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January/February 2014

Dear Theatre-goer,

Our 33rd season continues with the Broadway hit *Hairspray*. As we contemplate our wishes for 2014, we can draw inspiration from Tracy Turnblad's courage and tenacity. WFT cofounder and director of this production, Susan Kosoff, writes the following thoughts:

Hairspray resonates with the values that undergird the Wheelock Family Theatre: everyone deserves and needs to be appreciated for who they are and given opportunities to become who they might be. The explicit and implicit message of Hairspray is that it is okay to be different, and—moreover—that claiming our unique selves and appreciating the differences of others is what makes it possible for us to celebrate our humanity. One of the many wonderful aspects of this show is that it explores serious subjects with broad humor, rocking music, and joyful dance. It is the hope of the fabulous artistic team and talented cast that I've had the good fortune to collaborate with that your experience with Hairspray will leave you with a smile on your face and a residue of meaning in your heart.

We hope you will return this spring for the East Coast premiere of an adaptation of Grace Lin's Newbery Award-winning book Where the Mountain Meets the Moon. This much-beloved story will be brought to life through the magic of live theatre. We are honored to produce this fantastical and remarkable tale.

Best wishes,

Wendy Lement

Producer

Shelley Bolman

Shelley

Assistant Producer

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Jon Allen (Seaweed J. Stubbs) is ecstatic to perform his dream role at WFT! He is a senior Marketing Communications major at Emerson College, where he most recently played Seymour in the mini musical, Little Shop of Horrors, and serves as president of his class. Regional credits include Hairspray (Atlanta Lyric) and My Fair Lady, Beauty and the Beast, and Les Misérables (Theatre of the Stars). Last year Jon won Emerson's Entrepreneurship Competition with his new all-natural cherry soda, Temple Twist. Temple Twist bottles the original taste of the iconic Shirley Temple with a fresh organic twist and will be on shelves in Boston this spring. He thanks his parents for their unconditional love and support!

Jessica Ayer (Cindy Watkins) is a freshman at Milton High School. She is excited to be returning to WFT, having appeared in Charlotte's Web, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, and Winnie-the-Pooh. She has also been seen in a variety of middle school and high school productions. She takes voice and guitar at the Community Music Center of Boston and performs in two a cappella groups. Jessica applies her vocal and guitar skills at Temple Beth Avodah in Newton as a songleader and as the assistant youth choir director. She has two cats and enjoys running.

Jane Bernhard (Amber) has appeared regionally in On the Town and Much Ado About Nothing (Barrington Stage) and The Merry Wives of Windsor (Shakespeare Theatre). Her NY credits include NYMF (Freilich and Benson Split the Keys). She has also performed with Joe Iconis & Family at Mr. Finn's Cabaret. Jane is currently pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at the Boston Conservatory. www.janebernhard.com

Maritza Bostic (*Dynamite*) is ecstatic to be making her WFT debut. A native of Reading, she is a senior at Salem State pursuing a BFA in Acting with a minor in Music. She recently was nominated for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival for her role as April in *Hot L Baltimore*. Maritza is the president of the Student Theatre Ensemble at SSU. Other recent credits include *A Little Princess* (Fiddlehead), *Les Misérables* (Reagle), *Cabaret* (SSU), *School House Rock Live* (BCT), and *Once on this Island* (MWFT). Thanks to her family, friends, roommates, and mentors for all their faith and amazing support.

Grace Brakeman (Kimmy) last appeared on the Wheelock stage as Annika in Pippi Longstocking. She has also performed here in Annie (title role, IRNE nomination), To Kill a Mockingbird (Scout), Winnie-the-Pooh (Piglet), and Charlotte's Web (Fern). Favorite credits include 13 (Kendra), Footloose (Ariel), Cats (Rumpleteaser), and Legally Blonde (Delta Nu/Greek Chorus). When not acting, she loves to dance at Paulette's Ballet Studio and do aerial circus arts such as trapeze, silks, and lyra. Huge thanks to her parents, sister, Jane, Sue, and the rest of her WFT family.

hairspray

Peter A. Carey (Wilbur Turnblad) is happy to return to WFT, where he has been seen as General Schmitz in Seussical and the Bullfrog in Honk!. He is proud to have been recently inducted into the MA Educational Theater Guild Hall of Fame for his contribution to the arts. Peter is a professional actor, director, and performing arts educator. Acting credits include Newman Noggs in Nicholas Nickleby, John Adams in 1776, and Buddie in Follies (Lyric Stage), as well as many roles with American Classics, NSMT, Hanover, New Rep, and SpeakEasy. His directing credits include: Deathtrap and Arsenic and Old Lace (Company), Much Ado About Nothing (Wellesley Summer), Das Barbecü (Stonehill), The New Moon and The Merry Widow (NE Light Opera), and The World Goes 'Round (Lyric Stage). Peter is director of the Lyric's five-week summer intensive program for teens, Lyric First Stage.

