

S T A R L I G H T

Blue Star

◆ A W A R D S ◆

Adjudicator Comment Form

School: **Oak Park High School**

Production: **Hairspray**

For each of the technical and performance categories below, please find the commentary provided by the adjudicators that recently attended your school's musical.

Technical Categories

Orchestra

Adjudicators considered—

- Balance with stage performers
- Balance between orchestral parts
- Pitch and tonality
- Appropriate tempi
- Rhythm
- Execution
- Elements of professionalism (i.e. dress, deportment, etiquette)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Orchestra had good tempi, as well as pitch, throughout the show. I particularly enjoyed the features from the brass section. The biggest issue for the orchestra were pick-ups/transitions into songs. I think it is primarily an issue of reading the cue.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The orchestra was mostly spot on with the notes and rhythms, but I wasn't able to pay close attention because I was struggling to hear the performers over the orchestra. I wish there was a better way to control the volume of the orchestra in the space.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

I especially appreciated the balance between the orchestral elements and with the stage performers! I worried that they might overpower the vocalists, but the conductor modulated the intensity so that the singers were always featured (and kudos to the sound designer/board ops as well). I also noticed that dynamics, tempo, and execution were successful. (The percussion section was excellent). On occasion, there were sections that perhaps the horn section was not always on pitch and the sour notes would momentarily jar me and take me out of the world of the show. Overall, the live orchestra did very well.

Scenic Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Ease of movement
- Appeared sturdy and safe
- Functional
- Complete and finished
- Size appropriate
- Well-executed

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

The use of projection was smart given the number of locations in the show. It was fun that they were homemade. They could have used some additional detail. I liked the idea of having the jail bars span the length of the stage. I do wish the sections were a bit sturdier. The uprights were disconnecting as the warden was hitting it. The wagons that were built worked well for the locations they were created to fulfill – however, I think they were perhaps a bit bulky. The crew seemed to have a bit of trouble moving them due to size.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

You all did a wonderful job of establishing the world of *Hairspray* and the 1960s. It was clear that you thought through how to properly portray every location with or without a physical set. I specifically enjoyed the use of projection for the joke shop set. I wish you had utilized the projector more, even when you were staging on the smaller set pieces. However, there were a couple issues to improve upon. The projector wasn't straight or lined up with the screen, which sometimes caused unnecessary distraction. I would encourage you to remember the whole picture when designing pieces for the stage, including sightlines and distance. Penny's bedroom had a wall on the right side, which would cause visibility problems for the audience seated far house left and the color of Amber's votes for Miss Teenage Hairspray were too dark to be seen, so it looked like she had none.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The set was creative and aesthetically pleasing! The set absolutely established the mood and the various locations throughout the show. Each location was colorful and helped the audience to embrace the energy

conveyed through the show. This can be a demanding show because there are so many locations throughout the production. Although each of the homes that featured the three primary families, the Turnblad's, the Von Tussle's, and the Pingleton's had to be minimalist because of the available space on stage, each were effective and functional. The only set piece that appeared wobbly and unstable were the bars on the jail cells.

Lighting Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Helped to focus the attention of the audience
- Well-executed

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

I know you all had some issues with your lighting system, so I absolutely commend you for working with what was available. I would encourage you to utilize your spotlight more. Don't be afraid of it! When it was finally used, I was shocked it hadn't been turned on before. I was also caught a bit off guard by the flashing red lights at the end of "Miss Baltimore Crabs." They weren't severely bright, but the flashing did bounce off the white ceiling.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The lighting design was effective! The lighting was consistently appropriate throughout the show. The lighting design absolutely established and maintained the mood at each moment for every scene. It was successful at focusing the audience's attention which could be challenging since there were sometimes more than 20 cast members on the stage during significant scenes.

