



**STAGE
RIGHT**
PRESENTS

Musical Comedy Hit
hairspray
in July
You Can't Stop the Beat!

By: Carolyn Corsano Wong Photos: Michael Pittman

STAGE RIGHT of Texas, resident theatre company at the historic Crighton Theatre in downtown Conroe presents the final show of their Season of Nostalgia with a step back in time to the 1960s. Musical comedy smash hit *Hairspray* will be bouncing its way on to the Crighton stage July 11 – 27. The show will be directed by Tina Cafeo. 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 a rousing look at the 1960's in Baltimore and shows how plain ordinary people can fulfill their dreams if they take a chance.





July 11-27

www.stage-right.org

936-441-7469

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 heart-throb 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

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Penny with her mom Prudy Pingleton



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**Moms and teenage daughters-
the eternal struggle**



of her stalwart and goofy girlfriend Penny Pingleton (Sara Priesler-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.

In addition to rooting for Tracy, the audience will find itself feeling the need to get up and dance - the music is so upbeat and infectious! There's the lovably cheesy 1960s pop of "Good Morning Baltimore," the television corniness of "The Nicest Kids in Town," the adolescent emotions of the wailing "Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now" and the doo-wop sound

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of "Welcome to the 60s." The inventive score doesn't stop until the show does as the show's finale, "You Can't Stop the Beat" will send the audience out happy, humming and probably dancing up the aisles.

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 a hickey is! But teens and anyone old enough to remember what it was like to just want to

fit in as a teen, will love it! This is the 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 N. Main St. in downtown Conroe. ♦



Ryan Rodriguez and Sara Marko- You Can't Stop the Beat!



Tracy and her very unique parents



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