

*An actress relaxes while the crew adjusts lights.*

Scheduled to arrive on Broadway for the 2012–2013 season, *Hands on a Hardbody* had its first staging, in April, at the La Jolla Playhouse. Illustrator Michael Arthur was invited to draw two weeks of rehearsals of the play, based on a 1997 documentary about a truck-touching competition. With music cowritten by Phish's Trey Anastasio and choreography by *Black Swan's* Benjamin Millepied, it's already won enthusiastic reviews. "Each of my drawings is a live reaction to the moment," Arthur says. "It's all pen and ink. No pencils, no starting over." **CONTINUED »**

ON STAGE

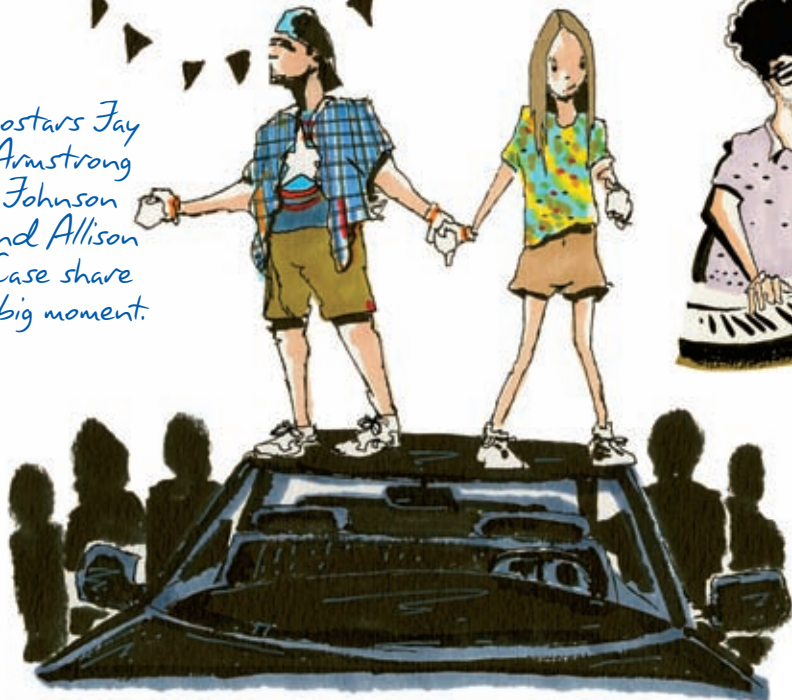
# Live from La Jolla

*Behind the scenes of the Broadway-bound musical Hands on a Hardbody. Drawings by Michael Arthur*

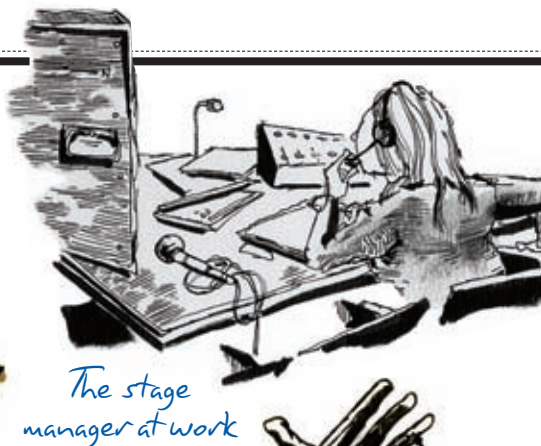


*Tech rehearsal for a musical can resemble NASA mission control.*

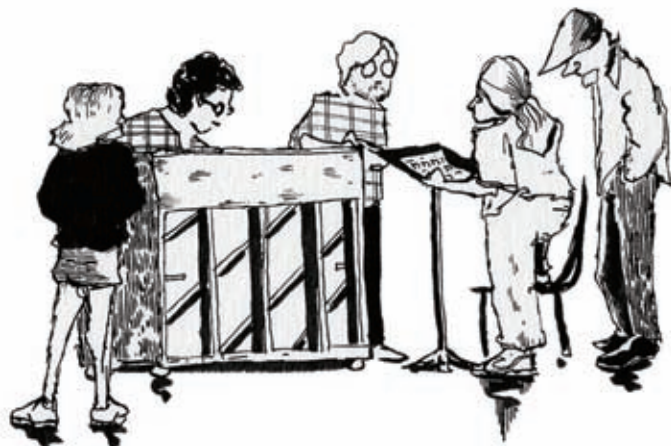
Costars Jay Armstrong Johnson and Allison Case share a big moment.



Music director Zachary Dietz conducts.



The stage manager at work



Anastasio (center) helps a few performers with a vocal arrangement.



Actor Jacob Ming-Trent brings the gospel.



The orchestra performs for the cast for the first time.