Here are the Cappies reviews for Hairspray. There were 17 critics at your show, and up to now we have received 17 reviews. If we receive late reviews, we will forward them to you.

Please share these reviews with your cast and crew.

Thank you.

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GOOD MORNING HAIRSPRAY
You can’t stop HAIRSPRAY! From its flashing lights to vibrant costumes, it would be a shame to miss this Timeless show at Oak Park High School. The show is filled with fabulous characters and a storyline to sweep you away. It may not be filled with the Nicest Kids in Town but this afro-tastic show is positively a must see.

HAIRSPRAY was first released as a movie musical in 1988 written by John Waters. However, as everyone knows, It Takes Two and another film starring actor Zac Efron was released in 2006 shortly after the show started its run on Broadway. This show includes tough topics that range from racism and fatphobia all the way to teen pregnancy. Ultimately, it displays an impressive amount of inclusivity which leaves all viewers feeling Big, Blonde, and Beautiful.

From his smooth moves to velvety voice Link Larkin, played by Drew Chamberlin steals the spotlight whenever he is on stage. Whether he’s serenading girls or breaking them out of prison, he keeps in character and often leaves the audience with a laugh. His vocals are astonishing and leave the audience just as dreamy eyed as Tracy. The world better watch out because there is a New Girl in Town. From her clear high notes to her rich low notes, Tracy, played by Jenna Holland leaves the audience drooling for more. She has impressive chemistry with all the actors on stage and fully embodies the heroic and determined character that is Tracy Turnblad.

The stage is full of talented actors, whether they are getting down to do the Dirty Boogie or stuck in The Big Doll House this ensemble of personalities always leaves the audience roaring with laughter. Edna Turnblad, played by Tristan Young, and her husband Wilbur Turnblad, played by Cruz Lewis, steal the spotlight with their comedy and chemistry. They fill their roles with lightheartedness and keep the audience on the edge of their seats waiting to hear what they are going to say next. Despite having enough white people there to make a suburb, Ms. Motormouth Maybelle, played by Rayna Key, leaves the audience misty eyed with her touching performance of I Know Where I’ve Been, filling this lovely song with her incredible vocals and truly embodying the struggles her character faces. All I know is that she may know where she has been, but with this spectacular performance, wherever she is going looks awfully bright.

The costumes of the show welcomed me right to the '60s! Designed by Kenzie Berry, Tori Phelan, and their crew the vivid colors and sparkly outfits put the costumes of this show right on the mark. They help make each character unique and connected to the story while even managing to stay true to the time. The wigs on each character, put together by Sophy Marks and Natalie Robleado, really tie together the show making one wonder just how much HAIRSPRAY they had to use to get that kind of volume!

The set of this show is incredibly detailed and fit the moods of each scene but left some to be desired. At times when actors weren’t filling the stage, it felt empty and barren. However, this made most scene changes smooth and virtually unnoticeable as the audience was transported from place to place along with the characters.

This show is full of liveliness and creativity. From the actors and their funky dance moves to their beautiful orchestra, this show is fast paced and thrilling. So, don’t be a Balti-moron, and make sure you see HAIRSPRAY while you still have the chance!

by Ava Howell of Blue Springs High School

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OAK PARK, YOU’RE TIMELESS TO ME

HAIRSPRAY is a musical revolving around civil rights and how the main character Tracy Turnblad helps her hometown of Baltimore be more inclusive. This musical was originally a film of the same name by John Waters in 1988. The book was written by Mark O’Donnell and Thomas Meehan, moving to stage finally in 2002 with music and lyrics written by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman.

This story follows Tracy Turnblad as she tries to audition to be on the Corny Collins show and dance with all of her fellow classmates and her love interest Link Larkin. Tracy fights for civil rights and protests for blacks to be allowed on TV any day they want.

Oak Park High School has an ensemble energy that has the audience on the edge of their seats, with each character having their own silly gag and all of them having bunches of energy. The show is fun, colorful, and exciting. The choreography suits the show very well and has an energy that is explosive. The Nicest Kids in Town bring a delight to the stage that is unmatched and truly help to establish a sense of excitement.

The show opens with "Good Morning, Baltimore" sung by Jenna Holland. Jenna Holland brings to the stage a sense of wonder and hopefulness that brings forth the character of Tracy Turnblad well. Drew Chamberlin brings a charisma and energy that fits the character of Link Larkin astoundingly.

Now we see Tristan Young as Edna Turnblad bring a hilarity to the stage that is wondrous. With a demanding stage presence and amazing comedic timing, she leaves the audience always laughing. Katherine Robbins wonderfully uses physicality and a character voice in establishing her character, Penny Pingleton. A musical number that is both powerful and exuberant is "I Know Where I’ve Been" sung by Rayna Key as Motormouth Maybelle. It truly tugs the heartstrings. Key has the vocals to support the message being brought forth but also has the soul that puts feeling into the words being said. And in front of us is Cruz Lewis as Wilbur Turnblad who embodies the character perfectly. Lewis uses physicality, stage presence, and a character voice to truly create this character in front of our eyes.

The lighting of this show compliments the actors and scenes perfectly. There are a couple of moments where transitions seem a little slow. The energy is back, though, as the pit and ensemble jump into the scene with full energy. The actors project well and are heard despite some sound difficulties. The set uses various projections drawn by PJ Nixon to help establish the setting.

Overall the show runs very well, and Oak Park High School should be proud of the show they have. The show is captivating, colorful, and brings a sense of joy that is truly wonderful. Oak Park High School truly brought a sense of wonder and fervor. It was truly a lovely evening.

by Dylan Pearce of Winnetonka High School

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YOU CAN’T STOP THE BEAT OF OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S HAIRSPRAY!