Scott Clyve (Lighting Designer) returns to WFT after designing Seussical, Honk!, The Miracle Worker, Anne of Green Gables, and Saint Joan. Recent area credits include The Mystery of Edwin Drood and The Women (SpeakEasy); Blithe Spirit, Legacy of Light, Kiss Me, Kate, Follies, Man of La Mancha (2007 IRNE Award), 1776, and Nicholas Nickleby (2010 IRNE) (Lyric Stage); Express Yourself '07-'13 (Wang); City Spotlights (Shubert); The Urban Nutcracker (John Hancock); and Ice Chips at Harvard's Bright Hockey Center. Broadway credits include The Gathering and the Broadway national tour of Your Arms too Short to Box with God. Other national tours include Song of Singapore, Dance Across America, and Scrooge the Musical. Opera credits include The Barber of Seville, The Marriage of Figaro, and The Merry Widow (Syracuse Opera). TV credits include three seasons of the network broadcast concert for Gospel Superfest. Scott is also the lighting director of Comcast's Newsmakers across the country. He is a graduate of Purchase College at SUNY.

Tyla Collier (Little Inez) is grateful to be returning to the WFT stage after appearing in The Hobbit just a few months ago! She is thrilled to have another opportunity to work on one of her all-time favorite musicals. Tyla is a junior at the Boston Conservatory, pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Thanks to Maya, Valera, Andrés, Morgan, and her parents!

Laurel Conrad (Choreographer) is honored to be returning for her 11th year and 10th season at WFT-where she has had the good fortune to choreograph all of WFT's musicals and, occasionally, to perform. Her work here has earned her two IRNE Awards for Best Choreography for Seussical and Will Rogers Follies. Love to Jane and Sue to whom she is very grateful for the incredible chance to work with an amazing theatre company and wonderful people, creating a second family for her. Also, much love to Molly, Nyssa, and the love of her life, Mario, for their support and encouragement. xoxo

Cori Couture (Audio Describer) is an actor, singer, storyteller, teacher, disability advocate, writer, editor, and computer consultant. As a describer in the early days of WGBH's Descriptive Video Service, she worked closely with DVS's Community Advisory Board and described everything from American Experience, Mystery!, Nature, and American Playhouse to movies like Parenthood, White Christmas, Cinderella, and Star Trek: The Motion Picture. With a theatre degree from Northwestern and a Master of Education degree in Creative Arts in Learning from Lesley, Cori created a onewoman show about how the arts helped her as she was growing up with spina bifida. On the board of the Spina Bifida Association of MA for nearly six years, she helped start a youth and adults group and edited the quarterly newsletter. She also spent six years at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, writing and editing health communication materials for a wide variety of audiences. Cori is thrilled to be spending time at WFT and wishes she'd found her way here years ago!!

Nicholas Davis (*Joey*) is thrilled to be back at WFT having last appeared in *Seussical*. A Needham tenth grader, he was most recently seen in the Reagle's *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Remembering the 40's*. His credits include numerous productions at Fiddlehead, Riverside, and Turtle Lane, among others. His film credits include *The Fighter, Hachi: A Dog's Story*, and *Paul Blart: Mall Cop*. He spends most of his time dancing with Boston Youth Moves at Jeannette Neill Dance Studio and Charles River Ballet and singing with Marsha Vleck. He'd like to thank all his teachers, WFT, and his family for their support. Nicholas dedicates his performance to his biggest fan, his late grandfather Albert D. Ullman.

Aimee Doherty (Velma Von Tussle) is excited to be back at Wheelock after appearing as the Demon of Insincerity in The Phantom Tollbooth, Grace in Annie, and Ida in Honk!. Boston area credits include Shear Madness at the Charles Street Playhouse; On the 20th Century (starring Alice Ripley) with Overture; One Man Two Guvnors, On the Town, Animal Crackers, Grey Gardens, Follies, and See What I Wanna See with Lyric Stage; North Shore Fish with Gloucester Stage; Marry Me a Little, Rent, Last 5 Years, Speed the Plow, Cabaret, tick, tick... BOOM!, Ragtime, and Into the Woods with New Rep: The Women and Company with SpeakEasy; Double Indemnity and Romeo & Juliet with Stoneham; Pain and the Itch with Company One; A Christmas Carol with Hanover; and A Chorus Line with Reagle. TV and radio credits include ABC's The Makeover (starring Julia Stiles) and The Making of a Monster: Whitey Bulger (Discovery), as well as various radio spots for D'Angelos, Papa Gino's, and the Museum of Science. Aimee received an IRNE Award for playing Luisa in Nine at SpeakEasy. Upcoming projects in Boston include playing the Witch in Into the Woods at the Lyric Stage.

Kevin Fennessy (Harriman F. Spritzer, Flasher) is thrilled to return to WFT, where he played Jacquot, the puppeteer's assistant, in Carnival in 1985! In 2011, he returned to acting after a 17-year hiatus, during which time he directed (Boston Magazine's Best Theatrical Director 1995), produced (Raven Theatrical '94-'98, Elliot Norton Outstanding Fringe Production 1997), and worked as an on-camera casting director, with CP Casting and on his own (credits at www.indb.com). His acting credits include Scooter in Scooter Thomas Makes It to the Top of the World (Gloucester Stage and Inman Square Alley), and Sancho in Man of La Mancha (Open Door). His more recent credits include Drunk Santa and the Judge in Miracle on 34th Street (Stoneham) and Blue Morton in Almost Blue (Theatre on Fire at Charlestown Working Theatre). Kevin is a proud member of SAG-AFTRA and of StageSource (www.stagesource.org).

