

It's the word for fixing cars and slick hairstyles

It is time to sling your black leather or pink silk jacket over your shoulder and mutter 'Grease is the word' as the T Birds and the Pink Ladies will fill the Bristol Hippodrome next month.

All the fun of a 1950s all-American high school will get audiences on their feet, dancing and singing along to the famous songs of one of the world's favourite musicals, Grease.

The star-studded cast includes global pop icon Jimmy Osmond, The Wanted singer Tom Parker and former EastEnders actor Louisa Lytton.

Grease opened on Broadway in 1972 but it was the 1978 smash hit movie, starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John, which propelled the musical into universal notoriety.

The original high-school musical tells the love story of Sandy Olsson and Danny Zuko, and what life at Rydell High School is like for their respective gangs, the sassy Pink Ladies and the grease-monkey T Birds.

But it is the memorable songs You're The One That I Want, Grease Is The Word, Summer Nights, Hopelessly Devoted to You, Sandy and Greased Lightning which have made the story of teenage angst withstand



Danielle Hope, Tom Parker and Louisa Lytton in Grease. Picture: PAUL COLTAS

the test of time.

Jimmy Osmond, who will play Teen Angel, began performing with his brothers at the tender age of three and enjoyed worldwide success with their band The Osmonds, before going on to have a multi-award-winning solo career.

In 1972, Jimmy became the youngest person ever to top the UK charts with the Christmas number one Long Haired Lover From Liverpool, which was also the biggest-selling single of the year.

Boy-band star Tom Parker is making his theatrical debut as

Danny and will be joined by Danielle Hope, who won the BBC's Over The Rainbow talent show, as Sandy.

Louisa Lytton, best known for playing Ruby Allen in EastEnders, will play Rizzo.

Grease will be at The Bristol Hippodrome, in St Augustines Parade, from June 5-10. There will be performances at 7.30pm from June 5-8, 5.30pm and 8.30pm on June 9, and 5pm and 8.30pm on June 10.

Tickets, priced £21-51.50, are available via www.atgtickets.com or on 08448 717627.

communitybites

Oliver!

A Worle theatre group will take over The Playhouse next week to bring the hit show Oliver! to a Weston crowd.

Worle Operatic and Drama Society (WODS) will perform Lionel Bart's Oliver!, based on the Charles Dickens' classic Oliver Twist, from June 1-3.

WODS will be putting their own spin on the show, bringing famous characters such as Fagin, Bill Sykes, Nancy and the Artful Dodger to life.

Oliver is an orphan who runs away from the workhouse and

gets involved with a gang of pickpockets while on the streets of London.

Audiences can expect to sing along to well-known songs such as Food Glorious Food, Consider Yourself and I'd Do Anything.

Performances will be at 7.30pm each evening, plus a 2.30pm matinee on June 3.

Tickets, priced from £16-17 for adults or £58 for a family ticket, are available by calling 01934 645544 or via www.theplayhouse.co.uk

Paradise Lost

A one-man staging of the epic poem Paradise Lost will be performed at the Theatre Tropicana on Tuesday.

John Milton's story of creation will be told through theatre, comedy, dance and movement, with one man playing all the characters in every scene.

The show, by production company Lost Dog, explores the idea God created everything because he was terrified of doing nothing – but he finds things fall a little short of perfection along the way.

The show was first staged at

the Battersea Arts Centre in London in 2015, before being shown at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and was shortlisted for a Total Theatre Award in the innovation and experimentation category.

Paradise Lost, consisting of 10 books with more than 10,000 lines of verse, was written in 1667.

Paradise Lost will be shown at the Theatre Tropicana, in Marine Parade, on Tuesday at 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced £10, are available from www.tobaccofactorytheatres.com

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What's On

SUNDAY 28th MAY

- Weston-s-Mare Spiritualist Church 2 Stafford Road. SERVICES Sunday 28th May 11.00am Mandy Nelson and 6.30pm Ann Gibbins and Diana Starling;
- Sunday 4th June 11.00am Sharon Bird and 6.30pm Caroline Coe. Every Thursday 4.00pm- 5.00pm and every Saturday 10.30am - 11.30am Healing.

WEDNESDAY 31st MAY

- 7.30pm WsM Spiritualist Society at Weston Football Club Winterstoke Road Demonstration of Mediumship with Kim Moore-Cullen from Bridgwater. Admission £3.50. All welcome. We are on Facebook.