The '60s have never looked so fun! Oak Park High School’s HAIRSPRAY takes the audience on a groovy ride to Baltimore when it opens with Tracy Turnblad waking up out of bed ready to dance as she makes her way to school through the funky streets of Baltimore.

Marc Shaiman's and Scott Wittman’s HAIRSPRAY is the groovy story of a young girl just wanting to dance on television, but because of her size, she is seen as a joke and just pushed to the side. She ends up finding a group of black students to hang out with that eventually become her friends, but they can’t dance together on television because of segregation. These kids do not give up without a fight. They marched on national television and made their voices heard until T.V. was forever and officially integrated. The music in this show will have you ready to dance right out of your shoes!

The phenomenal role of Tracy Turnblad is played by none other than Jenna Holland. Holland tackles the exciting role with impressive energy and smooth vocals with emotion behind them to show feelings of sadness, joy, or worry. Tracy cannot do this show alone however, and the outstanding Link Larkin played by Drew Chamberlain always proves that every time he takes the stage. These two showcase not only their show stopping voices, but also their wonderful chemistry and total charm.

The audience cannot even begin to forget about Seaweed Stubbs played by Olin Spencer and Penny Pingleton played by Katherine Robbins. These two portray such clear characters and radiate such an energy that it is contagious. However, the audience cannot forget about Motormouth Maybelle, never faltering in her outstanding performance. These performers clearly understand the genre they are singing as well as the emotion they are portraying. While incredibly fun and exciting, they can also quickly shift from exaggerated humor to very real emotion.

The talent in this show extends far past the stage, all the way to the gifted crews. Every single aspect of this show stands out and works perfectly together. The beautiful set designed by Adam Campbell, Cyd Marsh, Mason Sloan and crew, along with lights designed by Jasper Rasmussen, Chelsea Brown, and Amanda Nguyen immediately set the tone for both the actors and audience to feed off of. The intricately designed props by Lily Tice, Isabelle Knapp, and crew, leave the audience in shock as Edna exits the spray can and glitter shoots out. Stage Manager Andy Mast stays on their toes running this show smoothly and keeping the audience on the edge of their seats. Each transition is done with precision, never faltering or leaving the audience in the dark.

Very little negative can be said for this show, however, there were minor hiccups that, while not necessarily detrimental, did push the audience out of the moment, making it a little difficult to get back into it. The main issue is that the microphones often have a lot of feedback and tend to go in and out on lead characters, making it difficult for the audience to hear them. However, every time an issue occurred, the actors quickly made up for it while the crews worked to fix the technical issue.

Oak Park High School’s HAIRSPRAY truly sets the expectation for high school performances. It is not often a student production can take a show that has been done countless times and still captivate their audience. In this show, Oak Park proves to everyone just how deep their well of talent runs and makes the audience leave wanting more. Without a doubt everyone should Run and Tell everyone they know to see Oak Park High School’s Hairspray.

by Zoie Harrington of Ruskin High School

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OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S TIMELESS PERFORMANCE

Can being sent to detention really be what helps you achieve your dreams? How much hairspray does one need to win a place on the Corny Collins show? How many white people does it take to make a suburb? In a scintillating and hilarious celebration of diversity in the 60’s, Oak Park High School’s rendition of Hairspray will answer all these questions while having you laughing in your seat!

HAIRSPRAY, a musical adaptation of the 1988 John Waters’ movie starring Ricki Lake and Michael St. Gerard, is a show that addresses racism, body image, individuality and biases of all kinds in an extravagantly groovy way. The story follows a young Tracy Turnblad, eager to achieve her dreams of being one of The Nicest Kids in Town and being with her true love although they’ve never met Link Larkin. The Musical intends to spread its message of equality and embracing differences in a way that both captivates and entertains audiences, which it does brilliantly!

Oak Park High Schools adaptation of HAIRSPRAY let students like Jenna Holland, who plays Tracy Turnblad, and Drew Chamberlin, who plays Link Larkin, show off their vocal abilities. Jenna Holland’s stage presence and attitude not only is accurate to the original movie, but she brings her own style and individuality to her character that was incredibly charming. Jenna Holland and Drew Chamberlin had excellent chemistry and songs like, I Can Hear the Bells and Without Love foreground their wonderful acting and vocal skills.  Strong vocals, paired with a talented orchestra, named the Nicest Pit in Town, make the musical feel real and shows how Oak Park makes the performance their own.

With strong supporting characters such as Penny Pingeton, played by Katherine Robbins, Velma Von Tussle, played by Ginger Jones, Seaweed Stubs, played by Olin Spencer, and Motormouth Maybelle, played by Rayna Key, shows just how talented this cast is! Despite mic and sound difficulties, these young actors and actresses continue to impress audiences with their exceptional voices. The harmonization in songs like Mama I’m a Big Girl Now and choreography done by Olin Spencer, Katherine Robbins, and Ginger Jones is beautifully executed.

The overall stylistic choices achieved by Adam Campbell, Cyd Marsh, Mason Sloan and crew really shine through with aspects like a giant can of working Ultra Clutch Hairspray, and hand-drawn backgrounds by Scenic Artist, PJ Nixon. The individual set pieces are detailed and well made, but certain scenes lack specific set elements, leaving them feeling empty in places. But the use of the forestage is unique and brings the show to life. The cues are well-timed with the help of Stage Manager Andy Mast, highlighting specific tech elements in an organized and precise fashion. Kenzie Berry, Tori Phelan and crew do an incredible job with time accurate costume pieces and a good contrast between the main characters and ensemble. However, during moments such as Scatter Dodgeball, the characters costumes feel out of place compared to the environment of the scene. That being said, the costumes are creative and look like they were just out of the movie!

