

# 'Footloose' cast kicks off production, shoes Group OKs plans for summer concert series

Finals can't stop that dancing spirit

BY BEN PITTARD  
STAFF WRITER

Take off your Sunday shoes and get ready for the Pauper Players' spring performance of "Footloose."

The musical, made popular in the hit 1984 film starring Kevin Bacon, opens Friday in Playmakers Theatre.

"Footloose" centers on the story of Ren, a young Chicago transplant who moves with his mother to a small farm town.

Ren is unprepared for the culture shock that awaits him when he learns that rock music and dancing are illegal in the conservative pastoral community.

The vice laws are the brainchild of a vindictive reverend.

And when the preacher's young and rebellious daughter takes a shine to Ren, her jealous boyfriend sets out to ruin Ren's reputation.

What follows is Ren's struggle to fight against the town ordinance in a classic tale of repression and teen rebellion.

The score features music by Kenny Loggins and Sammy Hagar

as well as several new songs — not heard in the movie — that have been added to the musical.

The cast and crew have been gearing up for what they say will be an exciting performance.

"It's a great triple-threat show," said choreographer Ashley Barbour. "There's great acting, great music and the dancing is really intense."

Although the opening of the show falls close to final exams, those affiliated with "Footloose" said there's no reason not to go.

"It'll be a fun break to take people's minds off of exams," said Lexie Kuhn, the show's producer. Barbour added, "It's another form of procrastination."

Although the Pauper Players are a student-run organization, several nonstudents are also involved in the production.

"We have a really diverse cast," Kuhn said. "We even have some Duke (University) students."

The cast and crew have logged a large number of hours into the production of the show.

"It's been pretty stressful," said Katie Wicker, the show's stage

**IF YOU GO**

Date: April 29 & 30, May 12-May 14  
Time: 8 p.m.; 2 p.m. matinee April 30  
Location: Playmakers Theatre  
Info: <http://www.unc.edu/student/orgs/pauper/current.html>

manager. "We have five rehearsals a week from seven to 11. It's been fun, it's just a lot of work," she said.

Wicker said she thinks that hard work has paid off and that people should come support the show and the efforts of the cast and crew.

"People put a lot of work into it, and we really enjoy doing this."

Wicker said the show will be a chance for students who are not studying the arts to expand their horizons.

"The people in it aren't drama majors, mostly, so it's a chance for kids who love drama but are not able to be majors to do what they like to do," she said.

The show will run the weekend before and after final exams.

"It's fun," said Kuhn. "It'll be worth the seven bucks."

Contact the A&E Editor at [artsdesk@unc.edu](mailto:artsdesk@unc.edu).

BY JAKE POTTER  
STAFF WRITER

A committee charged with organizing this year's downtown summer concert series now has the backing it needs to move the plans forward.

The Downtown Economic Development Corporation, in its first year overseeing the event, gave a thumbs up Wednesday to the summer events committee to begin soliciting an event planner.

The corporation will allot as much as \$6,000 of its annual budget to committee chairman and corporation member Tom Tucker to hire a planner who would coordinate the nine scheduled events and attract sponsors.

Tucker offered the committee's draft plan to corporation members during their meeting Wednesday.

"We decided to go with something that was pretty much in keeping with last year's (series), due to the short amount of time," he said.

The group expressed gratitude for the committee's quick action. With the series set to begin in less than two months, growing concerns about time constraints have worried corporation members.

"(Tucker) put a tremendous amount of effort into this in a short amount of time," said corporation chairwoman Andrea Rohrbacher. The events — four concerts and

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ANDREA ROHRBACHER, CHAIRWOMAN, DOWNTOWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP.

four movie showings — are tentatively scheduled for every Wednesday between June 15 and Aug. 3.

A grand finale at the Hargraves Center athletic fields is slated for Aug. 13.

Tucker said the concerts and movie showings will likely be held on McCorkle Place, where the town has hosted events in previous years. Plans for alcohol sales at the event are still unclear.

The committee drew up details on the series while the Town Council considered a DEDC-supported petition to allow some alcohol sales on town-owned property.

With the council now prepared to vote on the issue May 9, the committee can begin to discuss the possibility of serving alcohol at some of the events.

Mayor Kevin Foy, the corporation's newest addition, warned fellow members that if the ordinance passes, event hosts wishing to serve alcohol on town-owned property still would have to submit an application to the council.

"It's not a blanket ordinance, but it's what you asked for," Foy told the group Wednesday.

A more vital part of the planning process, corporation members agreed, will be soliciting a sponsor.

The draft plan puts the corporation's total expenses for the series at \$30,000.

"This thing is not cheap," Tucker said. "There's a heavy dependence on the sponsors."

Member Roger Perry suggested that the committee plan according to affordability.

"The events should be a function of how much sponsorship money you get," he said.

The corporation will meet again May 11 at the Midway Business Center on Merritt Mill Road to discuss with town planning board representatives an initiative to bring wireless Internet access downtown and a downtown Streetscape improvements proposal.

Contact the City Editor at [citydesk@unc.edu](mailto:citydesk@unc.edu).

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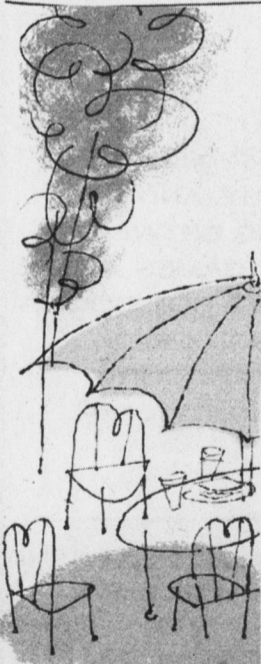
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