



# PIED PIPER THEATRE PRESENTS SCHOOL OF ROCK

## About the Show

Welcome to the School of Rock! Based on the hit film, *School of Rock* the Musical follows failed rock star wannabe, Dewey Finn. Forced to come up with some rent money or be kicked to the street, Dewey poses as a substitute teacher at a prestigious prep school to earn some quick cash. But when he discovers the students are also highly talented musicians, Dewey hatches a plan to turn the uptight students into guitar-thrashing, bass-thumping, drum-smashing rockers and enter them in the Battle of the Bands! But can he do it without the school, parents or his housemates finding out?

## Plot Synopsis1

Act I Dewey Finn, a guitarist for the band No Vacancy, is all rock and roll, except for a couple of key ingredients: fame and glory. In fact, he's a mess! As the band plays a set at the Olympic Powerhouse, Dewey gets carried away with an improvised solo ("I'm Too Hot for You"). The next day as Dewey lies asleep, Patty pressures Ned, her boyfriend and Dewey's former rocker friend, to demand the rent from their roommate and encourage Dewey to get a real adult job. Dewey claims he's going to pay up by winning Battle of the Bands ("When I Climb to the Top of Mount Rock"). Dewey heads to rehearsal only to find he's been replaced. He heads to work at a record store but is promptly fired for being late. Dewey, beaten down, answers a phone call from Rosalie Mullins, principal of the most esteemed Horace Green Prep School. She is calling to offer Ned a substitute teaching position. There's only one reasonable solution for Dewey—pose as Ned, accept the job, and make a little change.

It's Dewey's first day at school... and he's late. Rosalie welcomes Dewey to campus after the school sings the "Horace Green Alma Mater," and she informs him of their elite expectations ("Here at Horace Green"). Dewey meets his pupils, who have a lot of questions for their curious new teacher. Unfortunately, Dewey has only one item on his curriculum: recess. Dewey returns home to find Ned discreetly playing *Guitar Hero*, and while they play, Dewey tries to convince Ned to join Battle of Bands with him, just like the good old days ("Children of Rock"). Their daydream is abruptly ruined when Patty, returning home from shopping, gives Dewey a reality check. Dewey has thirty days to pay his rent, or he has to leave ("Mount Rock – Reprise").

Dewey returns to school the next day (after missing first period), and he overhears Rosalie and his students singing "Queen of the Night." Dewey suddenly understands he must start a band with the students to win Battle of the Bands. He begins to assign instruments and roles to each of the students ("You're in the Band"). He puts Zack on electric guitar, Katie on bass, Lawrence on keyboard, Freddie on drums, Marcy and Shonelle on backup vocals, Sophie and Madison as roadies, Mason on tech, James on security, Billy on style, and Summer as manager ("You're in the Band – Reprise"). The band is complete... almost. Tomika still hasn't peeped a word, and Lawrence is certain he's not cool enough to be in the band. Each student has his or her own set of problems to reckon with at home ("If Only You Would

Listen"), but as they say, there's no crying in rock and roll. The next day, Dewey plays the students a song he wrote ("In the End of Time") while the teachers, including Gabe Brown, begin to speculate about the new music teacher (Faculty Quadrille). Dewey asks permission from Rosalie to take the students on a field trip, but the prospects look grim. He returns to practice ("In the End of Time - Band Practice") and encourages the band ("Stick It to the Man"). Rosalie interrupts, explaining that the school administration denied permission for the field trip. Dewey shows the kids how to truly stick it to the man, and the band leaves for the first round of competition. The kids arrive onsite and play their first public performance. Cue drumroll! The kids rock it out and qualify for Battle of the Bands ("In the End of Time – The Audition/Stick It to the Man – Reprise").

Act II The band is in full rehearsal mode ("Time to Play"), but there's one problem: parents' meetings fall right before the competition. In a moment of inspiration, Tomika rallies enough courage and surprises everyone with a soulful rendition of "Amazing Grace." The band has a new front woman! Unexpectedly, Rosalie pops into the classroom to observe their work, and Dewey pretends to use his so-called 'sing-song' method with the students ("Math Is a Wonderful Thing"). The pressure's on.

Dewey asks Rosalie on a date to the Roadhouse where Rosalie reveals that despite her conservative presence, she loves to rock out to Stevie Nicks ("Where Did the Rock Go?"). She then opens up about wanting to be free despite her position as principle. She finally comes around and permits the field trip, and Dewey seals it with a kiss. The next day at breakfast, Patty excitedly relays a letter to Ned from Horace Greene and quickly leaves for work. Ned discovers it is a payment from the school and is just about to call the school to clear up the mistake when Dewey realizes it is time to face the music.

Parents' meetings are about to begin while the band learns a new song Zack has been playing around with ("School of Rock – Band Practice"). Their parents stumble upon them just as the kids find their groove, and are shocked that their kids have traded in their books for music. Dewey reminds the parents how incredible their kids actually are. At that very moment, Patty (who learned about Dewey's substitute teaching from Ned) breaks through the door to reveal Dewey's true identity. The parents confront Dewey ("Dewey's Confession"), but the kids won't be stopped—they secretly head over to compete at Battle of the Bands. Mason informs Rosalie that the kids don't care about Dewey's real identity. All they care about is that he taught them that rock could set them free. Meanwhile, a bus full of kids arrive at the apartment to convince Dewey that he's changed their lives ("If Only You Would Listen – Reprise"). Dewey knows he has to follow through and leaves to watch the kids rock it out with Ned.

The school band arrives late ("I'm Too Hot for You – Reprise"), and Dewey decides that they should play the song that Zack wrote, even though the band hasn't practiced it. Dewey reminds them performing's not about playing perfectly, it is about rocking out with all your heart. The parents arrive and watch the concert from the back of the venue ("School of Rock"). The stage is set, the volume is cranked up high, and the kids are ready. With every bit of heart and soul, the School of Rock delivers a performance that wins over the crowd. And the winner of Battle of the Bands is... No Vacancy. A rowdy crowd erupts in support of the kids, calling them back to the stage for one last encore ("Stick It to the Man – Encore"). The School of Rock passes with flying colors. Class dismissed ("Finale")!