It’s clear the cast and crew have fun with this show, which makes the experience all the more enjoyable for audiences. Feedback and mic issues take away some of the jokes and miss specific vocal moments, especially when it comes to supporting ensemble voices in the group songs, however, the overall tech elements and talent of the students working on the production is well executed. The onstage chemistry and interactions of the characters, even when they are not the highlight of the scene, is impressive and makes the production what it is.

Oak Park High School executes this lighthearted and inspirational performance wonderfully. It is colorful, fun, and makes you want to jump right into the 60s! This rendition is not Without Love from cast, crew, and audiences, and you just can’t stop the beat with Oak Park High School's HAIRSPRAY!

by Claire Boumstein of Blue Springs High School

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UNSTOPPABLE BEAT

Lights, camera, a little or maybe a lot of hairspray and then action!

Oak Park presents its kind greetings bringing a memorable night of laughs, booming to life with flair and finesse Oak Park’s HAIRSPRAY spritzes an ultra clutch of energy, music and unity.

The year is 1962, in Baltimore, Maryland, as we meet the sprightly and energetic Tracy Turnblad. Following Tracy as she pursues her biggest fantasy of being on The Corny Collins Show. As the story progresses Tracy goes on and teaches the lesson of looking past appearance and embracing others from within. HAIRSPRAY is inspired by the 1988 film by John Waters. HAIRSPRAY hit Broadway in 2002 with lyrics and music by Mark Shaiman and Scott Wittman.

Beginning the show with a lively start utilizing vibrant facials and high energy, Jenna Holland (Tracy Turnblad) highlights the quirkiness and exuberance of her character. Holland holds strong belts and beautifully lead vocals layering talent throughout her character. This blends tenderly to Drew Chamberlin (Link Larkin) with his charming and flirty personality. Chamberlin and Holland create a gentle and sweet dynamic that leaves a touching impression on the audience.

Katherine Robbins’ (Penny Pingleton) ability to support the acting and song in any moment is truly extraordinary. There was no dull moment from Robbins as she left the audience with a constant flow of charm. Her upbeat movement and incorporates her talent into even the smallest of gestures. This pairs well with the fantastic energies of Olin Spencer (Seaweed Stubbs) that comes from his upbeat dancing and acting. Together Spencer and Robbins create an enthusiastic and well-done portrayal of teenage love. Ginger Jones (Velma Von Tussle) does a phenomenal job of developing the iconic extravagance but ego filled personality of Velma. Jones incorporates this through her mannerisms with sassy, stylized struts and dazzling singing.

The Orchestra (The Nicest Orchestra in Town) did a phenomenal job. Often one could forget it wasn’t professionally recorded. Every piece of music was consistent and well done using strong dynamics and overall allowing cohesive well played music. The Orchestra followed soloists beautifully never missing an entry or end beat.

Kenzie Barry, Tori Phelan and their crew did an amazing job with keeping costumes both time and movie accurate, helping to encapsulate the time period and generate the overall feeling of each scene.

Although energy was high, throughout the first act of the show there were difficulties. Unfortunately, there were moments during songs in which actors' microphones cut out leaving actors fluctuating in volume. However, this snaps back in the second act with limited mishaps, and the actors seemed to bring even more energy and confidence not letting anything discourage them.

In its entirety, Oak Park’s HAIRSPRAY brings the music and an unstoppable beat that is sure to keep feet tapping and smiles spread across faces in the crowd.

by Grace Plattner of Blue Springs High School

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YOU CANNOT STOP THE BEAT AT OAK PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Don’t change that channel, Oak Park High Schools production of HAIRSPRAY had an ultra-clutch on audience members. A comedic atmosphere was quickly created by the actors excellent delivery and lively touches in the technical elements of the show.

HAIRSPRAY is a story of Baltimore set in the 1960s during the civil rights movement. The musical follows a teenager named Tracy Turnblad, her biggest dream is dancing on television. Her dreams come true but not without consequence for she fights for integration, which was not well respected by the people surrounding her. Change eventually happens creating a happy ending for Tracy and all her friends.

Leading actress Jenna Holland (Tracy Turnblad) made each song her own by creating riffs and characterization in each note. Her stage presence showed confidence and kept audience members engaged throughout the entire performance. Drew Chamberlin (Link Larkin) portrayed Link’s character development beautifully, and Holland and Chamberlin's chemistry made the show believable and interesting to watch.

There was not a moment on stage where Katherine Robbins, who played Penny Pingleton, was not a ball of energy. Her vocals, acting and dancing were all consistent, in character, and stole the show. Ginger Jones (Velma Von Tussle) shocked the audience with her clear belting and quirky lines which she presented flawlessly. Another actor that stood out was Olin Spencer who regularly displayed his dancing skills along with vocal power. Rayna Key who played Motomouth Maybelle presented her flexible vocals in contrasting songs such as Big, Blonde and Beautiful and I Know Where I've Been.

All technical elements of the show were fun, and colorful. Tori Phelan, Kenzie Barry (Costume managers) and costume crew executed quick changes successfully and kept a cohesive theme through the entire production. Lights manager Jasper Rasmussen, and crew used a colorful pallet throughout the show specifically in With Out Love and most spot-light pick-ups were completed with ease. The Orchestra pit (Nicest Pit in Town) was also amazing with cues, tone, and volume. Construction Managers Cyd Marsh, Adam Campbell, and the set crew were very quick on the various set changes throughout the show and accurately placed set pieces where they needed to be.

