

## **GREASE 2**

### **SYNOPSIS**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

It is 1961, two years after the original *Grease*. The first day of school has arrived and the T-Birds and the Pink Ladies dance and sing as they enter the high school ("Back to School Again"). The Pink Ladies are now led by Stephanie Zinone, who feels she has "outgrown" her relationship with her ex-boyfriend Johnny Nogerelli, the arrogant and rather immature new leader of the T-Birds.

A new arrival comes in the form of clean-cut English student Michael Carrington (a cousin of Sandy Olsson from the previous film). He is welcomed and introduced to the school atmosphere by Frenchy, who was asked by Sandy to help show Michael around. Frenchy reveals she has returned to Rydell to get her high school diploma so she can start her own cosmetics company. Michael eventually meets Stephanie and quickly becomes smitten with her. At the local bowling alley, a game ("Score Tonight") turns sour due to the animosity between Johnny and Stephanie. Stephanie retaliates by kissing the next man who walks in the door, who happens to be Michael. Bemused by this unexpected kiss, Michael asks her out, but he learns that she has a very specific vision of her ideal man ("Cool Rider"). As he realizes that he will only win her affection if he turns himself into a cool rider, Michael accepts payment from the T-Birds to write term papers for them; he uses the cash to buy a motorcycle.

Following an unusual biology lesson ("Reproduction") given by Mr. Stuart, a substitute teacher, a gang of rival motorcyclists called the Cycle Lords (most of whom are members of the defunct Scorpions) led by Leo Balmudo surprise the T-Birds at the bowling alley. Before the fight starts, a lone mysterious (unnamed) biker appears (who is Michael in disguise), defeats the enemy gang and disappears into the night ("Who's That Guy?"). Stephanie is fascinated with the stranger. Meanwhile, Louis, one of the T-Birds, attempts to trick his sweetheart Sharon, one of the Pink Ladies and Stephanie's friends into losing her virginity to him by taking her to a fallout shelter and faking a nuclear attack ("Let's Do It for Our Country").

The next evening while working at a gas station/garage, Stephanie is surprised again by the Cool Rider, and they enjoy a romantic twilight motorcycle ride. Just as Michael is about to reveal his identity, they are interrupted by the arrival of the T-Birds and Pink Ladies. Before Michael leaves, he tells Stephanie that he will see her at the school talent show, in which the Pink Ladies and T-Birds are performing. Johnny, enraged by Stephanie's new romance, threatens to fight the Cool Rider if he sees him with her again. The Pink Ladies walk away haughtily, but this has little effect on the T-Birds' self-confidence ("Prowlin").

At school, Stephanie's poor grades in English lead her to accept Michael's offer of help. Johnny, upon seeing them together in a discussion, demands that Stephanie quit the Pink Ladies to preserve his honor ("rep", reputation). Although still enamored with the Cool Rider, interactions with Michael reveal that she has become romantically interested in him as well. Michael ponders over his continuing charade he puts on for Stephanie ("Charades").

At the talent show, Stephanie and the Cool Rider meet but are ambushed by the T-Birds who pursue Michael on their respective motorcycles, with Stephanie and the Pink Ladies following in a car. They chase him to a construction site which conceals a deadly drop, and the biker's absence suggests that he has perished below, leaving Stephanie heartbroken and inconsolable. Johnny and his T-Birds

remove the competing Preptones preppie boys by tying them to a shower pole in the boys' locker room and drenching them. During the Pink Ladies' performance in the talent show ("Girl for All Seasons"), Stephanie enters a dreamlike fantasy world where she is reunited with her mystery biker ("(Love Will) Turn Back the Hands of Time"). She is named winner of the contest and crowned the queen of the upcoming graduation luau, with Johnny hailed as king for his performance of "Prowlin'" with his fellow T-Birds.

The school year ends with the luau ("Rock-a-Hula Luau"), during which the Cycle Lords appear and begin to destroy the celebration. However, the Cool Rider reappears. After he defeats the Cycle Lords again, he reveals himself to be Michael. Initially shocked, Johnny gives him a T-Birds jacket, officially welcoming him into the gang, and Stephanie accepts that she can now be with him. All the couples pair off happily at the seniors' graduation as the graduating class sings ("We'll Be Together"). The credits start rolling in yearbook-style, as in the original film.

## CAST

Maxwell Caulfield as Michael Carrington

Michelle Pfeiffer as Stephanie Zinone

**T-Birds:** Adrian Zmed as Johnny Nogerelli, Christopher McDonald as Goose McKenzie, Peter Frechette as Louis DiMucci, Leif Green as Davey Jaworski

**Pink Ladies:** Maureen Teefy as Sharon Cooper, Lorna Luft as Paulette Rebchuck, Alison Price as Rhonda Ritter, Pamela Segall as Dolores Rebchuck

**Reprising Roles:** Didi Conn as Frenchy, Eve Arden as Principal Greta McGee, Sid Caesar as Coach Calhoun, Dody Goodman as Vice Principal Blanche Hodel, Eddie Deezen as Eugene Felsnick, Dennis C. Stewart as Leo Balmudo (Craterface), Dick Patterson as Mr. Spears (appeared as Mr. Rudie in the previous film)

**Supporting Cast:** Tab Hunter as Mr. Stuart, Connie Stevens as Miss Yvette Mason, Jean and Liz Sagal as Noreen and Doreen, Matt Lattanzi as Brad, Lucinda Dickey as Girl Greaser