David W. Frank (*Principal, Guard*), a native Baltimorean, joins WFT for the fifth time. He previously appeared in *Anne of Green Gables* (Minister), *Inherit the Wind* (Bannister), *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (Policeman), and *I Remember Mama* (Mr. Thorkelsen). A proud member of StageSource, David was last seen in Boston as Sal in the Boston Actors' production of *Walt McGough's Paper City Phoenix*. After *Hairspray*, he looks forward to returning to Bay Colony Shakespeare for their summer season.

Meryl Galaid (Council Mom) is delighted to be returning to WFT, where she was last seen in Annie and Beauty and the Beast. She continues to perform her one-woman show throughout NE, most recently for a sold-out crowd at Club Cafe. Favorite performances include Les Misérables (Reagle), Sinatra & Friends (Stoneham), and Peter Pan (title role, Pentucket). MOST wonderful of all is her work with the Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit at Boston Children's Hospital. Whether singing a quiet lullaby to comfort a baby or creating mayhem and silliness for a laugh, this is where Meryl can be seen in her favorite role of Dr. Dazzle-pink-sequined sneakers, pink ukulele, red nose, and all! So happy to be performing with so many wonderful friends old and new! www.merylgalaid.com

WHO's WHO (continued from page 5)

Andy Garcia (Sketch, u/s Wilbur) is honored to make his regional theatre debut at WFT. Favorite roles include Freddy Benson in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels, Randy Dexter in Curtains (New World School of the Arts), Bobby Strong in Urinetown, and Tulsa in Gypsy (French Woods Festival). He is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at Boston Conservatory.

Trey Gaskin (Stooie) is thrilled to return to the WFT main stage, where he was last seen in Anne of Green Gables. Other WFT credits include The Phantom Tollbooth, Honk!, The Little Mermaid, and Charlotte's Web. When Trey isn't on stage, he is a sophomore at Thayer Academy.

Jennifer Beth Glick (Penny Pingleton, dance captain) is thrilled to return to WFT after starring as Anne in last season's production of Anne of Green Gables (IRNE nomination). At the age of ten, Jennifer made her professional stage debut at the Kennedy Center in the ill-fated sequel to Annie - Annie 2: Miss Hannigan's Revenge. As an undergraduate at Harvard, she sang with the Radcliffe Pitches and performed with the HRDC in productions such as Ruthless! (Tina) and Anything Goes (Hope). Prior to attending UVA Law School, Jennifer played the roles of Bielke and Grandma Tzeitel in the national touring production of Fiddler on the Roof starring Theodore Bikel. Favorite roles at WFT include Gertrude McFuzz in Seussical (IRNE Award), Wendy in Peter Pan, Sara Crewe in A Little Princess, and Mary and Martha in *The Secret Garden*. Regionally, she has been seen as Kim in Miss Saigon and Ado Annie in Oklahoma! (Company), Edna Arkins in The Good Times Are Killing Me (SpeakEasy and WFT), Little Red Ridinghood in Into the Woods (Worcester Forum), and June in Gypsy (Publick). Combining her musical and legal advocacy backgrounds, Jennifer recorded and produced a children's CD, Musicals for Munchkins, featuring a collection of kid-friendly showtunes, to benefit Boston's Home for Little Wanderers. For more information, please visit www.jenniferbethglick.com.

Kaedon Gray (*Duane*) is absolutely THRILLED to be back with Wheelock twerking, um, dancing in this phenomenal production! He was last seen on the WFT stage in *Oliver!*. Other productions include *Violet* (Flick), *Anne of Green Gables* (Ensemble), *Once on this Island* (Armand), *A Chorus Line* (Richie), and *The Wizard of Oz* (Ensemble). soundcloud.com/kaedon-gray @GrayKaedon

Cookie Harrist (Shelly) is thrilled to return to WFT! As a teenager, she performed here in The Sound of Music, A Little Princess, and Beauty and the Beast. She now holds a BA in Dance and Poetry from Marlboro and is a cofounder of the Maine-based postmodern dance company, Hio Ridge Dance Collective. A big thank you to friends and family, as well as to everyone at WFT for such a warm welcome back! www.cookieharrist.com

Devin Holloway (*Thad, u/s Seaweed*) is excited to make his WFT debut. Recent credits include Emerson College's *Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, XDance '13, Cafe Variations* (dir. Anne Bogart), *Twilight Los Angeles 1992*, and *She Loves Me.* Last summer Devin completed his first national tour with Hampstead Stage, playing various roles in *The Secret Garden* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. This spring he will be graduating from Emerson College with a BA in Musical Theatre. Many thanks to the cast and crew for this experience, as well as to friends and family for their continued support. Much love!

Janie E. Howland (Set Designer) returns to WFT, where her credits include The Miracle Worker. Other recent productions include Whipping Man (New Rep); Romeo & Juliet and Henry VIII (ASP); Velveteen Rabbit (BCT); and The Other Place (Central Square). Upcoming: Death of a Salesman (Lyric Stage). Other venues include SpeakEasy, Weston Playhouse, NSMT, ART Institute, Company One, Stoneham, Seacoast Rep, Merrimack Rep, NJ Shakespeare Festival, and the Huntington's

Studio 210. Janie holds an MFA from Brandeis and is cofounder of CYCO SCENIC. Her work has been recognized with three Elliot Norton Awards and two IRNEs. She is a member of the adjunct faculty at Emerson, Wellesley, and Northeastern, and of USA Local 829. www.janiehowland.com

Susan Kosoff (Director) is a founder of WFT; professor emerita of theatre and education at Wheelock College, where she continues to teach for the Center for International Programs and Partnerships; and a member of the board of StageSource, New England's alliance for theatre artists and producers. She has written many plays, often in collaboration with Jane Staab, which have been produced here and at other theatres around the country. Among her recent ten-minute plays, Waiting for Gretchen appears in the Boston Theater Marathon XI 2009 Anthology. Other writing for the theatre includes The Young Actor's Book of Improvisation, A Little Princess, Let There Be Light, O Happy Day, and The Beanstalk, the Giant, and Jack. Susan has directed many productions here, including Oliver!, Lord of the Flies, Inherit the Wind, Holes, and A Tale of Two Cities. This one's for Maggie.