The sound was a consistent issue throughout the show, but this did not stop the actors from being passionate and attention grabbing. Most actors were so powerful they could be heard without the mics which shows how much talent theatre students from Oak Park High School have.

This production is emotionally amazing, touching and hilarious. Unique takes on characters come to life showing color in not only the costumes and hand drawn backdrops, but the actors on stage. Without Love is like not seeing Oak Park High Schools production of HAIRSPRAY, Run and Tell That.

by Skye Hood of Blue Springs High School

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STEP INTO THE 60S WITH OAK PARK’S PRODUCTION OF HAIRSPRAY

Fantastic! Fabulous! Fun! All these words can be used to describe the outstanding performance of HAIRSPRAY put on by Oak Park High School.

Hairspray, which is set in Baltimore in the 1960s, is the story of Tracy Turnblad, who works to integrate the show while pursuing her dream of appearing on a TV dance program. Marc Shaiman wrote the music, Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman wrote the lyrics, and Thomas Meehan and Mark O'Donnell wrote the book.

Jenna Holland as Tracy Turnblad is excellent; she brings such personality to her performance, and she has such a beautiful range and great characterization. Katherine Robbins as Penny Pingleton: not only were her vocals so stunning, she channels Penny Pingleton's character fantastically with her body language and facials, and she truly makes the character her own.

Olin Spencer as Seaweed Stubbs is simply amazing, from his vocals to his impressive dancing to his amazing chemistry with other actors in the cast. He is such a remarkable actor. Tristan Young as Edna Turnblad is so incredibly hilarious; her mannerisms and characterization are simply amazing.

The ensemble was so talented; everyone dances incredibly and harmonizes well together, and you can tell everyone worked hard and it paid off. During "You Can’t Stop the Beat,” they are so fun to watch.

The costumes by Kenzie Barry, Tori Phelan, and crew were absolutely phenomenal and time period accurate, especially the Dynamites costumes, which are gorgeous. The pit sounded extraordinary! They were extremely impressive. Everyone in the pit did amazing. Hair and makeup by Sophy Marks, Natalie Robleado, and crew was great, especially the hair, which was 60s accurate.

The cast of this show is so astoundingly talented. Although there were issues with the mics and sound, they made up for it with very impressive vocals and talented actors and crew.

Such a lively, fantastical performance by Oak Park High School that was very entertaining. Hard work was put into the production, and it truly shows. There are not enough words to describe how enjoyable this show was. Everyone involved should be extremely proud of themselves.

by Alexandria Mondaine of Ruskin High School

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YOU CAN'T STOP OAK PARK HIGH!

The only thing better than HAIRSPRAY is witnessing this show live from Oak Park High School!

HAIRSPRAY, the musical based on the movie released in 1988, surrounds a  girl named Tracy. Tracy is a young girl growing up in the 60s who is an outcast because of her weight. She then finds a group of friends who are outcasts because of their race. The plot of this show surrounds racism and segregation. This story is about a pool of minorities fighting for their moment to shine, and Oak Park does a great job of telling this tale.

To begin, we have the star, Jenna Holland who plays Tracy. She greets us with the number Good Morning Baltimore. Between her voice, characterization, and storytelling, she introduces the show on a beautiful note. The richness in her voice and the excitement her character brings to the show is a highlight. She’s joined by Drew Chamberlin, who plays the character Link Larkin. As Link, Chamberlin graces the stage with his charming voice and chivalrous presence. As Tracy's love interest, he tugs on her heartstrings and does a beautiful job of doing so.

The show also features Penny Pingleton and Seaweed Stubbs, played by Katherine Robbins and Olin Spencer. It's easy to say that these characters are crowd favorites! Between their energy, talent, and every expression, these characters keep the audience laughing, applauding, and entertained. Enda and Wilbur Turnblad, played by Tristan Young and Cruz Lewis, have beautiful chemistry onstage. With quirky personalities and comic relief, they bring timeless delight to the stage.

Every story has a villain and a hero. One can only say that Ginger Jones and Rayna Key truly know how to play their roles, with Velma Von Tussle (Ginger Jones) as the villain, and Motormouth Maybelle (Rayna Key) as the hero. They both take over their roles with sass, glamour, and breathtaking vocals. With songs like "Big, Blonde, & Beautiful," and "Ms. Baltimore Crabs," jaw-dropping reactions are given from the audience, which is a well-deserved reaction!

Other highlight characters such as Corny Collins, played by Cooper Droegemueller, Little Inez, played by Chantal Kariuki, and Amber Von Tussle, played by Josey Willard, were all great additions to the show. There was never a dull moment with these characters as they graced the stage every time they appeared. Just like the rest of the ensemble, with high energy, engaging characterization, and synchronization, everyone did an amazing job.

The props and set additions to the show brought a beautiful and nostalgic ambiance. The orchestra was phenomenal, along with the crews that kept the entire show running smoothly. The perseverance of the characters during mic mishaps was impressive. The show overall was the epitome of what a high school show should be. The jaw-dropping talent, the glamorous costumes, and the astonishing vocalists all set a beautiful tone for the show that absolutely anyone would enjoy!

by Alexia Gillum of Ruskin High School

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THE MOST SENSATIONAL KIDS IN TOWN
Remarkable, Staggering, and Scandalous. All words to describe this electrifying performance of HAIRSPRAY put on by Oak Park High school.

HAIRSPRAY is a compelling story of the trials and tribulations our nation has gone through with segregation. It follows the life of a plus-size 16 year old girl living in Baltimore in 1962 named Tracy Turnblad as she fights for her spot on The Corny Collins Show. Along the way she meets many friends, finds the love of her life, and helps lead a social movement. HAIRSPRAY originally opened in Seattle in 2002, moving to Broadway later that year; in 2007 it was adapted into a musical film.

