

Hairspray Opens to Rave Reviews at Chanhassen Dinner Theatres

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres brings its audiences another new Main Stage show with the contagiously delightful Broadway musical, *Hairspray*! Winner of eight Tony Awards (out of thirteen nominations) including Best Musical, *Hairspray* has been showered with praise by the critics. The *Star Tribune* said, "*Hairspray*'s heart beats with youth, energy, diversity and artistry – a rare moment in the theater that we can call an occasion. It's the best thing I've seen at Chanhassen in 11 years." The *Pioneer Press* said, "...expertly sung, smartly costumed and hilarious...better than the original Broadway production!" *Minnesota Monthly* said, "Everyone delivers outstanding performances, and every song warrants a standing ovation!"

The musical *Hairspray* with music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman, and book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, is based on the 1988 John Waters film by the same title. In 1962 Baltimore, pleasantly plump teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on "The Corny Collins Show." When Tracy garners a role on the show, she becomes an overnight teen sensation, but she must use her newfound power and the help of a crazy cast of characters to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network, all without denting her 'do!



While a sweet confection loaded with classic '60s teen fashions, outrageous hairstyles, dancing and music, *Hairspray* also addresses racial injustices prevalent in 1960 America with valuable lessons to reflect on. According to composer Marc Shaiman, "The audience embraces these moments, which enrich the happy ending to follow, and it is our proudest achievement of the entire experience of writing *Hairspray*."

There is no question that *Hairspray* has magnetic, universal appeal to audiences of all ages across the globe. The original Broadway production ran for more than six years with over 2,600 performances, closing in 2009. *Hairspray* played in London's West End and included multiple international productions: Australia, Canada, Brazil, Finland, Japan, China, Argentina, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Sweden, Korea, Italy, France, Denmark, Switzerland and Dubai. The musical has successfully been translated into numerous foreign languages. In 2007, a popular newly adapted musical film version was made, featuring John Travolta and a host of Hollywood stars.

Hairspray is loaded with two dozen catchy '60s flavor original tunes that are appealing and joyful. Song titles include; "Good Morning, Baltimore," "Mama I'm A Big Girl Now," "Big, Blonde and Beautiful," "I Can Hear The Bells," "It Takes Two" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."

Chanhassen Dinner Theatres is pleased to be one of the first regional theatres to produce *Hairspray* for its audiences.

Artistic Director and President of Chanhassen Dinner Theatres Michael Brindisi stated, "*Hairspray* is a good choice for us and our audiences. Our theatre is on the short, exclusive list to be offered the newer musicals as they become available. When we are presented with an exciting new opportunity, like *Hairspray*, we need to grab onto it."

Presented by Regis Salons, *Hairspray* is slated to play through January 28, 2012. *Hairspray* is performed eight times weekly with evening performances Tuesdays through Sundays and matinees on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Dinner and show ticket prices are as follows: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday evenings \$68; Friday \$79; Saturday evening \$79; Wednesday matinee \$59; Saturday matinee \$63; and Sunday \$69. Consider seeing *Hairspray* with your family, friends or co-workers. Chanhassen Dinner Theatres has some marvelous group and holiday packages for parties of 15 or more. For group sales rates, contact 952-934-1547 or 800-355-6273. For general ticket sales and information, call the box office at 952-934-1525 or 800-362-3515, or go online to www.ChanhassenDT.com.



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