## MUSIC

### Musical numbers:

1. "Back to School Again" – Cast and The Four Tops (verses by the Pink Ladies are absent from the soundtrack)
2. "Score Tonight" – T-Birds, Pink Ladies, Cast
3. "Brad" – Noreen and Doreen
4. "Cool Rider" – Stephanie
5. "Reproduction" – Mr. Stuart and Students
6. "Who's That Guy?" – Michael, T-Birds, Pink Ladies, Cycle Lords, and Cast
7. "Do It for Our Country" – Louis and Sharon (Sharon's part is absent from the soundtrack)
8. "Prowlin'" – Johnny and T-Birds
9. "Charades" – Michael
10. "Girl for All Seasons" – Sharon, Paulette, Rhonda, and Stephanie
11. "(Love Will) Turn Back the Hands of Time" – Stephanie and Michael
12. "Rock-a-Hula Luau (Summer Is Coming)" – Cast
13. "We'll Be Together" – Michael, Stephanie, Johnny, Paulette, and Cast

### Background music:

1. "Moon River" (Military Band)
2. "Our Day Will Come" – Ruby & The Romantics (*Grease 2* takes place in 1961-62 and "Our Day Will Come" did not come out until 1963)
3. "Rebel Walk" – Duane Eddy (this was the B-side of his biggest hit "Because They're Young")

## PRODUCTION

*Grease* co-producer Allan Carr had a deal with Paramount Pictures to be paid \$5 million to produce a sequel, with production beginning within three years of the original film. Carr decided to hire [Patricia Birch](#) as director for the sequel, as she had previously served as the choreographer for the stage and film versions of *Grease*. Birch was initially hesitant to accept after learning that neither composers [Jim Jacobs](#) and [Warren Casey](#) nor [John Travolta](#) and [Olivia Newton-John](#) would be involved in film. The total budget for the production was \$11.2 million, almost double the budget of the original.

*Grease 2* was intended to be the second film (and first sequel) in a proposed *Grease* franchise of four films and a television series. (The third and fourth films were to take place in the sixties and during the counterculture era.) However, the projects were scrapped due to the underwhelming box office performance of *Grease 2*. Maxwell Caulfield was unhappy with the film's "drab" title, and unsuccessfully lobbied to change it to *Son of Grease*.

Birch proposed an idea to feature Travolta and Newton-John reprising their characters as a now married couple running a gas station near the end of the film, which did not come to fruition. Paramount tried to get Jeff Conaway and Stockard Channing from the first film to do cameos but this did not happen.

Timothy Hutton was announced as a male star, but Maxwell Caulfield was signed after impressing producers on Broadway in *Entertaining Mister Sloane*. Pfeiffer had only made a few films before:

That was really weird for me. I'd been taking singing lessons and I had taken dance, because I loved to dance, but I had never considered myself a professional at all. I went on this audience as a fluke, and somehow, through the process of going back and dancing, and then going back and singing, I ended up getting the part. I went crazy with that movie. I came to New York and the paparazzi were waiting at the hotel. I know the producers put them up to it. I am basically very private, and I'm really nervous about doing publicity. Every time I set up an interview, I say, "That's it, this is my last one. I'll do this because I committed to doing it, but I'm never doing another one." It was insane.

Lorna Luft was the last star cast. The part played by Connie Stevens was originally meant for Annette Funicello but she was unable to appear as she was filming a peanut butter advertisement that week.

## CRITICAL RECEPTION

The sequel took in just over \$15 million after coming at fifth on opening weekend behind *E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial*, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, *Rocky III*, and *Poltergeist*. Barry Diller of Paramount said that the film "on no level is as good as the first. The quality isn't there." Jim Jacobs described it as "awful... the pits."

As of August 2015, the film had a rating of 32% on [Rotten Tomatoes](#), based on 28 critics' reviews, with an average rating of 3.6/10. The site's consensus states: "*Grease 2* is undeniably stocked with solid songs and well-choreographed dance sequences, but there's no getting around the fact that it's a blatant retread of its far more entertaining predecessor." [Janet Maslin](#) for *The New York Times* condemned the film as "dizzy and slight, with an even more negligible plot than its predecessor had. This time the story can't even masquerade as an excuse for stringing the songs together. Songs? What songs? The numbers in *Grease 2* are so hopelessly insubstantial that the cast is forced to burst into melody about pastimes like bowling." *Variety*, on the other hand, commended the staging of the musical numbers, writing that [Patricia Birch](#) has come up with some unusual settings (a bowling alley, a

bomb shelter) for some of the scenes, and employs some sharp montage to give most of the songs and dances a fair amount of punch." [Roger Ebert](#) for the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) gave the film 2 stars out of 4, saying: "This movie just recycles *Grease*, without the stars, without the energy, without the freshness and without the grease."

However, Pfeiffer received positive notices for her first major role. The [New York Times](#) review cited her performance as the "one improvement" on the original film: "Miss Pfeiffer is as gorgeous as any [cover girl](#), and she has a sullen quality that's more fitting to a *Grease* character than [Miss Newton-John](#)'s sunniness was." [Variety](#) wrote that she was "all anyone could ask for in the looks department, and she fills Olivia Newton-John's shoes and tight pants very well."

"That film was a good experience for me," said Pfeiffer later. "It taught me a valuable lesson. Before it even came out the hype had started. Maxwell and I were being thrust down the public's throat in huge full page advertisements. There was no way we could live up to any of that and we didn't. So the crash was very loud. But it did teach me not to have expectations."