SJS Theatre proudly presents

Footloose

the musical

April 9–11 7 PM
April 12 1 PM



Waterfront Theatre
1412 Cartwright Street

SJS

FOOTLOOSE Stage Adaptation by DEAN PITCHFORD and WALTER BOBBIE
Based on the Original Screenplay by Dean Pitchford
Music by TOM SNOW
Lyrics by DEAN PITCHFORD
Additional Music by ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR, KENNY LOGGINS and JIM STEINMAN

Footloose the musical

Directed by Adam Walker and Hanna Van Inwegen

Choreographed by Hanna Van Inwegen

Conducted by Bryan Deans

SJS

From the Principal

Dear SJS Community,

I am filled with immense pride and gratitude as we celebrate our recent production of Footloose. This was far more than a lively school musical; it was a joyful reminder of the power of theatre to bring people together, to tell meaningful stories, and to remind us why self expression and connection matter so deeply, especially for young people finding their voices.
Based on the iconic film that introduced audiences to Kevin Bacon and an unforgettable soundtrack, Footloose is a story about more than dancing and music. At its heart, it explores the tension between tradition and change, the importance of listening across generations, and the courage it takes to stand up for creativity, freedom, and joy. Our students, guided by the extraordinary dedication of our staff and crew, approached this material with energy, thoughtfulness, and a genuine respect for its themes. They understood that beneath the catchy songs and high energy choreography lies a story about community, healing, and learning how to move forward together.

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to:
Our incredible student performers: Your commitment, enthusiasm, and heart shone through every moment on stage. You brought authenticity and warmth to your roles, capturing both the fun and the emotional depth of this story, and reminding us all why live theatre is such a powerful experience.

Our tireless crew: From the vibrant sets and carefully crafted costumes to the lighting, sound, and countless details behind the scenes, your hard work created a world that felt alive, dynamic, and true to the spirit of the show. This production could not have happened without your dedication and creativity.

Our dedicated staff and faculty: Your guidance, patience, and unwavering support allowed students to take risks, grow in confidence, and work together as a true ensemble. You created an environment where learning, collaboration, and artistic excellence could thrive.

Our supportive community: Your energy in the audience, your encouragement, and your continued support of the arts make opportunities like this possible. Thank you for embracing this story and for celebrating our students as they shared their talents with you.

Producing a show like Footloose asks us to reflect on the balance between rules and freedom, structure and expression, and tradition and growth. We are incredibly fortunate to be part of a community that values the arts and supports students as they explore these ideas through performance. We believe that theatre has the power to uplift, inspire, and connect us, and this production beautifully embodied that belief.

Thank you for your continued support of SJS, and our students. We look forward to many more opportunities to watch them learn, grow, and, occasionally, dance their way into something wonderful.

Kindly,
Hazel Chee
Senior School Principal, St. John's School



From the Director

Welcome to Footloose!

A recent SJS Theatre production posed a timeless question: "Without a song or a dance, what are we?" In our rapidly evolving 21st century, where screens often act as barriers rather than bridges, this question feels more urgent than ever. As modern rituals shift and the traditional "school dance" sometimes feels like a relic of the past, we find ourselves increasingly isolated within the safety of our digital devices. But theatre, and dance, demands connection. Connection we may be missing out on and what we aim to build tonight.

Footloose presents a world where rights and freedoms have been stripped away by figures of authority who believe they know what is best for the collective good. Fans of our program will recognize this as a prevalent theme from last year's production of Urinetown. However, where last year's story culminated in a violent uprising, the residents of Bomont choose a path of reconciliation. When their stifling status quo is challenged by the arrival of a charismatic outsider, Ren McCormack, the town learns to use the arts not as a weapon, but as a vital tool to heal their fractured community.

It has been an absolute privilege to work with this remarkable young cast. Together, we have delved into the complex, surprisingly tender interpersonal relationships that drive this high-energy show. These students have brought incredible intelligence, passion, and fresh perspectives to the rehearsal room, ensuring the true emotional core of the play shines through.

