Welcome to Youngstars Advanced! This year the students will be building on previous training in singing, dancing and acting, while exploring the characters and world of the musical *Grease*. We will be focussing on an in depth approach to script analysis, character development, and portraying a story through song and dance. This promises to be an exciting year and we are thrilled to guide these incredibly talented students through a rewarding journey!

Meet the Instructors:

Mark Turpin: YS Advanced Instructor, "Grease" Director

Mark Turpin is thrilled to be back with the Lindbjerg Academy for his second year, after directing last year's production of *Into the Woods*. Most recently Mark assistant directed Theatre Under the Stars' production of *Annie*. In addition to teaching, Mark has returned to post secondary education to obtain a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance. Previously he completed a Theatre Diploma in acting and a Directing Certificate both at Capilano University. Mark is looking forward to the year ahead!

Melissa Assalone: YS Advanced Instructor, "Grease"

Melissa is excited to be back at Lindbjerg this year with six years of post secondary education completed! She returns with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Theatre Performance and an English Minor from Simon Fraser University, after previously completing her Theatre Diploma (in the same year as Mark) at Capilano University. Melissa is ecstatic to be working on Lindbjerg Academy's production of *Grease*, after previously choreographing *Anne of Green Gables*, *Peter Pan* and *Into the Woods*.

Class Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend all classes. This is not only so that rehearsals can be more productive and scenes do not need to be done twice, but also to create a team setting in which every student is playing their part in establishing a positive group with equal members.

- Students are asked to be on time and ready to go! A rehearsal schedule will be given out by the end of September. This will allow students to look ahead at what will be rehearsed each week and become familiar with their scenes and songs.

Class Attire:

Pants: Please come dressed in pants that provide full mobility. Males should wear sweats or track pants at this stage. Closer to the production jeans will be worn to rehearse in. Females should wear dance pants. Capri pants are recommended as the production involves a great deal of partner dancing and lifts. If pants are worn they must not be dragging on the floor, as this is a safety issue. Students cast as female characters will also be asked to bring a skirt similar to the style of their costume to rehearse in.

Shirt: Come dressed in a top that allows for full movement without being baggy. Please come in a shirt that does not show the mid drift when arms are fully extended overheaded and that allows any movement comfortably (including cartweels, spins, etc.).

Footwear: Male characters may wear runners with a flexible sole to rehearsal, as they will for the most part be wearing Converse type footwear in the show. Female characters may wear character shoes or saddle shoes to class once roles are cast and the students know which they will be wearing. Until this footwear is obtained, students should wear dance shoes.

Should you have any questions, you can contact both Mark and Melissa at

mmgrease@gmail.com

Looking forward to a great year!