Tracy Turnblad, played by Jenna Holland, really draws in the audience with her vocality. She sings every riff and run with such passion and precision. Not once is there a dull moment when she steps onto the stage, constantly demanding the attention she deserves. Olin Spencer who played Seaweed Stubbs really entertains the crowd with his meticulous dance moves. He keeps his energy constantly high throughout the whole show never missing a single beat. His attitude was super swaggy and cool showing off the ladies' man that his character is.

Now everyone knows Tracy’s iconic mother Edna and this character could not have been pulled off better. Played by Tristan Young, her mannerisms, sass, and consistent beef with Velma Von Tussle kept the energy on the stage engaging the entirety of the show. Velma Von Tussle portrayed by Ginger Jones also could not have been played better. From her clear powerful belts to her boss like attitude, every time she came and strutted across the stage in her stilettos you knew you were in for a treat.

Each costume for this show was accurate for the era while still staying stylish and cute. From the curl of Corny Collins hair to the flow of Motormouth Maybelle’s dress every aspect of each character was truly mesmerizing.

At times the sound would cut out and it would make it a little hard to hear the characters, but each cast member would persevere and continue on which made the show ten times more enjoyable.

Overall, this show is truly a masterpiece. Each brings their own unique sparkle and flair to their character making it their own. From the moment you step foot into the doors you are immersed into the world of the 60s. With the wonderful performance of these young students you will for sure leave the school feeling like The Most Inspired and Fulfilled Kid in Town!

by Desmond Walker III of Ruskin High School

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WOULD YOU HAVE A SHOT IN THE CORNY COLLINS SHOW?
An exciting, amazing, loving, unpredictable, and humorous musical showcase called HAIRSPRAY! Presented and performed by Oak Park High School, it has flavorful songs, upbeat choreography, and an astounding cast. HAIRSPRAY has thrilling elements that is like eating your favorite food cooked so well, you’re about to be stunned and impressed by the amount of talent this show offers. It expresses the amount of talent and voices in each cast member.

HAIRSPRAY was first a film in 1989 is presented that was directed by John Waters, after that, an adaptation that was made by was taken in place that was released in 2007 that was directed by Adam Shankman. It takes place in 1962 in Baltimore, Maryland, where an energetic, dance-loving, overweight teenage girl named Tracy Turnblad where she aimed a spot in a TV show called The Corny Collins Show where she teaches about her society about social justice and acceptance to the public.

At Oak Park High School, in this particular musical, Tracy Turnblad played by Jenna Holland had a phenomenal performance where she held up her character and energy throughout the entire show that made everyone drawn more to her presence that leaves so many memorable moments! What makes this show even more engaging is Link Larkin, who is played by Drew Chamberlin, talks in an uproarious way where he can clearly deliver his lines and lyrics while also his movements show the story more that lifts the audience to get even more interested in the show. As well as for Corny Collins, who is played by Cooper Droegemueller, had an amazing way of acting like a 60s TV host that had stayed intact the entire time he was on stage. A memorable moment is the way he is representing himself with his vocals in THE NICEST KIDS IN TOWN.

An immense talent that shows upon Penny Pingleton, played by Katherine Robbins, shows a lot of potential in her character with her vocal range, choreography, comedic delivery and unexpected facial expressions! Her costume and wig has made her unforgettable and struck a lot of attention from the audience that makes them go hysterical. A big moment that has made everyone laugh is when Prudy Pingleton, who is played by Julia Schliesman, unexpectedly screamed running through the audience onto the stage!

The arrangements with costumes and hair crew, led by Tori Phelan and Kenzie Berry did an amazing job on all of the cast that made them look stunning and made sure all of them have stood out that fit the show, especially with THE DYNAMITES’ costumes. The orchestra, led by the nicest pit in town, had definitely made sure to be on cue for every song that makes you think that it is an actual track! Each and every person in the orchestra pit does a compelling job with their synchronization and rhythm.

Although some of the ensemble looked a bit worn out with their vocals, they still managed to pull through the entire time with their choreography, cues, and movements on stage. But as soon as MAYBELLE’S CREW strut through the audience, everyone knew that something unexpected was coming up!

A tasteful, compelling, and extraordinary musical HAIRSPRAY, makes up many elements that as a society still struggle today that makes a marvelous storyline that moves throughout us that can make a change.

by Katherine Velasquez of Ruskin High School

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HAIRSPRAY WELCOMES YOU TO THE '60S
The lights go out, a strong bass drum fills the hearts of the audience, and a strong saxophone brings color to the music as the cast of Oak Park’s HAIRSPRAY takes the stage. The costumes, lights, music, and cast all work together to transport the audience to the 1960s streets of Baltimore. From the time the first note plays until the cast takes their bow, the audience is engulfed in the beautiful story that is HAIRSPRAY. HAIRSPRAY, the musical, was first put on a Broadway stage in 2002. This show follows a teenage girl named Tracy Turnblad, following her dreams despite what others think and say about her. She convinces others around her to think from a different perspective while starting a movement against segregation and social injustice. This show is loved by many and has won many awards, including 8 Tony Awards.

Oak Park's HAIRSPRAY was told beautifully with charisma and energy throughout the whole production. Jenna Holland, who played Tracy Turnblad, shows all aspects of her character with deep and personal characterization. Jenna’s comedic timing and vocals add so much to Tracy’s character and really transport the audience to the world of HAIRSPRAY. Drew Chamberlain as Link Larkin makes you hear the bells every time he is present. There is never a dull moment when he is on stage, and his energy when on stage is always high and bright.

