

A Hair-Raising Good Time

Written by Editor
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Big tunes and lots of dance in store at Hairspray!

Break out the Aqua Net — the glamour do is back! “Hairspray,” Broadway’s big musical comedy, will be rockin’ the Arts Center this spring with the music and dances of the trend-setting ‘60s — and some very cool coifs.

Casey Colgan returns to Hilton Head Island April 27-May 29 (preview performances are April 27-28) to direct this new-millennium mega hit, winner of eight Tony Awards and the Laurence Olivier Award for Best New Musical. He also stars as Edna Turnblad, the protagonist’s mom, in a role traditionally played by a man.

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“It’s an uplifting story with lots of catchy tunes,” said Colgan, who has directed more than a dozen Arts Center musicals including “Les Miserables” and last spring’s production of “Aida.” “It’ll make you want to get up and dance.”

It’s 1962 and the Mashed Potato is all the rage on “The Corny Collins Show,” Baltimore’s homegrown version of “American Bandstand.” Pleasantly plump Tracy Turnblad (newcomer Lindsay Braverman), a 16-year-old with big dreams and even bigger hair, will do whatever it takes to claim a spot on the TV dance program and win the heart of teen idol Link Larkin (Vince Oddo).

Without ruffling so much as a hair of her 'do, she dances her way to stardom and into the arms of her heartthrob. But this dancing dynamo doesn’t stop there. With the help of her gal pal Penny, she sets out to integrate television in Baltimore.

“It’s a social commentary on discrimination in American society in the ‘60s,” Colgan said. “The landmark moment in the show comes when everybody gets to dance together.”

The show also stars Yvette Monique Clark (“Hello, Dolly!”) as Motormouth Maybelle, Robert Anthony

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