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MoCo Arts' High School Musical Theatre Students to Perform *Footloose*



MoCo Arts' High School Musical Theatre students are gearing up to perform one of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory, "*Footloose*." The iconic musical will be performed by MoCo students in grades 9 – 12 on Saturday, January 19th at 2pm and 7pm, and on Sunday, January 20th at 2pm in *The Founder's Theatre* at MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street in Keene. The show features 25 cast members with a live orchestra providing the musical accompaniment for the performance.

The story begins when Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town. Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local edicts, including a ban on dancing instituted by the local preacher. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her sights on Ren, her roughneck boyfriend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. The heartfelt story that emerges is of a father longing for the son he lost and of a young man aching for the father who walked out on him.

"The story told throughout '*Footloose*' is one of acceptance," says Hannah Lambert, an eleventh grader from Jaffrey who is playing the part of Ariel Moore. "It demonstrates that when we face our fears, we are able to become stronger together."

To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar and Tony-nominated top 40 score and dynamic new songs written for the stage musical, "*Footloose*" celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

"'*Footloose*' is an upbeat and energetic show that manages to explore the importance of family and change in people's lives," says Niko McPherson, an eleventh grader at Keene High School who is playing the part of Ren McCormick. "If audience members have seen the movie, I think that they will be pleasantly surprised with the added songs and dances."

Tickets for "*Footloose*" are \$14 and can be purchased at MoCo Arts, or by calling (603) 357-2100. For more information about the show, or to learn more about MoCo Arts, visit www.moco.org.

MoCo Arts is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, multi-arts educational organization located in downtown Keene offering dance and theatre classes and multi-arts vacation and summer camps for children ages 18 months to 18+ years. As part of the educational process, MoCo Arts provides professional quality performance experience for students and family-friendly performances for audiences of all ages throughout the year. MoCo welcomes all students, beginners through advanced, and tuition assistance is available. MoCo Arts is sponsored in part by the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information please visit MoCo Arts, 40 Roxbury Street, Keene, NH 03431 or www.moco.org

Photo caption: MoCo Arts' High School Musical students rehearse for their performance of "Footloose"

Photo by Colleen Manzi

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