Robin Liberty (Production Stage Manager) is thrilled to be making her stage-managing debut after working at WFT as assistant stage manager for the past year and a half. A recent graduate of Wheelock College, Robin majored in Early Childhood Education and Performing Arts. She hopes to have her own classroom soon, while still making time for theatre. She is so awed and inspired by this wonderful cast and so grateful for the chance to work with both them and the wonderful production team. Robin would like to thank Sue for this amazing opportunity, Lindsay for her guidance, Erin for being a wonderful ASM, and all of her family and friends for their support.

Mark Linehan (Corny Collins) returns to WFT after appearing in Seussical, Honk!, and Pippi Longstocking. Recent area credits include Camelot (New Rep); It's a Wonderful Life and Lumberjacks in Love (Stoneham); and Cupcake: A New Musical (GBA Productions/Club Cafe). He has also performed with Reagle, Lyric Stage, Commonwealth Shakespeare, Foothills, Moonbox, Next Door, Fiddlehead, and Papermill (NH). Film credits include stunt work in Shutter Island and Surrogates. He has also appeared in numerous TV commercials. Mark earned his BFA in Musical Theatre from Emerson. Originally from Natick, he lives in Malden with his wife, Amanda, and their five-month-old daughter, Georgia.

Kyle Louviere (Gilbert), a sophomore studying Musical Theatre at the Boston Conservatory, is thrilled to be a part of this production. As a Maryland native, he has performed in many productions in the D.C. area, including Act Two @ Levine's Jekyll & Hyde and Hair; Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre's Aida and The Wiz; Billy Budd; and the National Capital Area Cappies Gala at the Kennedy Center. He hopes to perform here again with this wonderful cast and crew.

Carla Martinez (Lorraine. dance captain) is overjoyed to be back at WFT after appearing in It's a Wonderful Life and Oliver! last year! She is a recent and proud graduate of Berklee College of Music with a major in Professional Music and a minor in Drama. Shortly after graduating in May, she was seen in Dreamgirls (Stepp Sister, u/s Michelle), Les Misérables, ...Forum (Gemini Twin), and The Full Monty (Susan) at Interlakes Summer Theatre. Regional credits include Hair (Abraham Lincoln), Evita (with Andrea McArdle), and Tommy. Favorites include Hairspray (Little Inez), Rent (Alexi Darling), and The Wild Party (Dolores). Carla is a proud Equity Membership Candidate and a member of StageSource. Endless thanks to everyone at WFT, family, friends, and her blue-eyed beauty for continuous love and support. Paciencia y fe! www.carla-martinez.com

Cheryl McMahon (Prudy Pingleton, Gym Teacher, Madame Pinky) is delighted to be returning to WFT, having appeared in over a dozen shows here, most recently as Miss Hannigan in Annie. Regional credits include Cat on a Hot Tin Roof (Lyric Stage); Jekyll & Hyde and The Porch (Stoneham); Marty, Rose Tattoo, and Prelude to a Kiss (Huntington); A Christmas Carol, My Fair Lady, and other shows at NSMT, SpeakEasy, Gateway, Boston Playwrights', Next Door, and Goodspeed Opera House. Cheryl is a two-time recipient of the IRNE Award for Best Supporting Actress in a Musical for her performances at Reagle in Grease, The Music Man, Crazy for You, and Carousel. Film credits include The Box, RIPD, Brilliant Mistakes, Clue I and II, and The A Plate. Thank you, Sue and Jane, for inviting her to be part of the WFT family.

Ebubechukwu Sho Ndukwe (Sign Performer), known to most as Sho, comes to performance interpreting by way of a life-long love for the beauty and complexity of ASL as well as many years of activism within the Deaf community. She holds a Bachelor's degree in African-American Studies and Political Science from Duke and a Master's degree in Deaf Education from BU. In addition to working in the Deaf community as an advocate and mentor, Sho has participated in several dance and theatre ministries and founded a theatrical dance group of her own called Parable. Over the past two years, she has returned to the performance venue in the capacity of interpreter and has worked with BU, Central Square, and the Huntington. She recently had the pleasure of working on WFT's It's a Wonderful Life and is thrilled to be back for Hairspray.