To the families, students, and community that supported this production, thank you for your effort and enthusiasm over the course of the year. We could never have gotten this show off the ground without your encouragement.

Tackling the intensive vocal training, intricate choreography, and demanding scene work has pushed many of our cast members far beyond their comfort zones. True to our values as an MYP IB school, they have embodied what it means to be genuine risk-takers. I could not be prouder of the community they have built on this stage. Let's see if it inspires a school dance in 2027?!

Let's hear it for the Arts—and the whole cast, band and crew! Enjoy the show.

Adam Walker, Senior School Fine Arts Teacher

Cast

In order of appearance

REN MCCORMACK – Harry Whyte
ETHEL MCCORMACK – Emma Lee
REVEREND SHAW MOORE – Ethan Mukhopadkyay
VI MOORE – Jazmyn Yong
ARIEL MOORE – Ciara Cullimore
LULU WARNICKER – Ava McMillan
WES WARNICKER – William Collins
COACH ROGER DUNBAR – Manny Alloway
ELEANOR DUNBAR, COWBOY BOB – Rachel Kim
RUSTY – Kaitlyn Brown
URLEEN – Amelia Wu
WENDY JO – Elsa Zhou
CHUCK CRANSTON – Daniel Che
LYLE – Marcus Nguyen
TRAVIS – Nate Roessler
WILLARD HEWITT – George Guan
PRINCIPAL HARRIET CLARK – Michelle Gajardo Hagsater
JETER – Hanson Liu
BICKLE – Jacob Cheng
BETTY BLAST, ENSEMBLE – Elisa Sui
ENSEMBLE – Harper Zhao
ENSEMBLE – Leanne Leung

Band

CLARINET – Vivienne Chen
GUITAR – Caden Liu
SAXOPHONE – Nicole Ni
DRUMS – Caius Shadeo
BASS – Liv Sveinson
KEYBOARD – Charles Wang
KEYBOARD – Julie Xu

Production Team

STAGE MANAGERS
Eva Huang, Rayi Zou

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS
Cherie Nguyen, Natalie LeBlanc, Aanaya Bassi

STAGE CREW
Amy Fan, Hailey Chan, Bella Salvarinova, Reina Sui, Spencer Sang, Crystal Wu

Co-Directors – Adam Walker
Hanna Van Inwegen
Choreographer – Hanna Van Inwegen
Conductor – Bryan Deans
Set Design – Brian Low
Lighting Design – Darren Boquist
Poster and Program Design – Victoria Murphy
Headshots – Callum Fong-Craig
Front of House – SJS PAE

Musical Numbers

ACT I

FOOTLOOSE – Company

ON ANY SUNDAY– Shaw, Company

I CAN'T STAND STILL – Ren

SOMEBODY'S EYES – Rusty, Urleen, Wendy Jo, Company

LEARNING TO BE SILENT – Vi, Ethel, Ariel

HOLDING OUT FOR A HERO – Ariel, Rusty, Urleen, Wendy Jo

SOMEBODY'S EYES (Reprise) – Rusty, Urleen, Wendy Jo, Chuck, Travis, Lyle

HEAVEN HELP ME – Shaw

I'M FREE/HEAVEN HELP ME – Ren, Shaw, Company

INTERMISSION

ACT II

STILL ROCKIN' – Cowboy Bob, Company

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOY – Rusty

CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART?– Vi

MAMA SAYS (YOU CAN'T BACK DOWN) – Willard, Jeter, Bickle, Ren

ALMOST PARADISE – Ren and Ariel

HEAVEN HELP ME (Reprise) – Shaw

CAN YOU FIND IT IN YOUR HEART? (Reprise) – Shaw

FOOTLOOSE (Finale) – Company

Cast

Harry Whyte



Ren McCormack

Why should everybody cut loose?

Everybody should be kicking off their Sunday shoes once in a while to let go of their problems and live life a little.

