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Hello parents and performers!

Welcome to auditions for Hairspray! In this packet you will find information on:

- Auditions
- The production - including a synopsis and character breakdown
- Rehearsals

As well as our **Audition Form** - to fill out and bring with you to auditions.

Please note: students must be in grades 8-12 to participate. WST is a tuition based program, and a non-refundable registration fee of \$445 is due before the start of rehearsals. We look forward to seeing you at auditions! Please feel free to contact us with any questions. Remember, "you have to dream big to be big!"

Break a leg,

Jason Summers
Artistic Director, WST

Jenna Dallacco
Associate Artistic Director, WST

— and —



Auditions

LOCATION

White Plains Performing Arts Center
11 City Place, 3rd Floor
White Plains, NY

WHAT TO PREPARE

Please prepare up to 32 measure of music to sing and bring sheet music in the correct key. Scenes will be provided at the audition for cold readings.

WHAT TO BRING

- Your completed Audition Form
- Sheet music in the correct key
- Your CONFIDENCE!

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HOW AUDITIONS WORK

You will perform your song selection for Dan Ferrante, our director, Zack Wright, our music director, and Jesse Pellegrino, our choreographer.

Following your song, you *may* perform one of the scenes from the show provided at auditions. This combination of singing and acting will give WST the information needed to best cast HAIRSPRAY.

Please remember that we want all of our auditioners to succeed and are rooting for you!

CALLBACKS

If our creative team needs to see you for a callback, you will be notified via email from the address airspray@wstshows.com. We use callbacks as a tool to learn more about performers in the areas of singing, acting, and dancing. An invitation to callbacks is not an indicator of how the performer will be cast. Callbacks will be held on Thursday, September 14 at 5:30pm and on Saturday, September 16 from 11am-1pm.

A NOTE ON CASTING

"Please understand that the casting process is complicated and takes into account many factors. We will not entertain questions about why a certain performer was or wasn't cast in a certain role. Please trust our judgment and know that we will do everything we can to ensure that every performer has a good time and learns a lot along the way!"

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Rehearsals Scheduling

Rehearsals may be held Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 5:00pm and 10:00pm, Saturdays between 11:00am and 8:00pm, and Sundays between 11:00am and 7:00pm. These hours are a range of possible days and times. All performers will be required to complete a **Conflicts Request Form**. We will use this information to make our show's full schedule, which will be emailed to everyone from the address hairspray@wstshows.com. **We will make our best effort to create our rehearsal schedule around the performers' conflicts.** There will be approximately three to five rehearsals each week, with the exception of the two weeks leading up to the first performance when this commitment will increase. Performers may not have any conflicts the week leading up to the first performance. This is known as tech week, and it is mandatory that cast members are available.

MANDATORY REHEARSAL DATES

Friday, October 27 - November 2, 2017

The rehearsal schedule will have ALL of the rehearsals listed as follows:

DATE

TIME

WHAT WE ARE DOING AT REHEARSAL

WHAT CHARACTERS ARE CALLED

CONFLICTS

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There will be an email reminder each day there is rehearsal, letting you know any other important information for that day. Please try to avoid new conflicts!

What to bring to rehearsals

- Your highlighted script, in a binder
- A refillable water bottle
- A pen or pencil to write your blocking and to take notes
- Shoes and clothing you can comfortably move in

Pick up and drop off

Performers may be dropped off no earlier than 10 minutes before the start of a rehearsal. This is to give our staff members adequate preparation time, and to ensure the safety of cast members. We respectfully ask that you pick up performers on time from rehearsals.

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Show Synopsis

“You can’t stop the beat”

The 1950s are out, and change is in the air! *Hairspray*, winner of eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, is a family-friendly musical, piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs.

It's 1962 in Baltimore, and the lovable plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has only one desire – to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." When her dream comes true, Tracy is transformed from social outcast to sudden star. She must use her newfound power to dethrone the reigning Teen Queen, win the affections of heartthrob, Link Larkin, and integrate a TV network... all without denting her 'do!