The supporting characters did an amazing job telling a story from within a story. Penny Pingleton, played by Katherine Robbins, displays such a love to be on stage. Her confidence as Penny is unwavering and cannot be missed. Olin Spencer, who played Seaweed, gives a very commanding performance through his strong dancing and vocals. Together they make the perfect combination, and their chemistry on stage is very enticing.

The technical aspects of this show were very pleasant. They were extremely accurate and effective in adding to this production. Props led by Lily Tice, Isabelle Knapp, and the crew do a wonderful job. All their props are noticeable through and well taken care of. One of the most impressive props is a huge hairspray can that sprays glitter! Other technical elements like lighting, sound, and costumes bring this production to life in colorful, creative, and vibrant ways! Perfect for HAIRSPRAY.

Although the lights were great at captivating the audience, there were times when actors were not able to be in their light or find their light. Other lighting aspects make up for this and tell a compelling story. At other times, members of the cast did not confidently know their choreography, but when they did, it was engaging and fun.

In conclusion, Oak Park's production of Hairspray transported the audience to the vibrant world of 1960s Baltimore with its captivating music, costumes, and cast. They succeeded in delivering an engaging and entertaining performance that captured the essence of this beloved musical. Oak Park High School, with laughs and music, has made a night not to be forgotten.

by Lena Toombs of Ruskin High School

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Oh how they tastefully tackled a storyline set in the 1960s. The main character, Tracy Turnblad who has dreams of dancing and singing on a popular TV show. She faces challenges due to her being plus size but becomes a champion for equality and diversity. There's catchy music, amazing dance numbers, and a whole lot of hairspray! It's a feel-good show that'll have you singing and dancing along!

This interpretation of Hairspray was a great and amazing show. As I was watching I could see and feel the cast energy. I also liked how every person selected fit their character. I saw with the council members and the dynamites there was never a dull moment on stage with them. They were always moving or doing something. I loved the surprise people in audience. I loved how they included kids who were special needs. The production was overall great.

Can we first just talk about Tracy Turnblad who was played by Jenna Holland. Who did a phenomenal job at executing that character. I mean she had great vocals I never heard her hit a wrong note. She also has great stage presence; she was always so confident. If she wasn’t, I would not have been able to tell. She shut the show down. Her lover Link Larkin played by Drew Chamberlin had great vocals. Something that he could have done better was to move a little more on stage at some moments he looked not confident but overall, he was great and did amazing.

Corny Collins played by Cooper Droegemueller did a great and amazing job executing the game show host character. At times I couldn’t hear him, which is probably due to a sound error. Other than that, he did a great job, and he always kept a smile on his face. Never did I once see him not doing anything he was always doing something on stage. Amber Von Tussle play by Josey Willard. Who did a great job at executing that kind of mean girl character. She always stayed in character I never once saw her drop her energy.

What can I say about Miss Velma Von Tussle played by Ginger Jones. She was my favorite character and she shut the show down. I mean talk about great stage presence, energy and on top of that vocals I mean she was just phenomenal. That character was made for her. She gave us everything She had. She ate and left no crumbs. Penny Pingleton played by Katherine Robbins was a great overall performer. Her energy was always high. Her acting was amazing and she overall just played that character very well. Seaweed Stubbs, played by Olin Spencer was phenomenal. He was my favorite male character. I mean he had great energy. The confidence was there. The stage presence was amazing. He was just great.

Motormouth Maybelle played by Rayna Key was great; she had great vocals. Let’s just talk about Edna and Wilbur Turnblad played by Tristan Young and Cruz Lewis. They both did a great and phenomenal job. Tristan Young executed that character with grace. That character was perfect for her. Cruz Lewis was great and was very funny and did a great job. One thing that I loved about the show was the cut out from the pit and the stage, and how they walked out kinda into the crowd sort of that was great.

The running crew were amazing. I never once saw them messed up or stop. They were great. The sets were amazingly done by Adam Campbell, Cyd Marsh, and Mason Sloan. I loved the big spray bottle that pumped out glitter that was amazing. That was done by Isabelle Knapp and Lily Tice and crew. In this show the mics could’ve been better. Another thing that I did not really like was the projection or projector screen. The costumes were great and fit every character done by Kenzie Berry and Tori Phelan and crew. Hair and makeup crew also did a good job done by Sophy Marks and Natalie Robleado. The pit and all the musicians were amazing. Sometimes I forgot that it was a pit and not just tracks. They were great.  Overall, this show was great and phenomenal. Each and every last character ate down and did amazing.

by Syerra Funderburke of Ruskin High School

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MAKE SURE TO GET SOME ULTRA CLUTCH HAIRSPRAY

Oak Park High School's HAIRSPRAY is a product that is worthy of buying. HAIRSPRAY is a musical that debuted in 2002, with music by Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman. it’s based on John Waters’ 1988 film of the same name Hairspray. Set in the 1960s, the story revolves around Tracy Turnblad, an aspiring dancer, and her efforts to integrate a popular TV dance show. The musical addresses themes of racial integration, body image, and societal expectations. It gained popularity for its energetic songs and upbeat message.

Leading this wonderful band of cast members are one of the most marvelous couples the audience have ever seen. Both giving it their all, and of course with love. Tracy Turnblad played by Jenna Holland and Link Larkin played by Drew Chamberlin are a magnificent duo. Jenna Holland, with her exceptional timing and placement with notes really gives the audience the correct emotion. Her singing ability is enhanced because she is an amazing actor. To not notice her impeccable skills, means you are not paying attention. Now, Link Larkin. Drew Chamberlin is loved by everyone on and off the stage. The audience sees that Chamberlin fits his part well. Everything with his movement, talking, and singing all looks natural. The audience loves his stage presence and passionate singing. Just a great sound for the audience.