Michael Notardonato (Link Larkin), a Naperville, IL native, is pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre at Boston Conservatory. He has worked at several Chicago theatres including Drury Lane Oak Brook and the Marriott Lincolnshire. Most recently

he was part of the Boston premiere cast of A Little Princess (Fiddlehead). Last summer he was seen in Les Misérables (Babet), Gypsy (Angie), Hair (Berger), Cinderella (the Prince), and the East Coast regional premiere of Mary Poppins at Maine State MT. Other favorite roles include Radames in Aida, Ren in Footloose, and Frederic in The Pirates of Penzance. Michael thanks his teachers, friends, and family—especially his wonderful parents Adriana and Joseph, sister Lucia, and Mama Elisabeta for all of their love and support! www.michaelnotardonato.com

Julia Paolino (Lou Ann) is in her first year at Wheelock College studying Communications/Media Literacy and Performing Arts. A RI native, she is so excited to be living in Boston and performing with WFT! Julia recently worked as an understudy for WFT's production of It's a Wonderful Life. She has performed for many years with RI Youth Theatre and Bishop Hendricken Theater and has worked at numerous children's theatre camps as an intern, production assistant, and director. Favorite roles include Fiona in Shrek the Musical, Nancy in Oliver!, Vivienne in Legally Blonde the Musical, Sandy in Grease, and Maria in The Sound of Music. Infinite thanks to her amazing family, friends, and the wonderful cast and crew!

Gamalia Pharms (Motormouth Maybelle) is thrilled to be a part of this wonderful cast and crew! She was last seen at WFT in Oliver! and Anne of Green Gables. Some of her favorite shows here include Honk!, Seussical, Beauty and the Beast, The Sound of Music, Hello, Dolly!, The Trumpet of the Swan, and The Good Times Are Killing Me. Gamalia has performed in regional theatres up and down the East Coast, and has a BFA from the Boston Conservatory of Music. Many thanks to the entire marvelous WFT staff! A shout out to Mass Art, and also to EJ (with whom she first saw this show on Broadway)!

(continued on page 8)



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WHO's WHO (continued from page 7)

Robert Saoud (Edna Turnblad) was last seen as Mrs. Meers in Thoroughly Modern Millie at the Stoneham. He was in the national tour of GROUCHO playing Chico Marx opposite Gabe Kaplan in the title role. This is Robert's fifteenth production with WFT and he is always happy to return. Elsewhere in the Boston area he has worked at the Huntington, Trinity Rep, NSMT, Merrimack Rep, Lyric Stage, New Rep, Boston Playwrights', SpeakEasy, Worcester Foothills, and Overture, and was in the cast of Boston's longest-running show Shear Madness. Robert has been seen in many commercials and independent films. He is a 2000 Fellow of the Eugene O'Neill Cabaret Symposium and has performed in numerous cabarets in NY and Boston. He is a proud member of Actors' Equity.

Jenna Lea Scott (Tracy Turnblad) is excited to be back at WFT! She remembers exactly where she was when she first heard that Jane Staab wanted to cast her as Tracy Turnblad... stage left at WFT, getting ready to board Captain Hook's ship with Peter Pan in 2008. Peter Pan was her WFT debut; since than she was appeared here in Seussical, Honk!, Annie, The Phantom Tollbooth, and Anne of Green Gables. Last summer Jenna performed in a world premiere new musical by Kirsten Childs called Funked Up Fairy Tales at the Depot. She was also a cast member of the 2013 Elliot Norton Award-winning Avenue Q at Lyric Stage. Jenna was adopted from South Korea when she was five and raised in Acton. She is a graduate of the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, NYC, and Walnut Street Theatre's Dorothy Haas Acting Apprenticeship, Philadelphia. Jenna would love to thank Sue Kosoff and Jane Staab for creating a second family for her at WFT. It's been a real haven for her professionally and personally. She dedicates this show to her amazingly loving and supportive family and friends, especially her two guardian angels, Mom and Katie.

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Martha Simmons (Tammy) is thrilled to be in her first production at WFT with such an amazing cast, director, and crew. She will be graduating this May from Boston Conservatory with an MFA in Musical Theatre. Martha received her BM in Church Music from Baylor, where she studied voice and trumpet. She has been seen in Thoroughly Modern Millie (Miss Dorothy), Into the Woods (Cinderella), Once upon a Mattress (Queen), the short film Sub-Normal, and, most recently, Vieux Carre at Boston Conservatory. Martha is also a choreographer and has choreographed shows in Dallas and throughout Central Texas. Performing in Hairspray has always been on her bucket list and she is so excited to be a part of this production and the Wheelock family. Love to her family, besties, and all the glory goes to God! (John 3:16)

Lisa Simpson (Costume Designer) started at WFT in 2004 as costume coordinator, became the Theatre's costumer in 2006, and designed the costumes for WFT's It's a Wonderful Life, Anne of Green Gables, The Miracle Worker, The Phantom Tollbooth, Annie, A Tale of Two Cities, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Charlotte's Web. Her first foray into sewing and creating costumes was at age six, when she removed and cut up her new bedroom curtains, much to her mother's dismay. Lisa created original costumes for the Gold Dust Orphans for many years. Her work can also be seen onstage with the band Phish on drummer Jon Fishman.

