Sonny (Baritone/Tenor G2 – A4)**
A braggart and wheeler-dealer who thinks he’s a real lady-killer.

Roles/ Characters

- **Patty/Ensemble (Alto D4 – A4)**
A typical cheerleader at a middle-class American public high school. Attractive and athletic. Aggressive, sure of herself, given to bursts of disconcerting enthusiasm. Catty, but in an All-American Girl sort of way. She can also twirl a baton.
- **Cha-Cha/Ensemble (non-singing ex. in Ensemble)**
A Blind date. Takes pride in being “the best dancer at St. Bernadette’s.”
- **Eugene/Ensemble (Baritone/Tenor A2 – E4)**
The class valedictorian. Physically awkward, with weak eyes and a high-pitched voice. An apple-polisher, smug and pompous but gullible.
- **Vince Fontaine (non-singing, featured role)**
A typical “teen audience” radio disc jockey. Slick, egotistical, fast-talking. A veteran “greaser.”
- **Johnny Casino (Baritone/Tenor G3 – E4)**
A “greaser” student at Rydell who leads a rock ‘n’ roll band and likes to think of himself as a real rock ‘n’ roll idol.
- **Teen Angel (Baritone E3 – F4)**
A good-looking singer who would have caused girls to scream and riot back in 1958.
- **Miss Lynch (Alto A3 – C5)**
An English teacher.
- **Ensemble (various vocal ranges)**

Audition Day

Auditions will be held Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 April 2026

Audition times are available from 9:00am onwards

If required, callback auditions will be held on Monday 27 April from 7:00pm

The venue is the Philo Hut at 18 Collie Street, Fyshwick

Video auditions are available under exceptional circumstances. Please email auditions@philo.org.au to request a video audition

The following people will be in the room for your audition:

- Bradley McDowell – Director
- Jordan Kelly - Choreographer
- Ella Ragless - Musical Director
- A representative from Canberra Philharmonic Society

As there is both a singing and a dancing component, please allow for two hours for your audition.

Your Audition

- **SINGING**
Prepare one (1) song to show characterisation whether your character has an acting requirement or not. The Audition panel may not choose to hear your whole song during the audition. This may purely be for time purposes, or they have heard what they require. Please don't assume this is a bad sign, as this is a quite normal process for many auditions. For characters without script reading requirements, please perform your song to show the panel your acting capabilities. Please bring sheet music in the correct key for the accompanist or a backing track (we will have a Bluetooth speaker available) for your audition. Singing acapella is not acceptable. An acting requirement is not needed for anyone auditioning for only the ensemble.
- **CHOREOGRAPHY**
A 30-minute movement and dance audition will be scheduled in groups. Auditionees will be offered the movement audition slot closest to their audition time, or they can pick an alternate dance audition time. Grease is a dance/movement heavy show so please arrive warmed up, stretched and in clothes that you are comfortable moving/jumping in (no jeans or high heels). The point of this audition is to see how you move and how you perform. We do not expect you to learn the choreography perfectly but expect that you do your best. A video of the choreography will be sent to you a few days before your audition date.
- **ACTING**
Depending on the character(s) you are auditioning for, you may be asked to do a cold-read of dialogue from the script. The audition panel will allocate you a scene in the audition room.

Rehearsals

- Being in a Philo show is both fun and rewarding; however, in order to have a quality production, we do require a certain amount of commitment from cast members. Canberra Philo invests significant cost, time and effort to stage a show and to also run the company during the year, therefore we must charge people money for tickets. Because we are charging audience money, we need to provide as high a standard of production as possible as a community theatre company. Please read these notes carefully and decide whether or not you can provide this level of commitment before you audition.
- All Auditions and rehearsals will be held at Philo Hut at 18 Collie Street, Fyshwick. In the unlikely event of a rehearsal venue-change (ie. potential early access to Erindale Theatre), everyone will be notified well prior to the rehearsal date.
- Rehearsals will start Sunday 3 May and are every Monday and Thursday 7:00-10:00pm and Sunday 10:00am-5:00pm. First cast read-through to be held on Sunday 3 May. We would like all cast to attend this if possible.
- Both in rehearsal & during performances members of the Production Team are in charge and you will be expected to work to their directions. You may not be called for every rehearsal, or for the whole time, but you must attend every rehearsal for which you are called. We cannot halt rehearsals over school & public holidays. If you know you will be unavailable on these or any other dates, please let the team know at auditions. We will not consider you ineligible for the cast, but we do need to know absences so the schedule can be structured accordingly.

Production Season Schedule

- **Saturday 15 August - Bump In**
- **Sunday 23 August – Tech Rehearsal**
- **Monday 24 August – Dress Rehearsal**
- **Tuesday 25 August – Dress Rehearsal**
- **Wednesday 26 August – Dress Rehearsal**
- **Thursday 27 August – Dress Rehearsal/Potential Preview**
- **Friday 28 August – 7:30pm – OPENING NIGHT**
- **Saturday 29 August – 7:30pm**
- **Wednesday 2 September – 7:30pm**
- **Thursday 3 September – 7:30pm**
- **Friday 4 September – 7:30pm**
- **Saturday 5 September – 2pm & 7:30pm**
- **Wednesday 9 September – 7:30pm**
- **Thursday 10 September – 7:30pm**
- **Friday 11 September – 7:30pm**
- **Saturday 12 September – 2:00pm & 7:30pm – CLOSING NIGHT**

Performances will take place at **Erindale Theatre**, located at 115 McBryde Crescent, Wanniasa.

Audition Dates: **Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 April 2026**

Call-backs (if required): **Monday 27 April 2026 from 7pm**

Cast Obligations

- Cast members will be required to read our relevant policies and sign a code of conduct. Our aim at Canberra Philharmonic Society is for everyone to have fun when doing a Philo production and provide a welcoming and safe environment.
- There may be additional all-day Sunday rehearsals closer to the performance dates. Bump in will be on Saturday 15th August 2026. Performances will be from 28 Aug – 12 Sep. **Attendance at all rehearsals during Production week and at all performances is mandatory.**
- A full-length stage production is demanding, both in time and effort. If you have a medical condition which you think we may need to know about, we would urge you to have a confidential word with the production team or a committee member, whether in the production team or in the cast, who will then liaise with the director to know if they should be taking this condition into account before asking you to do something which may not be comfortable for you. If you have an Action Plan, please specify who you are comfortable sharing that information with, so the production team are made aware early.
- We run our shows on a very small budget. We are therefore unable to provide such items as shoes or make-up for cast members. You will be provided with costumes, and we are always happy to see people who can either make their own costume or can find someone to sew it for them! You may be requested to help make and/or paint scenery, and are required to help move the sets in and erect them at bump-in. If there are any reasons e.g. injuries preventing you from helping with set building, please communicate this to the production team.
- ***Please note that Canberra Philharmonic Society pursues an alcohol-free policy during both rehearsals and performances.***
- You will be informed whether or not you are successful in the auditions by email or phone call as soon as possible after we finish auditions & call-backs. If you do not hear from us before the first rehearsal, please contact us at auditions@philo.org.au . Chookas for your audition!
- **If you are unable to comply with the above commitments, you may be asked to leave the production.**