Kick off your musical shoes

Rehearsals at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College are well under way, with students excited to be back on stage for the 2021 College musical *Footloose*.

Following the classic story of Ren McCormack finding his place in a small farming town, and in turn helping a town heal from tragedy, *Footloose* celebrates the exhilaration of youth, the wisdom of listening to one another and the power of forgiveness.

Based on the original screenplay by Dean Pitchford, and music by Tom Snow, the musical combines themes of friendship, love, loss, family and adolescence.

"The show is about breaking barriers, finding freedoms and expression through dance," says Damian Bernardo, the college's head of learning for performing arts.

"Our cast can really connect with this given that musicals themselves are about letting students express who they are in an artistic way."

The college community was disappointed last year's production was cancelled because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so there is excitement in the air, and everyone is staying focused on the task ahead.

"We are so excited to be putting on a show again," Mr Bernardo says.

"There is a real buzz amongst the cast, with most of them having worked on this musical for two years now. It is brilliant to see everyone's commitment hasn't dwindled."

The storyline has a running theme of 'no dancing allowed' which has presented its own set of challenges for head choreographer Denise Tyrikos, but by incorporating sly moves and hidden jazz hands, the cast is able to continually show movement.

"It was a challenge at first to get my head around it, but now I am loving the flow of the show and the at times subtle but stand out dance moves," says Ms Tyrikos.

Despite the hurdle of another snap coronavirus lockdown, the student cast and production team are facing the challenge head-on, finding new ways to rehearse.

Mr Bernardo said the students are proving to the community their resilience, patience and what it means to be a student at the college.

"We have an amazing team working behind the scenes, and the cast as a whole are close-knit and really take care of each other. COVID has taught them how lucky they are and how important it is to look after everyone."

Caroline Chisholm Catholic College students will be back on stage for the musical *Footloose*. (Supplied)

Footloose is showing for two nights only. Opening night is set for Thursday, September 2, 2021.
Bookings: trybooking.com/BRBJG

Submit your application via **cccc.vic.edu.au**

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