Costume Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained character
- Established and maintained location
- Gave performers full range of motion
- Well-executed (fit, neatness, attention to detail, etc.)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Costuming throughout did a pretty nice job of communicating the era/period of the show. Overall, the dresses were the most successful at accomplishing this. I particularly liked the dresses for the trio – the pink and purple dresses. The male-centered costuming could have been improved by some tailoring or better fit. I know that can be tough when you're pulling items from an existing pool of costumes. The issue with a baggy fit is that it evokes a different era where larger suits were in fashion.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Great job costuming so many performers for a period piece. The girls, especially, were all very on-theme and looked lovely. Besides Tracy, the first characters on stage were in jeans and t-shirts and that was the only exception where the costuming didn't support the world being created. I loved that the dynamites were clearly a trio and stood out from the rest of the cast.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The costumes for this show can create a demanding element for production. Because the time period of the show demands specific styles. The costumes were often a highlight bringing bright colors, designs, and patterns that added to the energetic dynamic of this show. Each one appeared well executed and seemed to give the performers a full range of motion, which was significant since most of the cast was moving actively and dancing throughout the performance.

Hair and Makeup Design

Adjudicators considered—

- Established and maintained mood
- Established and maintained time period
- Established and maintained location
- Established and maintained character
- Well-executed (fit, neatness, attention to detail, etc.)

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

As a general note, I think we needed more in terms of design for both hair and makeup. For hair, we needed more gel/hairspray on short hair. Women's hair was more designed on the principal side, but needed more on the ensemble side. We also needed more makeup on everyone to help highlight features. Some heavier basics like blush and eyeliner/mascara would have helped here.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The hair and makeup design was fitting for the show and appeared to be well executed. More attention/consistency was needed for the ensemble overall.

Lighting Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Executed cues with accuracy
- Completed their tasks with no performance interruptions
- Transitioned smoothly between cues

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Overall, it seemed as if the lighting cues were well-executed. No obvious missed or delayed cues. The spots did need some clean-up, however. Generally, the spots needed to be a bit higher as to put the hot spot on the face of the performer.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The crew did a good job executing cues. I was never taken out of the moment due to lighting issues.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Sound Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Executed cues with accuracy
- Maintained balance between performers and orchestra
- Maintained balance among performers
- Provided clarity

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

We had some volume inconsistencies throughout the show as well as some frequency trouble. This inclines me to think the sound just needed to be dialed in more pre-show to work out some levels, etc. Sound can be one of the hardest and most finicky parts of a production. Make sure you're setting yourself up for success as much as possible!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

I know from your production sheet that you've had several issues with your sound system this year. I hope it is all able to be fixed soon! It was often difficult to hear the performers over the orchestra, which was unfortunate because there were so many incredible voices that deserved to be heard.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

There were numerous microphone issues. Unfortunately, there is not much a crew can do when the problem is with the quality and function of the equipment. Too often, there were performers who could not be heard at all because of microphones cutting in and out, or not working at all.

Set Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks with no performance interruptions

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

The biggest issue the set crew seemed to have during the show was getting wagons loaded in and out without the wings being an obstruction. Perhaps you could add or designate a crew member to help page the curtains during a scene change so we make sure not to get any of the set pieces caught.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

The crew did a good job – keep working on the efficiency of the changes. Treat it like choreography and keep rehearsing those transitions to make it as seamless as possible.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Costume Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks within a timely manner
- Accuracy and completion of the performer's look

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

The show did have plenty of costume changes, most of which seemed to go well. We didn't have any egregious costume mishaps. Tracy and Edna's changes felt a bit delayed during "Welcome to the 60s", probably the quickest change in the show. Outside of costume changes, just keep an eye on cleanliness and fit throughout.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The looks maintained the world of the show. I was never distracted by costuming mishaps. Nice work!

Hair and Makeup Crew

Adjudicators considered-

- Helped to maintain the design elements
- Maintained the world of the play
- Moved quickly and effectively
- Completed their tasks within a timely manner
- Accuracy and completion of the performer's look

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

For wigs, make sure you're setting those on or just below the natural hairline so we don't end up with any shortened or extended foreheads. Also, I would suggest a quick refresh during intermission – for all things – wigs, hair, and makeup. A show like *Hairspray* is particularly reliant on the hair looks, so keeping everything kept up and touched up is important!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

All performers looked complete when entering the stage. The looks were also maintained well throughout the show. Good work!

