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Last Updated: 9:55 am | Saturday, September 30, 2006

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'Grease' cast gets first-hand accounts of 1950s

BY ALLEN HOWARD | ENQUIRER STAFF WRITER

Jeremy Braley, 17 and Abbey Gauger, 14, can do a swing dance of the 1950s, probably as well as your grandparents.

They have been practicing it for the upcoming performance of "Grease," by Acting Up, a young performer's theater troupe based in Mason.

Jeremy and Abbey are part of the 55-member cast, performing the 1950's rock 'n' roll musical.

ADVERTISEMENT But they had lots of questions about what the 1950s were really like.

Becky Corstanje, president of Acting Up, arranged for the cast, with kids ages 5 to 18, to question elders who grew up in the 1950s.

"I wanted to know about the Mickey Mouse Club and how much did a car cost in the 1950s," Jeremy said.

"I would like to know what kind of makeup did the women wear," Abbey said.

They had all their questions answered in a session last week at Mason Heights Elementary School, and the seniors got more questions than they anticipated.

"When we thought about doing this, we didn't think we could find enough to talk about," said Jan



ZOOM PHOTO PROVIDED

Jan Fischer and Don Fischer, with (right) Donna Manning, talk with members of the cast of "Grease," an upcoming production by Acting Up, a young performer's theater troupe based in Mason.

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Fischer, 65, of Reading. She and her husband, Don, also 65, spent about two hours talking with the cast.

"We learned that the children pretty much led the discussion with their questions," Jan Fischer said.

In a casual gathering in the school lunch room, the cast fired questions at the couple and other seniors, on topics like the kinds of dances that were popular, clothing, cars, food and dating.

"If you had a car, you were pretty popular with the girls," Don Fischer said.

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Scheduled performances at the Mason High School Theater, 6100 Mason Montgomery Road, are: 7 p.m. Friday, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Oct. 7, and 1 p.m. Oct. 8.

Tickets are \$8 each and are available at www.ActingUp.com. For more information, call 513-588-0988.

DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The Carl H. Lindner Project Think Tank will be announced at the Mountaintop Economic Summit Oct. 12-14 at the Sheraton Cincinnati North Hotel, 11320 Chester Road, Sharonville.

The Think Tank, a forum designed to analyze and plan entrepreneurs' proposed economic developments, will be discussed on Oct. 14.

People are asked to submit a description of their dream project - a project in need of planning, financing, marketing, product development, business expansion, construction, and others services.

The project costs should range from \$3 million to \$5 million. Up to three projects will be chosen for analysis and discussion.

Those interested in participating can call 513-772-2860

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