Jane Staab (Matron) reflects upon her WFT career of 33 years, joyfully "playing" on stage or as director and sometime composer for every production (save one). Roles include her favorites: Emily Dickinson in The Belle of Amherst, Fagin in Oliver!, Nurse in Romeo and Juliet, Prospera in The Tempest, Annie Sullivan in WFT's first production of *The Miracle Worker*, and (so many times) The Wicked Witch of the West-surely her signature role. As director, she has loved working with all the splendid actors who have graced WFT's stage in such productions as Annie, The Phantom Tollbooth, Anne of Green Gables, The Secret Garden, Charlotte's Web, Hello, Dolly!, The Sound of Music, Carnival, Kiss Me, Kate, Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan, the upcoming Where the Mountain Meets the Moon, and many more. It's time to pass the torch to the young talents of WFT-actors, crews, designers, composers, techs, and staff, who, thankfully, keep theatre alive and thriving!

Matthew Stern (Musical Director) has been music directing theatre in the Boston area for the past nine years, and has over 80 productions to his credit. He is currently in the first year of the MFA program in Theatre Education at BU. His musical direction credits include Ragtime (Fiddlehead, BWW Award, IRNE nomination); Pacific Overtures, Assassins, and Merrily We Roll Along (BU); Nutcracker (Stoneham); Into the Woods and Honk! (Stoneham Young Co.); Candide (Berkshire Theatre Festival); Saturday Night (Brandeis); Grey Gardens (DASH nomination) and Curtains (AFD); Parade (DASH Award) and Spamalot (Footlight); and Legally Blonde (NextDoor). Matthew has been resident music director at Newton South Stage since 2009 and French Woods Festival since 2010. Upcoming: Ordinary Days (BU).

Aaron Swiniuch (I.Q.) is thrilled to be making his WFT debut. He is a senior at Wheelock College, studying Elementary Education and Performing Arts. During his college career he has performed in a number of productions, including Sweeney Todd and Once on this Island. Thanks to friends and family, who really believed that he could do this. He loves you!

Velma) is thrilled to make her WFT debut! Area credits include Thoroughly Modern Millie (IRNE nomination) and The Drowsy Chaperone (IRNE nomination) (Turtle Lane); Spring Awakening (MyTheatre nomination) (FUDGE); Camelot (New Rep); Fiddler on the Roof and Oklahoma! (Reagle); Once on this Island (Blue Spruce); A Chorus Line and Cabaret

(Woodland); Next to Normal and The Rocky Horror Show (Emerson Umbrella); and Children of Eden (EMACT nomination) (Wellesley Players). Jackie has studied at the Circle in the Square Theatre School and the Broadway Artists Alliance, both in NYC. She also teaches theatre, dance, and art classes year-round at various MA studios for ages four through adult. She holds a BA in Theatre/Education from Brandeis.

Levin Valayil (Sharu Khan) is THRILLED to make his second appearance with WFT! A native of Sugar Land, Texas, he is currently a Master of Fine Arts candidate at Boston Conservatory. He received his Bachelor's in Music Therapy and Voice/Piano Performance from Berklee College of Music. Recent credits include It's a Wonderful Life (WFT) and Waiting for Lefty and Skin of Our Teeth (Boston Conservatory). Levin is also involved with an upcoming tour of the show 99% Stone with The Theater Offensive. He is a music therapist at the Sherrill House Nursing Home. Levin wants to thank his beautiful parents, his spunky little brother, his HUGE Indian family, and all his friends for all of their love and support! You can't stop the BEAT!

Kyle VanZandt (Brad, Link u/s) is making his WFT debut! Regional credits include The Donkey Show (Peaseblossom), ART; The Rocky Horror Show (Riff Raff), The Sound of Music (Rolf), and West Side Story (A-Rab), Forestburgh; Hair (Woof) and A Chorus Line (Paul), Woodstock; and RENT (Angel), Count Basie. His educational credits include Hello Again (The Young Thing), For Whom the Southern Belle Tolls (Lawrence), Spring Awakening (Moritz), and Jesus Christ Superstar (Judas), Wagner College. Kyle trained at Wagner College. For Mom, Dad, and Kenneth, who keep him grounded every day. #blessed

Ciera-Dawn Washington (Dynamite) is very excited to be making her WFT debut with this super fun production! She is currently a BA Theatre Studies: Performance major at Emerson who enjoys performing all over the city of Boston. Her Emerson credits include Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy, The Handmaid's Tale, and an experimental student excerpt of Little Shop of Horrors. Other credits include: Deena Jones in Dreamgirls (Harvard); a bad auditioner in the collegiate a capella film Pitch Perfect; In the Blood (Loyola, New Orleans); The Fantasticks; and Annie. She couldn't feel more blessed to work with such an amazing group of people while having the full support of her friends and family. This performance is dedicated to her mom and sisters who couldn't make it to the show!

Desiree Weems (Sign Performer) studied ASL Interpretation and Theatre at UNH. She was last seen interpreting Once with Broadway in Boston. Other credits include the Boston Landmark Orchestra's Summer Series including Kiss Me, Kate and A Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra; War Horse; and WFT's Pippi Longstocking, Oliver!, Anne of Green Gables, The Wizard of Oz, and The Phantom Tollbooth. Desiree thanks her family, her friends, and, of course, Kristin Johnson, for giving her the opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful experience.

Kerri Wilson-Ellenberger (*Dynamite*) is happy to return to WFT, where she has been seen in *Anne of Green Gables* and *Peter Pan* (Tiger Lily). Other favorite roles include Margot in *Legally Blonde the Musical*, Diana Morales in *Chorus Line*, Nehebka in *Aida*, Brenda in *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, Charlayne in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and Liat in *South Pacific*. Kerri thanks the wonderful cast and crew for making this such a great experience, and her husband Matt for his support!

