

BACK TO THE 80's



...THE TOTALLY AWESOME MUSICAL!

Info Pack



SEPTEMBER 2023

Warners Bay Theatre

**Director
Zac Smith**

**Musical Director
Bree Young**

**Choreographer
Jody Miller**

WRITTEN BY NEIL GOODING

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**REVISED ORCHESTRATIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS BY
BRETT FOSTER**

ORIGINAL MUSICAL ADAPTION BY SCOTT COPEMAN

Plot

Back to the 80's tells the story of the senior class of William Ocean High School, as remembered through the eyes of now thirty-something Corey Palmer. Seventeen-year-old Corey is madly in love with his next-door neighbor, Tiffany Houston, one of the coolest girls in the school, but she is too busy mooning over Michael Feldman, the hottest guy around. Michael and his friends are athletic and good looking — the kind of guys that Corey and his two best friends dream of being. However, while they may not be the coolest guys in school, they are still one up on Feargal McFerrin, III, whose best friend is his computer and who believes the crazy notion that one day, CDs will replace cassette tapes.

Throw in a Star Wars dream sequence, high-energy dance routines, the obligatory 80s party scene, copious amounts of blue eyeshadow, twenty cans of hairspray, as well as some of the most popular songs ever written, and the result is a musical that will not only delight and amuse audiences of any age, but will also inspire any young cast.

About Chookas

Chookas Entertainment is an Australian-based entertainment and events company that delivers community and Pro-Am Theatre and Entertainment across Newcastle and Sydney.

Chookas Entertainments' previous theatre works include the recent sold-out production of Heathers the musical (2022) Chicago the Musical (June 2022), The Things I Could Never Tell Steven (July 2022), 5 Lesbians Eating A Quiche (March 2022), Be More Chill The Musical (November 2021) and 21 Chump St: The Musical (March 2020).

CHOOKAS is an equal-opportunity employer that is committed to diversity and inclusion on stage and in the workplace. We strongly encourage First Nations, people of colour, neurodiverse and gender-diverse artists and arts workers to submit for our projects.

Chookas Entertainment is a proud member of Live Performance Australia and CONDA Inc.

Rehearsals

**Rehearsals commence in June 2023
in Dudley**

Tuesdays: 6–9pm

Sundays: 5–9pm

Cast are only called when required.

**You will need to be 15 years or over
to audition for this production.**

All cast will require a WWCC

Production dates

18 Sept – Tech

19 Sept – Tech

20 Sept – Show 1

21 sept – Show 2

22 sept – Show 3

23 sept – Show 4 & 5

Songs

Kids in America
Glory Of Love
You Give Love A Bad Name
Love Shack
Total Eclipse Of The Heart
Nine to Five
Walking On Sunshine
Lost In Your Eyes
(I've Had The) Time of My Life
Girls Just Wanna Have Fun
Footloose
Never Gonna Give You Up
Mickey
Get Outta My Dreams Get Into My Car
Don't Worry Be Happy
Baby One More Time
Man In The Mirror
We Are The World
Centerfold
Material Girl
Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go
Video Killed The Radio Star
I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)
Eye Of The Tiger
Lets Hear It For The Boy

Roles

Corey Palmer (senior)

The narrator of the show. He is the older version of Corey, now living in the year 2000 and reminiscing about his high school days in the 1980s.

Gender: Male 25-40

Songs: you give love a bad name

Vocal range: F4-G3

Corey Palmer (junior)

The hero of the musical. He is an ordinary, likeable senior in high school that is dealing with typical issues including his love for Tiffany Houston.

Gender: Male 15-25

Songs: Footloose, glory of love, Im gonna be (500miles), Love shack , total eclipse of the heart, dont worry be happy, time of my life

Vocal range: Bb2-D5

Alf Bueller

One of Corey Junior's best friends. A likeable teenager just coming out of childhood and beginning adulthood.

Gender: Male 15-21

songs: Footloose, dont worry be happy

Vocal range: Bb2-Bb4

Kirk Keaton

One of the "nice" boys who is naive and has difficulty with girls.

Gender: Male 15-21

Songs: Footloose, dont worry be happy

Vocal range: Bb2- F4

Tiffany Houston

A cute, bubbly teenager from the 80's, who is innocent, naïve and doe-eyed about boys and love.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: Mickey, lost in your eyes, time of my life, nine to five

Vocal range: F3- F5

Cyndi Gibson

A street-smart, boy-wary member of Tiffany's posse who has a crush on Michael but always settles for other boys.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: Mickey, Material girls, nine to five

Vocal range: A3-E5

Roles

Mel Easton

One of the elite "Cool Girls," she is the twin sister of Kim who loves to rock out as a backup to the group.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: Mickey, nine to five

Vocal range: A3-C5

Kim Easton

The twin sister of Mel and friend of Cyndi. Kim is a party-loving cheerleader who does not do well in school.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs Mickey, nine to five

Vocal range: A3-C5

Michael Feldman

The coolest guy in the school who has the attention of all the girls. When the girls are not around, he is a mean manipulative oaf who picks on smaller kids.