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Performance Categories

Adjudicators considered the following for each performance category:

Singing:

- Pitch and tonality
- Rhythm
- Diction
- Phrasing and interpretation
- Expression and artistry

Acting:

- Animation and energy
- Believability
- Dialogue interpretation
- Relationship to other performers
- Character consistency
- Comfort on stage
- Stage presence

Stage Movement:

- Accuracy
- Character consistency
- Fluidity
- Motivation of movement
- Animation and energy
- Spatial awareness

Dancing:

- Precision
- Animation and energy
- Execution of choreography
- Expression and artistry
- Spatial awareness

In addition to the above elements, adjudicators considered the following for the Ensemble:

Singing

- Vocal balance
- Balance of harmonic parts

Acting

- Dynamics between performers

Performer in a Lead Role

Student's Name: **Jenna Holland**

Role: **Tracy Turnblad**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Right away, your singing voice was a standout. A very soulful and mature sound. I found your vocal features to be the highlight of your performance – it is obviously a big strength of yours! You also did well with the movement. Two very important aspects to pulling off the role of Tracy. I did notice that once you were in the final wig and costume that you seemed more reserved in your movement. I assume that is due to the change in hair and dress. With it being the big, final number, we want even more energy and excitement in that final song, so do your best to keep your levels up. Lastly, I want you to take your time within your scenes to allow for yourself to react to the scene that is unfolding in the moment. We obviously know that you have your lines

memorized, but we don't want it to feel that way. While the singing and dancing is very important, we also want to be completely taken away by your character and the plot line of Tracy's story, so make sure you're really engaging in the full process!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

It was so fun to watch you play this role and it was obvious that that you were having fun performing it! I can tell that you work hard on your voice and its elasticity. I hope you continue to grow your voice and your ability to use it to portray a character. I encourage you to consider riffing less when it comes to musical theatre singing unless that choice is emotionally supported by the writing so it doesn't distract from your powerful performance. You did a great job carrying this show as the lead and vocal coach. Congratulations!

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Your ability to belt out demanding phrases was outstanding! Unfortunately, during some sections of some songs, you had difficulty staying on pitch. Your stage movement demonstrated character consistency and spatial awareness. Your dialogue interpretation was believable. Stronger, more confident acting choices could have brought an additional animation and energy.

Student's Name: **Tristan Young**

Role: **Edna Turnblad**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

I found you to have a very casual comfort on stage, especially in scene work. You come across as a natural comedian – funny and confident. As Edna is a very comedic role, this worked well for you. I did have times where I wanted you to perform up the role a bit more. Because you delivered your lines in such a casual way, you could be hard to hear on occasion. Make sure we can hear you clearly and make out your dialogue.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You exhibited confident acting choices and a commitment to your role. You brought a believability and character consistency to the role. Unfortunately, it was often difficult to understand your dialogue and also your lyrics to the songs. I don't know if it was the affected vocal timbre that you used. The raspy quality of Edna's voice is certainly an appropriate choice for this character, but it sounded like you maybe were losing your voice, and the microphone issues were another problem outside of your control.

Performer in a Supporting Role

Student's Name: **Drew Chamberlin**

Role: **Link Larkin**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Your vocals were poppy and smooth – easy to listen to. And I would say the same for your movement – smooth and natural. I believed you as the talented heartthrob character. I want you to work on acting through the role when not in song. I could see you engage when we transitioned from scene to music and we want to see that 100% throughout!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Student's Name: **Katherine Robbins**

Role: **Penny Pingleton**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You brought great energy to the role of Penny. Your energy and presence were excited and I could tell you were enjoying yourself, which makes it easy for the audience to enjoy watching you. Vocally, I thought you made smart decisions that contributed positively to your character but also did a nice job of showcasing you as a performer. From a character standpoint, I would have liked to see you play a bit more with the nuance of Penny. You seemed to have a good handle on the elements of the role, so I think you could have played with her neurotic nature and her evolution more.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You possess many strengths. Your singing was on pitch and your phrasing and interpretation of each song was appropriate. You clearly articulated all lyrics and sang with expression and artistry! You sold every song! A highlight was the duet with Seaweed. The two of you conveyed believable, electric chemistry! It was engaging and entertaining. Your pacing was always spot on whether you were acting, singing, or moving around the stage. Your lines were delivered with sincerity, consistency, and authenticity. Your acting choices were dynamic! When you were in a scene, you were always engaged and you had outstanding comic timing! But

you also demonstrated that your character had levels, whether the scene called for dramatic moments or humorous exchanges. Your dancing was also excellent; you demonstrated great technique along with your own unique style!

