



**STAGE
RIGHT**
PRESENTS

Musical Comedy Hit
hairspray

Welcome to the 60s!

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong Photos: Michael Pittman

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe welcomes you to the 60s when they present the final show of their Season of Nostalgia: Musical comedy smash hit *Hairspray* will be bouncing its way on to the Crighton stage July 11 - 27. At the helm of this mammoth production with a cast of nearly 50 is director Tina Cafeo. Tina took Conroe down the yellow brick road last year with an acclaimed production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Instead of going over the rainbow, audiences will be blasted back to the 60s with *Hairspray*. Adapted from the 1988 John Waters movie of the same name with book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan and hip musical score from Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, the Tony award-winning *Hairspray* is piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs.

It's 1962. A show on local Baltimore TV, *The Corny Collins Show*, has all the kids racing home from school to tune in on their rabbit-eared TV sets. Tracy Turnblad (Sara Marko) is a high school student (a pleasingly plump one) that has one great dream - to appear on the *Corny Collins Show* and dance with heartthrob Link Larkin (Victor Suarez). What this story is about is how Tracy overcomes the many obstacles placed before her in making this dream come true. The audience will find itself rooting for her and her family, her mother, Edna (played by funny man Michael Raabe), a large woman who spent her life just being a mother and laundress instead of being a dress designer and her father, Wilbur (Todd Brady) who owns a trick and magic shop. Tracy enlists the aid of the local African American kids who, like Tracy, are excluded from the show. With their help and the help of her stalwart and goofy girlfriend Penny Pingleton (Sara Preisler-Kent), Tracy sets out to change the face of local TV forever by competing against the snooty Amber Von Tussle (Sachi Tanaka); daughter of TV executive and equally snooty Velma Von Tussle (Cristy Campobella) for the crown of Miss *Hairspray* 1962.

Corny Collins and his crew welcome you to the 60s!



Mr. Pinky and the Dynamites



July 11-27

www.stage-right.org

936-441-7469

Leading the cast as Tracy Turnblad is Sara Marko. Sara was last seen on the Crighton stage as one of the Angels in *Anything Goes*. She is a Theatre Major at Sam Houston State University. A 2013 graduate of The Woodlands College Park High School she was an active member of the theatre and choir programs and appeared in *Thoroughly Modern Mille*, where she played Miss Flannery. Playing Tracy's mom Edna is STAGE RIGHT funny man favorite Michael Raabe. Michael has performed in school, college and regional theatre as a singer, dancer and actor on stage, in movies and commercials. Community theatre is still his first love, and he averages 6 shows a year. Prior performances at the Crighton Theatre include *Christmas Belles* (both casts), *Vaudeville (Finally) Comes to the Crighton*, *No Time for Sergeants*, *The Music Man*, the world premiere of *Mama Won't Fly*, *The Carol Burnett Show*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, and *Anything Goes*. Playing Tracy's dad is Todd Brady. STAGE RIGHT audiences will remember Todd as the Dad in our production of *A Christmas Story* this past December. Todd, a local semi-retired dentist, made his theatrical debut in our production of *The Red Velvet Cake War* last season. Playing Tracy's arch-nemesis Amber VonTussle is the lovely Sachi Tanaka. Sachi recently graduated from Conroe High School and has spent her childhood performing on the Crighton stage with shows including *Anything Goes*, *The Music Man*, and *The Secret Garden*. Sachi plans to pursue a career in musical theatre - look out Broadway!

We've got some very talented newcomers to the Crighton stage in this production. Playing Tracy's love interest, Link Larkin, is newcomer Victor Suarez. Victor is a student at Lone Star College and plans to pursue a career in musical theatre. Victor has appeared elsewhere as Danny Zuko in *Grease* and the Wolf in *Shrek The*

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Fashion Designer
Wanna-be
Edna Turnblad



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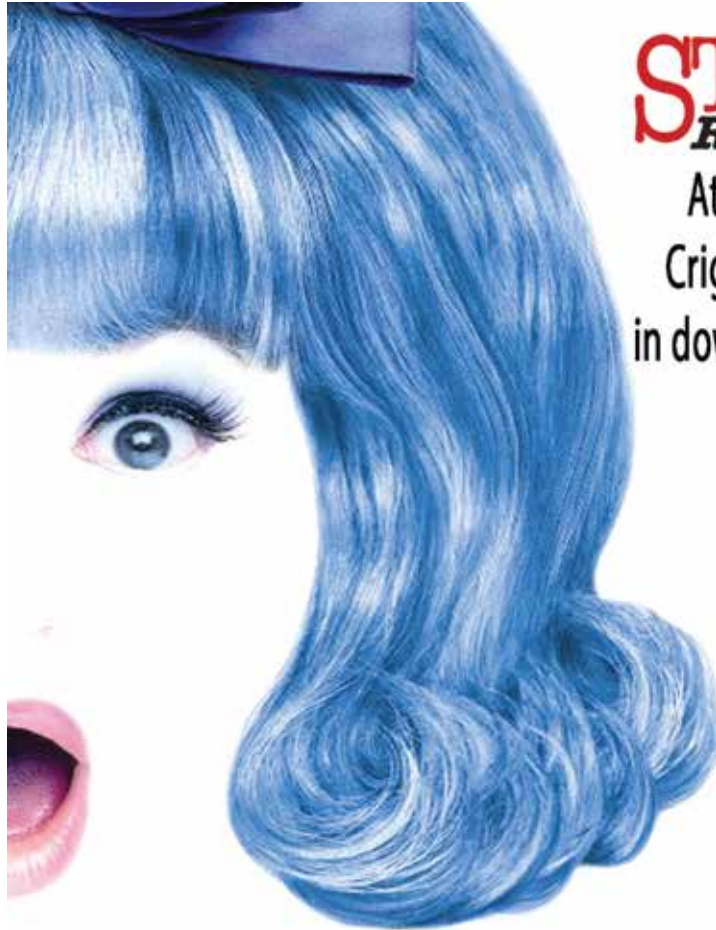
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STAGE RIGHT