Bio

Over many years at SJS, I have tried to involve myself in as many of the school communities as I am passionate about. This includes sports, music, and of course, theatre. To me, theatre is truly an outlet of expression. You can drop whatever worries you have and take up an entirely new character. You can explore what it is like to be this person, to speak as them, walk as them, talk as them, think as them. Scriptwriters leave so much of a character up to interpretation that the actor can really take agency and mould this character into anything they desire.

Michelangelo once said, "I saw the angel in the marble and carved it until I set him free". This quote is equally applicable to theatre. The character boundaries are set by the script, but it is the actor who brings it to life. This is exactly why I had so much fun in the making of Footloose. The process of creating a character from the information given is one of my favourite parts of theatre, and no matter how many times you do a show, you can change it up however you want, making a different experience no matter how much you do it.

Emma Lee



Ethel McCormack

Why should everybody cut loose?

Because you only live once!

Bio

Emma is so excited to participate in this year's production of Footloose! Having taken part in school productions since grade 2, Emma has built a passion for performing that has stuck with her. Performing in musicals like Peter Pan, Beauty and the Beast, The Spread, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and Mamma Mia, has helped her build confidence and memories she won't forget. This year's cast is so fun to work with and it is undeniable that the finished product will be something truly special. When not in the theatre, Emma can be found crocheting, baking yummy things, or watching true crime.

Ethan Mukhopadkyay



Reverend Shaw Moore

Why should everybody cut loose?

I think that we all should let the past rest.

Bio

Playing Rev. Shaw Moore with a new cast of people has truly been an eye-opener to different theatre strategies. Stepping into the mind of someone with so much psychological pain, compared to being in an ensemble of sailors in a previous performance of "Anything Goes", was really fun to adapt to, and I really have to thank the directors for putting all of this together and bringing so many people with talent to the table. This performance is full of energy and playfulness, but I hope the audience takes away the message of holding on tightly and letting go lightly. To the audience, I really hope that you enjoy the performance that has taken the better part of my time, and I can guarantee that this will be one to remember.

Jazmyn Yong



Vi Moore

Why should everybody cut loose?
or else we'll tear up this town

Bio

For my final year at SJS, I was excited to find out that we were doing Footloose. Going into the musical, I wasn't sure if I liked Vi's role because I wanted something more lively, and I initially saw her as timid and shy. However, I learned that even when she was learning to be silent, she still had so much spark in her. Realising this motivated me more to portray her in a way that I felt she herself would appreciate—as someone stronger than she seems.

Working with my castmates and having Ms V and Mr Walker as our directors made the experience more enjoyable, as everyone had their own unique charm. As the musical continues, I look forward to all the new memories I'll make in the theatre, and I know I'll miss it the most as I move on to university. Wherever I am, I hope everyone finds it in their hearts to cut footloose.

Ciara Cullimore



Ariel Moore

Why should everybody cut loose?

because “dancing is not a crime”!!

Bio

As a lifer and part of the theatre community at SJS since Grade 3, this is my sixth and final school production. I have loved taking on a variety of characters during my time here, bringing each one to life and making them my own. I am so incredibly excited to be playing Ariel Moore, a character who has so much depth and variety to explore as an actor.

Reflecting on my years participating in these productions, I am beyond grateful for the opportunities I’ve been given and all of the valuable performance and life lessons I’ve learned. Working with such a supportive group of students and directors every year has allowed me to grow as a performer and truly find my passion for theatre.

Outside of theatre, I am a member of Student Council, choir, yearbook and I also run the SJS theatre instagram account (@theatre.sjs!!).

After graduation, I plan to study theatre in university with the hope of one day performing professionally. Although balancing Grade 12 and my commitment to this production can at times be difficult, I am so lucky to be constantly supported by my friends, my family and my directors Ms. V and Mr. Walker.

I sincerely hope you enjoy watching this show as much as I have enjoyed being a part of it!!

Ava McMillan



Lulu Warnicker

Why should everybody cut loose?