Student's Name: **Olin Spencer**

Role: **Seaweed Stubbs**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You were very fun to watch, specifically in movement. You are clearly a natural dancer and this role showcased that strength well. Not only did you execute your choreography well, but you brought groove and sass to the table as well. Work toward really committing to the character – at times it felt as if we were watching your version of Seaweed rather than just Seaweed. This can be tricky, but keep in mind that this show is set in a specific period, so the character should be set in that era. Lastly, keep working on supporting yourself vocally, through your breath, to be able to hit those higher notes from above rather than reaching up toward them.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

It is obvious that you love being on that stage! You ate up every moment with so much joy and stage presence. I would encourage you to focus on pitch accuracy in the future. While most of your notes were pitch-perfect, there were a couple of moments that distracted from your incredible voice. Continue to strengthen your already great vocal and dancing skills and you're going to become a powerful performance force!

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You have so much charisma on the stage! Your acting choices were captivating and engaging! In your duet with Penny, the two of you conveyed believable, electric chemistry. Your stage movement was always motivated and consistent with your character. And your dancing was outstanding! You brought energy, style and artistry to the choreography! Whenever you were in a scene, you drew focus (in the best way possible) because of your incredible stage presence! I would encourage you to continue working with a singing coach/vocal instructor on pitch. Your style and expression are excellent, but you were off-pitch during some featured songs.

Student's Name: **Josey Willard**

Role: **Amber Von Tussle**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

A nice performance of Amber. You were successful at portraying the pouty, bratty character. You were a reliable vocalist and mover as well. My main note for you is to ground yourself during scenes more. I felt that you were very active and mobile – never really staying in one place for more than a moment. That activity can portray what you're going for, but throughout the show, it looked unsettled and unconfident. Think about

times when you can just stay put/stand your ground and it will enhance your presence of confidence and comfortability on the stage.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Your singing voice has a pleasant vocal tone, and your diction allowed the audience to understand the lyrics. The performance seemed to lose some energy during the production. When making acting choices, keep in mind that animation and energy are significant to creating believability and consistency for the audience members. Convince the audience that Amber always wants to be the center of attention.

Student's Name: **Ginger Jones**

Role: **Velma Von Tussle**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

This was a great role for you! You held yourself with the confidence required to make Velma believable. You have a great presence and vocal quality. Continue to grow and develop your talents!

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You seemed to know your lines and delivered them accurately, but stronger acting choices would have enhanced this performance. You carried yourself in a regal manner as the former Miss Baltimore Crabs, but the dialogue interpretation sometimes lacked power and conviction. You may want to work on breath support to gain greater range and pitch accuracy when you sing.

Student's Name: **Rayna Key**

Role: **Motormouth Maybelle**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Adjudication provided without commentary.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Your singing is very strong! Your songs were on pitch and your phrasing and interpretation of each song was appropriate. You sang with expression and artistry and I understood every word! You delivered a poignant and emotional rendition of the song "I Know Where I've Been." Soulful and powerful! You might continue to work on your acting skills to enhance character consistency and believability. This is a challenging role because it requires maturity and confidence with a strong stage presence.

Performer in a Featured Role

Student's Name: **Tycie Parker**

Role: **Brenda**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You were a great addition to the Corny Collins crew. You had good presence and energy. The large portion of the time we saw you on stage there was choreography involved, which you executed well. You seemed to be accurate, which is important for a role that primarily dances in an ensemble setting. Keep working on precision! Nicely done.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Oh my goodness, you made me laugh out loud as Brenda! Even though it went a little against plot for you to be on the Corny Collins show in Act II, I enjoyed your addition so much. The bit where you went into labor during "Cooties" was absolutely hilarious! A round of applause to you.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You brought sass and energy to this role. Your acting choices demonstrated a consistency and believability to this character. You performed the choreography with accuracy, expression, and style.