At the historic
Crighton Theatre
in downtown Conroe

hairspray

• BROADWAY'S BIG FAT MUSICAL COMEDY HIT •

July 11 - 27, 2014

Box Office: 936-441-SHOW (7469)

Online: www.stage-right.org

Tickets \$15-20

Funded in part by the Conroe Commission on Arts & Culture
Presentation by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI)

Musical. Playing Tracy's best friend Penny Pingleton is Sara Preisler Kent. Sara has performed in numerous shows including: *Annie Get Your Gun* (Annie) at the Hobby Center, *Aladdin* (Genie) and even received a Tommy Tune Nomination for her role in *The Pajama Game* (Mabel). Sara was also the Children's Director for Broadway Across Americas National Tours of *The Wizard of Oz* and *Handel's Messiah Rocks*. Playing Penny Pingleton's love interest Seaweed is Richard Isaiah Owens. A graduate of Louisiana State University, Richard Owens has performed with the LSU A Cappella Choir, LSU Chamber Singers, Tiger Glee Club and Schola Cantorum during his collegiate career. He has also been conductor for the LSU Chamber Singers. Richard currently teaches choir at Waller Junior High School. Another newcomer to the Crighton stage is the talented Tessie Bradford

Midge, wait till September!). There are so many talented newcomers in this production, we hope you'll read all about them in the playbill when you come see the show. All of our playbills are also online in the archives on our website www.stage-right.org. Look for playbill archives and see all the interesting folks that work on the stage and behind the scenes to make the magic happen.

As with every STAGE RIGHT show, we highlight a need in our community and then throw a spotlight on an organization helping with that need. Hairspray's Spotlight organization is Montgomery County Emergency Assistance. Their mission is of-



fer temporary help to Montgomery County residents facing an unexpected crisis with food, clothing, rent, or utility assistance.

Volunteers will be on hand to provide our patrons with information on their services and how you can help those in need right in our own backyard. We will also be collecting school supplies. MCEA will be collecting hygiene items in the lobby during all performances of *Hairspray*. We will also be col-

lecting school supplies. So, bring those notebooks, lunch boxes, note cards, pencils, etc. to make sure the children of Montgomery County go to school in the fall with the tools they need to succeed.

Speaking of school kids, because the show is about teens, and all their angst, this show is not for the little ones. We'd rate it a PG-13. Little ones won't 'get it' and may ask their parents just what does it mean to go to 'first base on a date!' But teens and anyone old enough to remember what life was like as a teen will love it! This is a story about people just being people in all shapes, colors and sizes and whether Black or White, all teens just want to be teens and dance to the music of life.

Performance dates are weekends July 11 - 27, Friday and Saturday nights at 8 pm with Sunday matinees at 2 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at www.stage-right.org or by calling the Crighton Theatre box office at 936-441-7469. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and groups of 15 persons or more, \$15 for youth 16 and under and for senior groups of 15 or more persons.

The historic Crighton Theatre is located at 234



Tracy and Penny in the Big Dollhouse



Tracy and Her Dad in Hot Water

Link Larkin Makes the Girls Swoon

Motherrrrr!



that plays Seaweed's mom and record shop owner Motormouth Maybelle. Tessie has an extensive background in music as a soloist and pianist where she has performed for special occasions, such as weddings, conferences and graduations. She also served as a musician for her church for over 10 years. Tessie is employed as the Program Coordinator for Recruitment and Outreach at Lone Star College - Tomball where she oversees all aspects of new student orientation. Another newcomer, this time working behind the scenes, is Midge Smith. Midge is serving as musical director for *Hairspray*. She began playing piano at age four and hasn't stopped yet! Midge specializes in accompanying, sight-reading, vocal coaching, music directing, and teaching private piano from her studio "Music by Midge, LLC". Originally from Colorado, Midge moved to the area in February and so far is enjoying the weather here in the Lone Star State (Oh

An Unconventional Romance for 1962 to Say the Least!



N. Main St. in downtown Conroe. Our cruise raffle drawing will be held at intermission at the final performance of *Hairspray* on July 27th. This cruise for two persons is aboard the Royal Caribbean Navigator of the Sea where the winners will set sail Oct.26 for an 8 day 7 night cruise with ports of call including Grand Cayman, Cozumel and Jamaica. Transportation from your home in the Houston area to Galveston is included! Raffle tickets are only \$5 for one or \$20 for five tickets. Winner does not have to be present to win. Get your raffle tickets at any of the performances of *Hairspray* or online at www.stage-right.org. ♦

Let's Dance!



Motormouth Maybelle - Big, Blond and Beautiful