Andrew Winans (Fender, Corny Collins u/s, dance captain) is making his WFT debut! Regional credits include Hair (Maine State MT), Fiddler on the Roof (Reagle), Company (Moonbox), Pippin (ReVision), Joseph...Dreamcoat (Turtle Lane), and 42nd Street (Axelrod PAC). Dance credits: Jazz Inc. and Urbanity Dance Co. Andrew is a proud junior at the Boston Conservatory, pursuing a BFA in Musical Theatre. Love and gratitude to the creative team, family, friends, and Serge. www.andrewwinans.com

hairspray THE BROADWAY MUSICAL

Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan Music by Marc Shaiman Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman Orchestrations by Harold Wheeler Arrangements by Marc Shaiman

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters

CHOREOGRAPHER **Laurel Conrad**

DIRECTOR Susan Kosoff MUSICAL DIRECTOR Matthew Stern

SET DESIGNER Janie E. Howland

COSTUME DESIGNER Lisa Simpson

LIGHTING DESIGNER Scott Clyve

PROPS DESIGNER Marjorie Lusignan PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER Robin Liberty*

SIGN PERFORMERS

Ebubechukwu Sho Ndukwe, Desiree Weems

AUDIO DESCRIBER Cori Couture

THE CAST

Tracy Turnblad Jenna Lea Scott* Edna Turnblad Robert Saoud*

Wilbur Turnblad Peter A. Carey*

Penny Pingleton

Jennifer Beth Glick*

Velma Von Tussle Corny Collins

Aimee Doherty* Mark Linehan*

Link Larkin

Michael Notardonato

Amber Von Tussle Jane Bernhard

Motormouth Maybelle Gamalia Pharms* Seaweed J. Stubbs

Jon Allen

Little Inez

Tyla Collier

Prudy Pingleton, Gym Teacher, Madame Pinky

Cheryl McMahon*

Matron

Jane Staab* **Kevin Fennessy**

Harriman F. Spritzer Principal, Guard

David W. Frank

Council Mom

Meryl Galaid

The Nicest Kids

Grace Brakeman, Nicholas Davis, Andy Garcia, Cookie Harrist, Julia Paolino, Martha Simmons, Aaron Swiniuch, Jackie Theoharis, Kyle VanZandt, Andrew Winans

The Record Shop Kids

Jessica Ayer, Maritza Bostic, Trey Gaskin, Kaedon Gray, Devin Holloway, Kyle Louviere, Carla Martinez, Levin Valayil, Ciera-Dawn Washington, Kerri Wilson-Ellenberger

The Dynamites

Maritza Bostic, Ciera-Dawn Washington, Kerri Wilson-Ellenberger

There will be one 15-minute intermission between the acts.

Hairspray is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI, 421 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019 Phone: 212-541-4684 www.MTIShows.com

> Ask the House Manager for individual sound enhancement devices. The taking of photographs and use of recording devices is strictly forbidden.

Please turn off all electronic devices. Please, no eating or drinking in the theatre.

Open captioning provided in collaboration with c2 (caption coalition) inc, www.c2net.org.



*Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States. The Wheelock Family Theatre is operating under the terms of a Developing Theatre's Program of Actors' Equity Association. The contract used is a Letter of Agreement.





MUSICAL PROGRAM

ACT ONE

	ACT ONE
Good Morning Baltimore	Tracy and Company
The Nicest Kids in Town	Corny Collins and Company
Mama, I'm a Big Girl NowEdna	a, Tracy, Penny, Velma, Amber, and Company
I Can Hear the Bells	Tracy and Company
Miss Baltimore Crabs	Velma
The Nicest Kids in Town - Reprise	
It Takes Two	Link, Tracy, and Men
Velma's Revenge	Velma
Welcome to the 60's	Tracy, Edna, and Company
Hear the Bells - Reprise	Link
Run and Tell That	Seaweed, Little Inez, and Company
Big, Blonde, and Beautiful	Motormouth, Tracy, Edna, and Company
ACT TWO	
The Big Dollhouse	Women
Dollhouse Playoff	Matron and Company
Good Morning Baltimore - Reprise	Tracy
You're Timeless to Me	Edna and Wilbur
Without Love	Tracy, Link, Penny, Seaweed, and Company
Without Love Playoff	Company
	Motormouth and Company
(It's) Hairspray	
Cooties	
	Affiber and Council Members

ORCHESTRA

Matthew Stern - Conductor, Keyboard

Louis Toth - Reed 1 Tim Lienhard - Trombone

Jeri Sykes - Reed 2 Brian Ott - Guitar, Bass

Paul Perfetti - Trumpet Josh Goldman - Percussion

Substitutes: Heather Katz-Cote (Reed), Ezra Weller (Trumpet), Clayton DeWalt (Trombone), Sam Chussid (Guitar, Bass), Steven Bergman (Conductor, Keyboard)

Wheelock Family Theatre is a member of the American Alliance for Theatre and Education (AATE); ArtsBoston; Cultural Access New England (CANE); MASSCreative; StageSource, the Alliance of Theatre Artists and Producers; and the Theatre Artists' Marketing Alliance (TAMA).