The supporters of an already great duo are Seaweed Stubbs played by Olin Spencer and Penny Pingleton played by Katherine Robbins. Spencer gives the energy of 40 cast members alone. The body language that Spencer shows, makes the audience want to move and groove with him. His dancing, on top of his singing, compliment each other and blend together like no other. Robbins makes her moment when she is on stage. The audience absolutely loves her. They laugh at any given moment she is on stage. To put the icing on the exquisite humor she has, she can sing. The audience is in shock when they hear Robbins let those notes fly. They were most definitely pleased and content with her part.

One thing that is a huge plus and just praises the actors so well are the technical things. Lights are just amazing. Jasper Rasmussen, Chelsea Brown, and Amanda Nguyen made it known that they can set a mood. The light cues and decisions make the show 100 times better and make the audience feel everything that is going on. Sound. Solomon Hipsh, Amy Nguyen, Aiden Adelpai, and Chantal Kariuki make everything be heard. Sound plus the pristine actors worked with each other really well. Cannot forget about the incredible stage and set crew. The set pieces are amazing. The pieces are good to make the scene be known to the audience. The stage crew do a beautiful job to quickly move the magnificent pieces on and off the stage with efficiency.

Now to get to the nitty gritty. The one and only thing that the audience noticed was that sometimes, actors were in the dark. The lights are amazing but that only happens twice. Other than that, they are wonderful.

The production of Oak Park High School’s Hairspray gives the energy, talent, and motivation for the audience to love and remember them for eons to come.

by Terrell McGaugh of Ruskin High School

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GOOD MORNING BALTIMORE! Get ready to see Oak Park High School stun and amaze with their production of Hairspray written by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan.

HAIRSPRAY opened on Broadway on August 15, 2002, at the Neil Simon Theatre and went on to win 8 Tony awards. With music by Marc Shaiman, Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman, and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, HAIRSPRAY is a musical theatre staple known the world over with 6 tours and international recognition. The story of the show features a dance-loving girl named Tracy Turnblad who auditions for a spot on “The Corny Collins Show" with some up-to-the-minute moves she learned from her new friends in detention. Tracy becomes an overnight sensation, and then joins the battle for civil rights and self-love.

Oak Park High School’s production of HAIRSPRAY features a charming cast with a wonderful ensemble to back their every move. In the middle of everything is the young girl, Tracy Turnblad. Played by Jenna Holland, Tracy comes to life on the stage staying consistent with her characterization and showing the internal struggle of Tracy as she battles with wanting to help her friends and also protect herself and her feelings. This is shown throughout the production in numbers such as Welcome To The 60s and "Big, Blonde and Beautiful." Complimenting her stunning vocals there is the dashing Link Larkin, who is played by Drew Chamberlin. Chamberlin executes the choreography excellently, grooving in time with the pit during fast-paced numbers and using even better vocals in the slower ones. In particular, he dazzles and amazes with his tone and beautiful falsetto during It Takes Two as the audience falls deeper and deeper in love with this teen heartthrob.

Teen heartthrobs are abundant in this show with Olin Spencer playing Seaweed Stubbs, a young man who wants to be judged on his talents instead of his ethnicity. Spencer’s dancing is top-tier as he takes the stage by storm in "Run and Tell That!" Spencer truly stands out from the crowd by showcasing his diction and characterization skills alongside his dancing. Oak Park’s women also make impactful impressions.  An actress who delights and dazzles is Katherine Robbins in her role as Penny Pingleton. Robbins uses brilliant comedic timing and wonderful articulation to relay the character’s great one-liners and show off during the production.

Using minimalist and open set pieces and a projector to give the scenes life in a new way. Oak Park High School shows its immense talent by using the area of the stage and letting the acting do the heavy lifting such as in Mama, I’m a Big Girl Now and Welcome to the 60's. With a walkway around the pit orchestra, a giant hairspray can, top-notch lighting to set the atmosphere of each scene just right, and spiffy costumes to liven up the show, Oak Park High School’s Production of HAIRSPRAY the Musical is truly a show to get you up on your seat dance and jive with the nicest kids in town.

by Aiden Wilson of Winnetonka High School

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YOU CAN’T STOP THE BEAT!

Some people were born to dance, but when 16 year old Tracy Turnblad has to face detention, mean girls, and an uneasy mother for a shot to dance on The Corny Collins Show, things start to turn upside down.

HAIRSPRAY is a 1988 movie-musical that was adapted for the stage in 2002, with music and lyrics written by Marc Shaiman and lyrics written by Scott Wittman. In 2007, the musical came to movie screens, earning nominations and awards from the Golden Globes, People�s Choice Awards, Screen Actors Guild, and others. The story takes place in 1962, when a young girl named Tracy Turnblad gets to dance on The Corny Collins Show. When she does, Tracy realizes the unfairness of segregation on television, and makes it her goal for everyone to be able to dance together, while also winning the heart of the one and only Link Larkin, a teen heartthrob also dancing on the show.

Jenna Holland, who plays Tracy Turnblad, absolutely stuns audience members with her vocal talent. Her voice captures the essence of her character perfectly and breathes life into Tracy with each note. She is the embodiment of Tracy Turnblad herself. Drew Chamberlin, who plays Link Larkin, also shows incredible vocal abilities. Each performer draws the audience’s attention throughout the production with their voices always in sync and blending perfectly with one another.

Katherine Robbins, who plays Penny Pingleton, is hilarious throughout the entire show, utilizing her entire body and space to create unbelievable comedic timing. She does this even when she is in the background of certain scenes. Another performer who is both graceful and expressive in his dancing is Olin Spencer, who plays Seaweed Stubbs. He enchants audience members with his movement and blows absolutely everyone away when ending a number in the splits.