People forget to have fun and just not work sometimes because of life, but we all deserve to cut loose sometimes. Whether that's a dancer or something else, we all have our own way of having fun and should be able to after doing work. We should all cut loose sometimes to be happier and not get too stressed, even if it's just once in a while.

Bio

For me, this program isn't an obligatory extracurricular; it's a really great experience. It is such a privilege to be in the environment of our practices. I have laughed and had lots of fun practising dances and singing with everyone, and I know others have too.

The show, I thought, was such a great pick. It was so exciting to make and watch the show come to life. It also makes you think about how this relates to modern society and how some people in different places might not have as much freedom, and how lucky we are that we do. This show is really just so much fun, and I hope you think so too after watching it. I just joined SJS, and this cast and directors made me feel so welcome and even though I have not been here the years before I do think that this is the best show SJS has ever done!

Enjoy the show!

William Collins



Wes Warnicker

Why should everybody cut loose?

Because life is short, to have the opportunity to experience all of the beauty and sadness it holds is truly a miracle, and it is up to us to live it to its fullest.

Bio

Making this show has opened my eyes to the opportunities that I have, and the ones I've overlooked because of my apprehension. But participating in this and being a part of such an amazing community has made me realise the value of what I have. This is my first year at SJS, and when I first arrived, I had no idea I would be in Footloose! I only partially considered maybe seeing if I could help with set design. But for some reason that I still have not figured out, I picked up an audition packet and started practising. Fast forward a few weeks, and I realised that was one of the best decisions I have ever made. In retrospect, my apprehension seems so silly! I hope that as you watch the characters in this show take risks, you are inspired to step out of your comfort zone and try something new. Because who knows what could happen!

Manny Alloway



Coach Roger Dunbar

Why should everybody cut loose?

We should cut loose because it's really fun

Bio

This production has been a truly exemplary experience for me, from the caring cast members to the understanding directors.

This is the best musical I have been in yet, and I hope that everyone enjoys it.

Rachel Kim



Eleanor Dunbar and Cowboy Bob

Why should everybody cut loose?

As the opening number declares, when we've all been working so hard, life will pass by without even trying; we would only get by if we cut (foot)loose every once in a while.

Bio

Rachel is extremely grateful to have joined the cast of Footloose this year. She has participated in numerous SJS school productions in the past, including Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2023), Mamma Mia! (2024), and Urinetown (2025). Additionally, as a dedicated student of the SJS Theatre program, Rachel has experience in various forms of performance art, including mime, voice acting, and traditional dance theatre.

Kaitlyn Brown



Rusty

Why should everybody cut loose?

As someone who gets to follow her passion with musical theatre in school, I know how important it is to feel accepted when trying something new, specifically in the arts. Cutting loose isn't always about dancing or breaking rules; it's about permitting ourselves to breathe in a world that's constantly telling us to tighten up and act in a certain way. Society piles on pressure that can feel impossible to avoid, pushing us to follow unrealistic standards and regulations that suffocate. When even one person takes that first step to cut loose, it gives others a green light to do the same. It's like a chain reaction of relief, and suddenly, not everyone is feeling suffocated anymore.

Bio

As a performer in many SJS productions, it's safe to say that Footloose has been one of our best. The cast is built of some of my favourite people, and it's clear that we bring our friendship to the stage. It's refreshing to see our school put on a show that I know a lot of teens will relate to, addressing issues like societal pressure and struggling to find an outlet to cut loose. This production will forever hold a special place in my heart, and I'm so excited to see what comes next.

Amelia Wu



Urleen

Why should everybody cut loose?

Or else you'll hit the ceiling!

Bio

This has been the greatest production I have been in so far. Every rehearsal, I'm blown away by the fire and energy that everyone brings to the table. The music is awesome, the dancing is awesome, and the show has some great emotional bits that surprisingly brought a tear to my eye. The Greek chorus trio of Rusty, Urleen, and Wendy Jo adds a unique layer to the show, and I enjoyed developing my harmonising skills with these amazing girls. I can't express in words just how much I love this cast and how much fun I'm having at every rehearsal!

