

BROADWAY ROSE THEATRE COMPANY

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For Immediate Release

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You Can't Stop the Beat!
Broadway Rose Theatre Company Presents Hairspray



Tigard, OR – Broadway Rose Theatre Company launches its 20th summer season with the big musical comedy *Hairspray*. Directed by Peggy Taphorn, with choreography by Jacob Toth and musical direction by Rick Lewis, *Hairspray* will be performed at the Deb Fennell Auditorium. Preview performance is June 30 with opening night on Friday, July 1, and performances through July 24, 2011. Evening performances are Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays, on Saturday, July 16, and on Broadway Rose Theatre Company • P.O. Box 231004, Tigard, OR 97281 • 503.620.5262

Saturday, July 23. The Deb Fennell Auditorium is located at 9000 SW Durham Road in Tigard. Tickets prices are \$28 to \$35 for adults, with \$20 tickets available for ages 6 – 25. For a full listing of show performances or to order tickets visit www.broadwayrose.org, or call the box office at 503.620.5262.

You'll tap your feet to the beat as Tracy Turnblad and friends triumph over high school bullies, racism, and enemies everywhere of big girls with big hair. With music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, and book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, viewers young and old will be shimmying in their seats as they enjoy hit favorites such as "I Can Hear The Bells" and "You Can't Stop The Beat."

The cast includes Blythe Woodland as Tracy Turnblad, Dan Murphy as Edna, Ron Daum as Wilbur, Sara Catherine Wheatley as Velma, Steven Bryan Dawson as Link, Jay Kelly as Seaweed, and Lacretha Nicole as Motormouth Maybelle.

BRIEF SYNOPSIS:

Winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Hairspray* is a splashy musical piled bouffant-high with laughter and sprayed with a sheen of romance. It's 1962 and pleasantly plump Baltimore teen Tracy Turnblad has only one dream—to dance on television's popular Corny Collins Show where white kids dance to black music. Her Mom, Edna, shy and withdrawn, is dismayed at Tracy's obsession. The TV show clearly has prejudices against overweight teens as well as being staunchly against integration on the dance floor. Against all odds, Tracy's dream comes true, and she is transformed overnight from outsider to teen celebrity. Can a larger-than-life adolescent manage to vanquish the program's reigning princess, integrate the television show, and find true love (singing and dancing all the while, of course!) without mussing her hair?

BRIEF HISTORY OF THE SHOW:

Hairspray—celebrating sock-hops, teen crushes, doo-wop, true love and big dreams—began with John Waters' 1988 New Line Cinema film of the same name, starring Ricki Lake and Divine. Theatrical producer Margo Lion contacted John Waters after seeing the film, and Waters gave her his blessing to turn the film script into a musical stage production. The musical opened on Broadway August 15, 2002, with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Shaiman and his partner Scott Wittman. The role of Tracy's mother Edna, always played in drag, started in the Waters film with the actor Divine, and is a tradition that is continued today. In the Broadway musical production, Harvey Fierstein ultimately won a Tony Award for his portrayal of Edna.

The musical opened with a \$12 million advance; after all its awards and accolades, it recouped that amount in nine months.

A film version of the musical, starring Nikki Blonsky and John Travolta, opened in 2007.

MUSICAL NUMBERS:

- "Good Morning Baltimore"
- "The Nicest Kids in Town"
- "Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now"
- "I Can Hear the Bells"
- "(The Legend of) Miss Baltimore Crabs"

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- “The Madison”
- “The Nicest Kids in Town (Reprise)”
- “It Takes Two”
- “Velma’s Revenge”
- “Welcome to the ‘60s”
- “Run and Tell That!”
- “Big, Blonde, and Beautiful”
- “The Big Dollhouse”
- “Good Morning Baltimore (Reprise)”
- “(You’re) Timeless to Me” • “Without Love”
- “I Know Where I’ve Been”
- “(It’s) Hairspray”
- “Cooties”
- “You Can’t Stop the Beat”

Broadway Rose’s Title Sponsor is **Platt Electric Supply**. Production Sponsor for *Hairspray* is **Pearson Financial** and the Print Media Sponsor is **The Oregonian**. Broadway Rose’s 2011 season is funded in part by the **Regional Arts & Culture Council** and **Work for Art** as well as the **Oregon Arts Commission**.

BROADWAY ROSE THEATRE COMPANY, a not-for-profit arts organization, has been successfully producing musical theater in Tigard since 1992 under the artistic direction of Sharon Maroney. As the only professional musical theater company in Washington County, Broadway Rose plays an important role in enriching the community’s cultural arts. Committed to increasing opportunities for Oregonians to participate in the arts and working to retain Portland’s talent pool and attract new talent to the area, Broadway Rose is resolved to keep live theater affordable and make its productions accessible to all ages and members of the community. The Broadway Rose Theatre was selected as one of the “100 Best Nonprofits to Work For in Oregon” by Oregon Business Magazine in 2009 and 2010, and it was selected as the 2009 “Business of the Year” by the Tigard Chamber of Commerce.

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