Gender: Male 17-25

Songs: Footloose, Election rap, Im gonna be (500miles), get outta my dreams

Vocal range: D3-B4

Billy Arnold

A popular, athletic guy who appears tough and is revered yet has little backbone without Michael.

Gender: Male 15-25

Songs: Footloose

Vocal range A3-A4

Lionel Astley

He is a follower and not quite as cool as the other guys in his posse, but is tolerated by the girls.

Gender: Male 15-25

Songs: Footloose, Love shack

Vocal range: Bb2-G4

Huey Jackson

The final guy to round out the group of Michael Feldman's friends. Not much else to be said - big hair, wears clothes that were cool at the time, but now just look like fluorescent mismatches of colour. Huey is an 80's tragic - he is the only member of the cool group to go as far as wearing a white Michael Jackson glove - as was the fashion of the day!

Gender: Male 15-25

Songs: Footloose, love shack

Roles

Feargal Mcferrin

The sensitive school nerd. He is supremely intelligent, but his visions of life in the new millenium are always mocked.

Gender: Male 15-25

Songs: Footloose, video killed the radio star

Vocal range: E3- B4

Eileen Reagan

The new arrival, charming and full of life and vitality. She is a dreamer who longs for the day when she has a boyfriend.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: lets hear it for the boy, walking on sunshine, lost in your eyes

Vocal range: G3- G5

Laura Wilde

Debbie's best friend. She is awkward and has trouble with boys, but is a nice girl.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: video killed the radio star, lets hear it for the boy, walking on sunshine

Vocal range: F3-E5

Debbie Fox

Laura's competitive best friend. She lies about her fantasy relationships with celebrities.

Gender: Female 15-25

Songs: video killed the radio star, lets hear it for the boy, walking on sunshine

Vocal range: F3-E5

Ms. Sheena Brannigan

An outwardly reserved and slightly conservative Senior Students Coordinator who has a wild past.

Gender: Female 30-50

Songs: man in the mirror, total eclipse of the heart

Vocal range: F3-E5

Mr. Stevie Cocker

The Deputy Principal and math teacher at William Ocean High School who has strong feelings for Sheena.

Gender: Male 30-50

Songs: you give love a bad name, man in the mirror, centrefold

Vocal range: D3-A4

Ensemble - School students, featured singers, cheerleaders.

Auditions

To audition please sing a 1 minute excerpt of an 80s song of choice. This can include any of the great 80s songs in the show

You are required to use a backing track or accompaniment for your video, we will not accept acapella recordings

Please submit your audition video to chookasentertainment@hotmail.com with your FULL NAME as the email title

Please make sure you have filled out the audition jotform as well as submitting your recording. We will not be considering auditions without a form submitted

Audition form

<https://form.jotform.com/230107974604050>

All video submissions are due to chookasentertainment@hotmail.com by Wednesday 8th of February 5pm

Successful auditionees will be required at a call back on the 19th of February



Common Questions

Q - Who will see my audition video?

A - Our audition panel, which consists of the production team

Q - Is there a show fee?

A - absolutely not. Equal opportunity!

Q - I'm currently 14. Can I audition for your show?

A - Only if you are 15 years old by September 2023

Q - I am in another show which has a rehearsal clash. Can I do both?

A - Please do not audition if you are already overcommitted. Chookas runs a tight rehearsal schedule and prides itself in only calling cast when they are absolutely required, so missing rehearsals on a regular basis is not a fair option for the cast.

Q - How do you cast the show?

A - Every production is different; we are always looking for amazing performers but overall nice humans!

Q - Where will callbacks/rehearsals be?

A - At our rehearsal space in Dudley

Q - How often do you rehearse?

A - Twice a week, approximately 6 hours in total. We are very tightly scheduled, so all cast members are only called when needed.

Q - When will we hear back from our audition?

A - We always have a large amount of people audition for our shows. Please be patient. We promise to be transparent and keep you up to date as much as we can

Q - I didn't get into the last show, should I bother auditioning for this one?

A - YES! We have a large number of auditionees and unfortunately cannot accept everyone which is no reflection on your talent! Every show is different, please come back and audition for us again!

Q - Do I need to show my face in the video?

A - yes, we will be disregarding any blank videos.

Q - Can I sing a song from the show for auditions?

A - Yes!

Q - How will I know if I get a callback?

A - We will email you. Not all cast members will be required at the callback, you could be cast as the lead in the show and still not be required at callbacks!