Elsa Zhou



Wendy Jo

Why should everybody cut loose?

Cuz we should all dance and be free and not be restricted and punish ourselves forever

Bio

I participated in the Wizard of OZ, Twelfth Night, Oliver, and Fawlty Towers

Daniel Che



Chuck Cranston

Why should everybody cut loose?

Because Footloose is a high-energy celebration of teenage rebellion. We need dance and challenge the unjust rules.

Bio

I am a grade 11 student and this is my second year participating in the SJS theatre production. My character is Chuck Cranston, and I have come to understand this person and his situation. Theatre has been a small, but vital part of my life for the past two years. Theatre has taught me a lot about life lessons, communication, collaboration, and problem solving under pressure. So far, Footloose has taught me the power of community, and I hope that this play will bring the same emotions to you as it has for me.

Marcus Nguyen



Lyle

Why should everybody cut loose?

I believe that everyone should be happy and very chill. To do whatever they want to do.

Bio

Lyle is a follower of Chuck and travis. He cant always find the difference between good and bad but always going with whatever Chuck says.

Nate Roessler



Travis

Why should everybody cut loose?

Schoolwork is really hard right now, so it's nice to have a chance to have fun.

Bio

I was born on July 5, 2009, in Manila, Philippines. I moved to British Columbia when I was around 2 years old, and I've lived there ever since. I initially started theatre in Grade 6 in SJS when we had to pick an art, and from the beginning, I knew I wanted to pick theatre. Grade 8 was when I did my first school production, and I ended up doing the one after that, taking a break and then doing the one after that being this production of Footloose! I've had a lot of fun with all the dancing and characters in this show, so I hope you enjoy it.

George Guan



Willard Hewitt

Why should everybody cut loose?

Cutting loose matters because it gives us room to breathe in a world that constantly expects us to perform, improve, and keep up. When we allow ourselves to step back from perfectionism and pressure, we reconnect with the parts of ourselves that get buried—our creativity, our sense of play, and our ability to enjoy things without overthinking. Letting go, even briefly, doesn't mean we're avoiding responsibility; it means we're resetting so we can return to our lives clearer, stronger, and more in touch with what actually matters.

Bio

This is George's second year doing musical theatre, following his performance last year in Urinetown, the musical. George is thrilled to take on the role of Willard, exploring his "wit" and "hidden talents." When George isn't on stage, you might find him in the gym, doing math, or playing Clash Royale.

Michelle Gajardo Hagsater



Principal Harriet Clark

Why should everybody cut loose?

Everybody should cut loose because it means letting go of any restrictions that you could have given yourself and being the free and expressive person you were meant to be! Nobody should ever fear cutting loose and being yourself, as that could be what makes you, you. And putting limitations on that is what makes us fear actually doing it. Don't be afraid to take a new approach to things and cut loose! It's nice to let go for a little while, and hopefully, forever. Don't let life keep holding you down!

Bio

I've always wanted to be an actress. To show myself off to others and perform anything that I could. The fact that I can do that now excites me very much! It's my first year doing musical theatre, let alone any type of dramatic theatre at all in front of an audience of strangers! It makes me feel good to be able to say that out loud. The fact that I got such a role still baffles me, especially since I've never done anything more professional like this. I love being part of the cast, going through fun rehearsals and getting closer to other students in SJS. This will be an awesome show and I'm glad to be able to say that I'm a part of it!

Hanson Liu



Jeter

Why should everybody cut loose?

Everybody should "cut loose" because it means being free to express yourself and not letting unfair rules control your life. In Footloose, the town bans dancing because of fear, but that rule takes away something that makes people happy. When Ren comes to town, he helps people realise that dancing isn't bad, it's a way to feel alive and connect with others. "Cutting loose" shows that sometimes you have to stand up for what you believe in and not be afraid to be yourself.

