



## **"Hairspray" Review**

By: Brenda Florio - 12<sup>th</sup> Grade, Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

Last night I went to see *Hairspray* performed at the Palace Theater, and I knew walking in that it was going to be an amazing show. Little did I know just how amazing it was going to be! This has been perhaps my third or fourth Broadway show that I have seen. Whether it is in New York City or here in my own city, I have to say this has been the best show yet. I am completely in awe of the performance I saw last night. I have a short attention span when it comes to sitting a large room full of people and trying to watch something either entertaining or educational. I usually tend to lose focus a lot during the performance, but the acting was so believable and incredible that I noticed after the play was over and I was driving home that I did not become unfocused at all during the entire performance. I was so drawn into the performance that I literally became lost in the characters and the story line. You could tell that these actors did not play around when it came to getting these characters perfected!

Speaking of not playing around, you could also tell that this was visible by the technical design of the show. This show was so precise in everything from lighting and sound to costumes and set design, it was hard to believe that the cast and crew only took a few months to put this show together in its entirety. The crew must have worked hard in order to get this show up and running. I was most impressed with how the actors helped the stage crew move sets around and fix things on stage for almost every scene. It worked so well into the musical that you almost forgot that the actors were the ones moving small sets around on stage.

The cast, crew and everyone who worked on or in the show really did an amazing job. I could not have asked for a better time. I completely enjoyed myself while I was there and I would definitely go see *Hairspray* again and again. I would recommend this musical to anyone who is into musicals, but also for anyone who wants to see a show from a technical point of view and really wants to see how a professional show is put on.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to see this performance; it is greatly appreciated.

## **Hairspray**

By: Tiffany Giroux - Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

The "Hairspray" play was very good compared to the movie. I really liked the live performance because it seemed to come alive very quickly to me and I was able to see the pictures as if it came off of the screen. *Hairspray* was very funny because I think at one point the lady messed up, and she was laughing at her own mistakes as well, and that itself was hilarious. The singers in *Hairspray* were awesome; they had amazing voices and great skills. Even the dancers were awesome and I wish I could dance like them. You know what was really good? The scenic designs, such as the houses in the background and the lighting really enhanced the show. The lighting was very effective because they used lots of colors to catch the eye, and the scenery was very cool, especially how they used it in the play. I recommend that everyone see this show, if they get the opportunity.

## **Hairspray Review**

By: Leah Moscariello - Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

There's much to say about the new musical but it's probably best to begin by pointing out that it has finally arrived at the Palace Theater in Waterbury Connecticut. *Hairspray* is a heard racing production that everyone in the musical department will enjoy doing, as well as young teen actors. The setting is in Baltimore in 1962. Mark O' Donnell's work is re-envisioned by Matt Lenz originally directed by Jack O' Brien. Some major figures are Tracy Turnblad, who was portrayed by Danielle Arci. Her performance was ecstatic and impressive. She was loud enough to be heard from the back row of the theatre. One character that could not be forgotten was Ryan Rubek who was playing Link Larkin. As soon as he entered the stage and started to sing, most of the girls in the audience was in shock or in awe by his appearance. He had a brilliant and flawless stage presence. But the best performance in the show is given by Jerry O' Boyle as Tracy's mother, Edna. In his luminous turn, Jerry is moving and funny, providing all the star power needed to push the show over the top. *Hairspray* may not be a transcendent experience and it may not change your opinion on life, but it is sure entertaining. Throughout the musical it manages to tell a story with a certain theme in mind. It grabs your attention with great effectiveness and solid laughs heard all through the audience. I couldn't remember one scene when someone was not laughing. This is a masterpiece to the common eye and throughout each act makes you want to jump out of your chair with its thrilling and entertaining scenes. In my honest opinion the musical was more realistic than the movie. I noticed that people liked the musical better because of the simple fact that it was more believable. Regardless if the costumes they wore amplifies what they wore back then, but they also made it appealing to what life is like today. *Hairspray* is a joyous tribute to an era past, and an intelligent, warm, and joyous musical comedy of the type Broadway should never be without.

## **HAIRSPRAY**

By: Samantha Giroux - Waterbury Arts Magnet School, Waterbury

Many people gathered inside the Palace Theater with a huge smile on their face, on June 7, 2010. It was a cold night, so was the smiles from the cold or the excitement to see the show. As the audience filled, I sat there with excitement and my excitement filled while I saw others sit there with excitement for the show to start. It seemed as if the audience was a ticking time bomb ready to burst with excitement. Curtains up, lights up, and the beautiful voice of Danielle Arci was heard, who played Tracy. I don't know much of the aspect of singing but I do love their voice and couldn't tell if there was a wrong note. They sounded great and the audience clapped along, and sang along.

Being a student of WAMS, I know a lot of the theater. I take many theater classes, so watching "Hairspray," knowing all the hard work it takes to put up a show, was a great experience. I was amazed by the use of props because they used a simple platform with a television and iron board to show Turnblad's residence. It was simple and easy but I knew right where the setting was. I loved that they didn't use big fancy props, like a lot of productions do, to show the setting of a scene.

Walking into the theater, I've already seen the movie but I wanted to see how much the show was like the movie. There was an extra scene but one thing that I found out is that it was great to see it live. I didn't realize all the morals this show possesses when watching the movie. Seen it live made it real, life like, something all movie directors and theater directors try to do. I was able to see more than just that racial hate is not good. Seen it live made many other virtues come across such as: everyone is equal, no one is better than another person because of their style, don't give up your dreams, always aspire to achieve your dreams, etc. I think these virtues were able to come across a lot easier because of the great performance the actors put on. Each time they were on stage they stayed in character, which is sometimes hard if you're not doing much in a scene. They put on a memorial performance and everyone left as they came in. Faces frozen with a smile on their face, and the talk of the show simmered around the crowd. My sister still talks of the show and tells everyone the great performance they put on because it is memorial and learned so many things from it.