The entire stage crew is fast and efficient during scene changes, especially for how many different set pieces are used throughout the show. They worked together so that no transition feels too long with the orchestra playing during blackouts. The costuming is also wonderful and makes up a huge part of the show by transporting the audience to the 1960s. Additionally, all of the costume changes are seamless and tie in beautifully with the music.

Oak Park High School’s production of HAIRSPRAY is a fun, colorful, and fast-paced production for all ages. With accurate costuming, hair, and makeup, the show truly feels like stepping into the world of HAIRSPRAY. The performance has a wonderful balance of silly and seriousness. Portraying all of the happy moments while still addressing the inequality of the time period phenomenally.

by Crystal Baker of Winnetonka High School

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I WANT TO BE FAMOUS!

HAIRSPRAY is an American musical with music produced by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. The first showing was in 2002, and since then HAIRSPRAY has gone on to win eight Tony Awards and has toured the US and UK several times. This show is considered to be one of the greats. Centered around the civil rights movement, main character Tracy Turnblad struggles with passion and family, and the musical highlights the use of ensemble members very well. Luckily, Oak Park High School has a theater program dedicated to the arts.

The connection between Tracy Turnblad, played by Jenna Holland, and Link Larkin, played by Drew Chamberlin, is incredible. From the turn on the chin in the first act to the kiss to seal it all in the second act. In You Can’t Stop The Beat, the vocals ring through the auditorium like complimenting chimes. The harmonization they produce is impressive. One can imagine that Holland and Chamberlin both put in extensive rehearsal time to make this performance come alive.

Other supporting actors such as Seaweed Stubbs and Penny Pingleton make the plot exciting as well. Olin Spencer really turns Seaweed into a memorable character. His dance moves are elite, and he makes sure when it is his time to shine, he takes the stage. His enthusiasm fits the character well. Penny, played by Katherine Robbins, also has an amazing role in this musical. As the antagonist in the musical, she keeps the energy up! Her vocals are amazing, and her attitude is well played.

The costumes are accurate to the time period of this musical and fit the characters aesthetically. The makeup and wigs are also done impressively, which complimented the costumes even more. The light crew is outstanding, expressing colors that are very ecstatic and bright. They blend with each scene perfectly. The wow factor is the stage that reaches out into the audience, and the lights on the side of the wall that go with it. This allows cast members to get closer with the audience and convey more emotion.

Despite some sound issues with occasional acoustic feedback, each character's vocals and lines are brought to the audience with incredible skill. Overall, the production's success is a testament to the cast's exceptional abilities and their commitment to delivering a memorable and engaging theatrical experience.

Oak Park High School’s production of HAIRSPRAY stands out as a remarkable showcase of talent, dedication, and creativity. The chemistry between Holland and Chamberlin adds depth and authenticity to the performance. Supporting characters, notably Seaweed Stubbs and Penny Pingleton bring an extreme amount of excitement to the plot, from Spencer's dance moves to Robbins' compelling portrayal of the best friend. Oak Park High School’s theater program successfully brings HAIRSPRAY to life, leaving an everlasting impression on both the performers and the audience. This production does not just entertain, but also reflects on passion and hard work achieved by students involved, contributing to the vibrant world of high school theater.

by Kamren Fox of Winnetonka High School

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YOU CAN’T STOP THE BEAT! Hairspray Performed by Oak Park High School

Hairspray, originally a film written by John Waters in 1988, is a show revolving around the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. The film was made into a stage play in 2002 with music and lyrics written by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman. In this play, a popular teen TV show in the 1960s where unjust preferences and segregation happens is the central focus of the story.

The play opens as Tracy Turnblad, played by Jenna Holland, is revealed lying in bed. She begins singing Good Morning, Baltimore, a light, energetic tune that perfectly fits Holland’s boisterous vocals. This appears to be Tracy’s I Want song, as she sings about how she would like to be noticed but how difficult that is. Tracy’s mom, Edna Turnblad, played by Tristan Young, is the next person to enter the stage. Young and Holland share delightful chemistry from their first moment together.

The vocal inflections displayed by Holland are beautifully demonstrative of Tracy’s initial naivety and her anxiousness to be seen by the world at large. While, at first, her mother seems to be a little hesitant about Tracy’s hopes and dreams, her father, Wilbur Turnblad, played by Cruz Lewis, is excited and almost overly supportive, causing the audience to fall in love with his comical but endearing character. Tracy gives it her all to convince her mother she should follow her dreams, demonstrated with full emotion in the song Mama, I’m a Big Girl Now. The harmonies with all of the girls in the play engage the audience ever deeper into the story. The ensemble works together flawlessly, creating a tapestry of different timbres that blend beautifully into one harmonious texture.

Oak Park’s orchestra pit, known as the nicest pit in town, is always on cue, blending effortlessly with the singers. While the singers, themselves, are incredible, the orchestra is conducive to the play, making it overall a great experience. The catchy, upbeat tunes are a stark contrast to songs like Get Ready, Baltimore, where Tracy finds herself in jail for doing what is morally right. Holland’s whole demeanor changes with this scene, giving the audience a heavy, heartfelt tune laced with emotions of sadness and regret, but somehow manages to maintain a modicum of hope which remains ever-present throughout the play.

In the end, Hairspray, performed by Oak Park, is a show that encompasses the importance of integrity and sticking together, no matter people’s differences. The actors play their roles well, displaying a stark contrast between the different songs like Good Morning, Baltimore and, Get ready, Baltimore.

by Terra Coccovizzo of Winnetonka High School

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