Bio

Hi, I'm Hanson, and I'm excited to be part of this year's production of Footloose! Last year, I performed in Urinetown, and it was such a great experience that I knew I wanted to do it again this year. Being on stage, working with everyone, and performing for an audience was unforgettable. I really love all kinds of music, which is one of the reasons I enjoy musical theatre so much. Whether it's upbeat songs like Holding Out for a Hero or fun numbers like Mama Says, I love the energy and excitement that music brings to a show.

So far, I'm having a lot of fun being part of this cast. I really enjoy singing, dancing, and just being involved in everything. Everyone in the cast is very nice and fun to work with, and it makes rehearsals something I always look forward to. I hope you enjoy the show and remember to "cut loose!"

Jacob Cheng



Bickle

Why should everybody cut loose?

I think that everyone should cut loose because everyone needs to be free, and no one should be held back by laws, even if it's to commemorate or remember people. Sometimes a law should be broken only if it's "worth fighting for"

Bio

This is my first school musical, and I've had a great time learning the songs, dances, and lines for Footloose, and I am really excited to be part of it. I've learnt a lot about acting and how to work with a cast from being in this show, and it's been great to do something different and try something brand new. During rehearsals, I've enjoyed being able to work with everyone and watching the play come together. When I am not rehearsing, I enjoy hanging out with friends, playing sports and reading. I am really excited to be part of this musical, and I hope everyone enjoys the play!

Elisa Sui



Ensemble

and Betty Blast

Why should everybody cut loose?

The answer may be simple, but the meaning and purpose are much more important. To be able to cut loose is to express yourself however you want, being free and unafraid of new opportunities. We all need a chance to take on challenges. I mean, who knows where new opportunities will take us? For the better, you will feel a sense of accomplishment. However, if you mess up, you can learn from your mistakes and improve as a person in general. To put it in simpler words, everyone should cut loose because every moment of life is an opportunity. To be free. Lighten up your life a little! Don't be afraid, and be yourself!

Bio

At a very young age, I've always been very passionate about acting and public speaking. I always feel a sense of pride and joy whenever I'm up on stage in front of an audience, and I want to spread this joy, help others feel the intensity of the entire plot, too excited to relax. Spreading this emotion is my goal, as well as improving my acting skills to help others, so that's why I felt overjoyed when I joined the Footloose cast. Overjoyed to be part of this closely-knit community, where we spend hours of dedicated fun working on this show. Blocking, singing, choreography, you name it! There's this sort of pressure in the air every time we rehearse; the fact that everyone needs to perform in front of hundreds of people really gets to some of us. But this feeling is what I'm here for. It's exciting and keeps me focused and on task, which is why I hope every single audience member will be able to feel the dedication pouring out of all the crew, onstage and off. Because this is the result of months of work, starting from scratch. All the spare time we put away just to make the story happen. Every. Single. Person. I know everyone, directors, backstage, and all, have tried their best, given their all into this, because I have a feeling that this show will be a work of art.

Harper Zhao



Ensemble

Why should everybody cut loose?

Because it's something, fun, enjoyable, and something that could let you relax from a hard day.

Bio

I'm just a high schooler, who likes to hang out with friends and envies dancing and how Ren is so up about it.

Leanne Leung



Ensemble

Why should everybody cut loose?

Everybody should cut loose because we could break free from limiting rules, express ourselves, stand up for ourselves for freedom, celebrate life and feel joy together, and let go of stress and pressure.

Bio

I have always dreamt about being an actress and singer. I have been doing shows in my old school, and I am very excited to perform my first show at SJS. Working with people who have been in the cast for a while helps me look up to them and learn many more skills for the future. I will continue this process in the future.


HICAGO
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A Special Thank You To:

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Julie Begg

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Panther Creative

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Ethan Tong

Victoria Murphy



SJS

ELEVATE
Annual Giving

Our community's support through Annual Giving helps us elevate student opportunities in the theatre arts. Thank you for helping our students' talent shine!