Student's Name: **Jayden Davis**

Role: **Gilbert**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

You were definitely fun to watch. You caught my eye anytime you were dancing – your natural talent for movement was apparent. Having talent like yours in an ensemble role is important, especially in this show. We need a group of detention attendees and record store goers who can dance, and you can! Keep working on being engaged throughout the scene – it's very important that the storyline be told through the reactions of the ensemble members.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Student's Name: **Jaedyn Thompson**

Role: **Judine**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Nice job in this role! The Dynamites provide an important element to the show, especially from an aesthetic standpoint. Your costuming was so fun and colorful and is meant to stand out from the rest of the cast, which it did! You all looked great, and I particularly liked your purple dresses. I wanted to see you lean in and really have a good time, providing more energy and bringing more confidence. Perhaps some additional time as a trio to really synchronize for an effortless dynamic. You are three talented performers, so have fun and let it rip.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

As a member of the Dynamites, you brought an energy and animation that was a highlight in the scenes in which you were featured. All three of you complemented one another and created a successful nostalgic nod to the Supremes from the 1960's. Your singing voices and your moves were believable and added a touch of star quality.

Student's Name: **Chyna Wade**

Role: **Kamilah**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Good work in this role! You are three talented performers. I wanted to see you commit more and really have a good time, providing more energy and bringing more confidence. Perhaps some additional time as a trio to really synchronize for an effortless dynamic. Have fun! The Dynamites provide an important element to the show, especially from an aesthetic standpoint. Your costuming was so fun and colorful and is meant to stand out from the rest of the cast, which it did! You all looked great, and I particularly liked your purple dresses.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You brought an animation and energy that was a standout in the scenes in which you were featured. Your singing voices and your moves were believable and added a touch of star quality. All three of you worked well with one another and created a successful nostalgic nod to the Supremes from the 1960's.

Student's Name: **Ava Broermann**

Role: **Shayna**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

Nice work in this role! The Dynamites provide an important element to the show, especially from an aesthetic standpoint. Your costuming is meant to stand out from the rest of the cast and was so fun and colorful! You all looked great, and I particularly liked your purple dresses. You are three talented performers. I wanted to see you lean in and enjoy your time on stage, with more energy and more confidence. Perhaps some additional time as a trio to really synchronize for an effortless dynamic. Have fun with it!

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

Your animation and energy were a highlight in the scenes in which you were featured. You were a strong trio and created a successful nostalgic nod to the Supremes from the 1960's. Your singing voices and your moves were believable and added a touch of star quality.

Student's Name: **Cruz Lewis**

Role: **Wilbur Turnblad**

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No adjudication provided.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

You brought a delightful energy to this role. Your acting choices demonstrated a consistency and believability that made Wilbur a charming and endearing member of the cast! Your greatest strength was your comedic timing – fantastic!

Ensemble

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

My key takeaway for the ensemble was about creating and reacting to the scene. Overall, the performers who were not involved in the immediate dialogue were primarily just creating a wall or horseshoe behind the scene and standing, listening to the dialogue. In any scenario, I want to be able to look around the stage and see different story lines going on. These can be related to the main dialogue or plot point but should be individual to each performer. The ensemble can spread out and create a picture surrounding the environment, which will help to provide interest and realism.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

Overall, the energy of the ensemble was good. I felt the vocals weren't as strong as they could have been. The energy was there, but the execution was not always accurate. Keep working to make sure pitch is accurate throughout the show. Also keep working to maintain investment in the scene even when you're not the main focus. Our eyes immediately go to someone who isn't keyed into what is happening on stage around them.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

The ensemble was a dynamic and energetic group of performers who had to meet some challenging demands throughout the production. Nice work overall!

Additional Comments:

Adjudicator #1 Comments:

One aspect that really stood out is that most of the action happened at center with surrounding performers. This got muddy, especially in scenes where you have multiple performers with lines. We'd end up with a handful of people all trying to find space at center. I'd like to see a better use of stage space so we can spread our performers out for more visibility.

Adjudicator #2 Comments:

No additional comments.

Adjudicator #3 Comments:

No additional comments.