Character Breakdown	
Tracy Turnblad	Our story's unsuspecting protagonist, she is large and in charge. Confident, talented, and incredibly determined. A romantic with a good heart and desire to cut up the dance floor. Always on top of the latest trends. Role requires an actress who is a triple threat.
Corny Collins	The charismatic host of the Corny Collins' Show. Good looking and smooth talking, he is a genuinely nice guy both on and off camera.
Edna Turnblad	Tracy's big and blonde mother. She is a working housewife who has lost her confidence and dream to be a plus-size clothing designer. Boisterous and commanding. Played by a male in drag.
Velma Von Tussle	Amber's mother and the director of Corny Collins' show. She is a devious taskmaster and snobby racist. The former Miss Baltimore Crabs will go to any length to ensure her daughter is the next big thing. High belter.



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Amber Von Tussle	Link's girlfriend and Tracy's nemesis. She is pretty, thin, shallow, snobby, and racist. Can't dance but is expected to win Miss Baltimore Hairspray. Always feels the need to be the center of attention. High mix belter.
Link Larkin	The star heartthrob on Corny Collins' show. He is extremely attractive and talented. Hoping to get his big break with a recording contract, he unexpectedly falls for Tracy.
Seaweed J. Stubbs	Tracy's classmate and friend, who is discriminated against due to his skin color. He is cocky but surprisingly lovable. Talented in song and dance. He falls for Penny.
Little Inez	Seaweed's precocious little sister.
Motormouth Maybelle	Seaweed and Little Inez's mother, she also appears as the Guest DJ on the Corny Collin's Negro Day show. Big, blonde, beautiful and proud of it. She is sassy and confident. A soulful singer comfortable in gospel style music.
Wilbur Turnblad	Tracy's simple minded and kind father. He owns a joke shop and supports his daughter in spite of everything else. He also loves his wife, Edna, very much.
Prudy Pingleton	Penny's strict mother. Very conservative, controlling, and closed minded. Actress must have comic timing.
Corny Collins Kids	Strong singer dancers with bubbly personalities
Ensemble	Singer-dancers who can portray different points of view on the civil rights movement.

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MEETING

Sunday, September 17, 1:30pm-4:00pm
525 Fenimore Rd, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Our HAIRSPRAY Parent / Performer meeting will be held “open house” style. Please come between the hours of 1pm and 4pm to pick up your script and mingle with your cast and creative team. We’ll be happy to answer any questions should you have any.

If you have not already made your payment, the non refundable registration fee of \$445 will be due at this time.

To receive your script you must sign and bring the last page of this document.

PERFORMANCES

Performances of HAIRSPRAY will be held at the White Plains Performing Arts Center, located at 11 City Place, 3rd Floor, White Plains.

Performances will be held November 3-5, 2017.



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AUDITION FORM on the next page of this packet.

Please fill out and bring with you to auditions.



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child's name

child's grade

parents' names

home address

city

state

zip

child's school

phone 1

type (cell, home, etc.)

phone 2

type (cell, home, etc.)

medical conditions or allergies

please read the following carefully

Payment of the production fee in full is due at the Parent Meeting. No refund of the production fee will be given for any reason. The production fee is \$495.

WST reserves the right to photograph and make a video or audio recording of participants throughout rehearsals and performances and use any such photographs, video or audio recordings for advertising and on any promotional materials now or in the future.

WST has rules regarding missed rehearsals and missed performances. If you or your child do not fulfill your commitment to a given production, it can result in your child's dismissal from the program. In this case there are no refunds. Such dismissal will be in accordance with basic attendance and behavioral guidelines, but can also occur at the discretion of the director, artistic director, or executive director. The attendance policy includes any late pickup in excess of 10 minutes. This form serves as notice.

Parents are not permitted to watch rehearsals. Parents are not permitted backstage at any time before, during or after any performance.

Shoes or sneakers must be worn at all times in the theatre. By signing below you agree to waive all rights and forever hold harmless the Westchester Sandbox Theatre, its employees, volunteers and all other agents, for any personal injury resulting from the wearing of sandals, flip flops, or any other heel-less footwear, or walking barefoot in the building.

name (printed)

how did you hear about WST?

signed

date

email

see you at the **sandbox**



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I have received and acknowledge all the information given in this packet.

Name (printed)

Signed

Date