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John Bay Director of Education

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Craig A. Zemsky

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Assistant to the Stage Manager Erin Forgay

Assistant Lighting Designer Sara Komoroski

Roger J. Moore Sound Designer Marjorie Lusignan **Props Mistress**

Shaun Patrick O'Connor Wig Master and Hair Stylist

> Lisa Simpson Costumer

Sarah Kershaw Assistant to the Costumer

> Mina Ha, Jennie Hudson-Bryant, Karl Jacobs, Costume Shop Team

> > Adria Katz, Sarah Kershaw, Pier Talbot Jamie Aznive, Janice Cagan-Teuber,

Captioning Kenji Guldner, Linda Le, Miki Matsushita,

Valerie See, Hollister Ream, Kayloni Williams

Sound Operator Eric Norris

Jeff Gardiner, Kris Kruss, Doughty Leigh, Scenic Carpenters

Alessandra Mondolfi, Julia Talbot, Jerry

Wheelock, Mac Young

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Mandie Holt, RJ LaMura, Jeff Maynard, Clara Rhee

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CREWS, WORK/STUDY STUDENTS, AND INTERNS

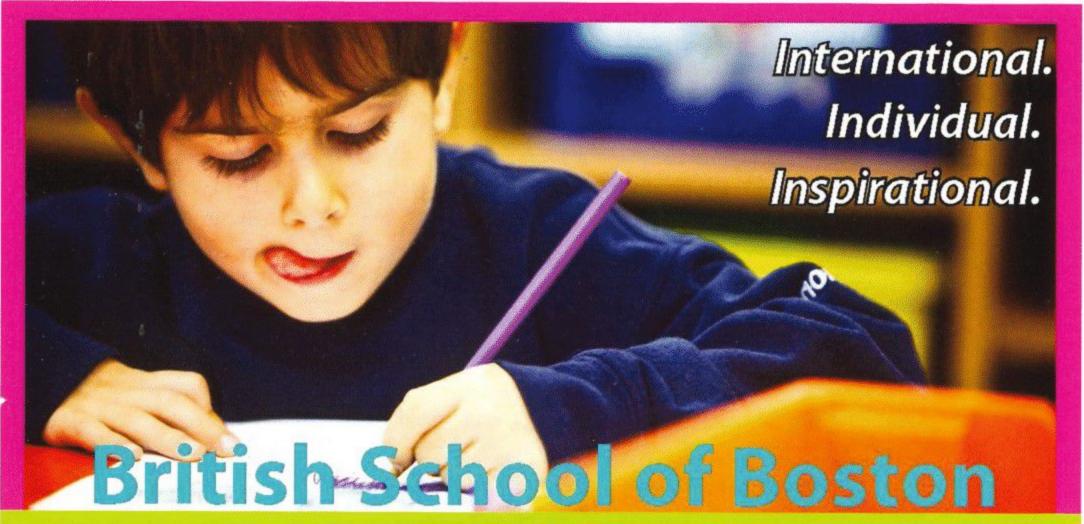
Sonia Belkin, Lauren Bird, Lauren Cagnetta, Rachel Copans, Rachel Costello, Shanika Edouard, Fantasia Fernandes, Hope Gagnon, Kendra Grant, Emily Hammerstrom, Megan Hughes, Emily Jestus, Katrina Kligge, Linda Le, Colin Lee, Kaitlin "Magic" Mahon, Laura Morgan, Lauren Ofshay, Megan Otteson, Davis Piper, Jessica Romero, Nicholas Seyffert, Coretta Simmons, Hannah Smith, Jessica Trester, Doris Vincent, Emily Woznick

SPECIAL THANKS

Shawn P. Cotter; Carol Dobbyn; Dara Driscoll; Teri and Fred Elliott-Hart; Priscilla Fales; Annie Gauger for help with the study guide; Michele Hopkins; Marley Iralien; Sanjeev Joshi; James Karg; Steve Kraffmiller; Susanna Lara; Barrett Liebermann; Marjorie Lusignan for poster art; Lauren Manasse-Latham; Aaron McPherson; Amy McPherson; Antonia Nedder; Martha Newport; Janet and Noa Randall; Kristen Richnavsky; Frank Romero and members of the Wheelock College Facilities staff; Nancy Viall Shoemaker; Charlotte Temple; Gilesa Thomas; Kimetra Thompson

We wish to thank all the people who have joined with us since the program went to press.

hairspray



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Since 1981 Wheelock Family Theatre has been bringing professional productions and educational programs to children and families from communities throughout the Boston area. We are committed to keeping the quality of our productions high and our ticket and tuition prices affordable. But ticket income covers only about two-thirds of our costs. For the rest, we rely on the support of those generous institutions and individuals who value our work and understand the contribution we make to the community. To make a tax-deductible contribution to Wheelock Family Theatre, please contact Kay Arden Elliott at 617.879.2252 or visit www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

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For information about becoming a Wheelock Family Theatre Fourth Decade patron, please contact Kay Arden Elliott at 617.879.2252 or visit www.wheelockfamilytheatre.org.

WFT extends deep appreciation to the following members of the Wheelock College community for their support:

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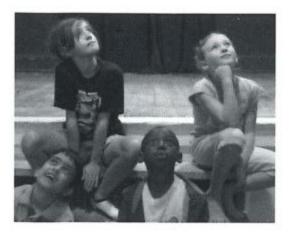
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John Bay, Director of Education

View complete class listings and register online at WheelockFamilyTheatre.org for:

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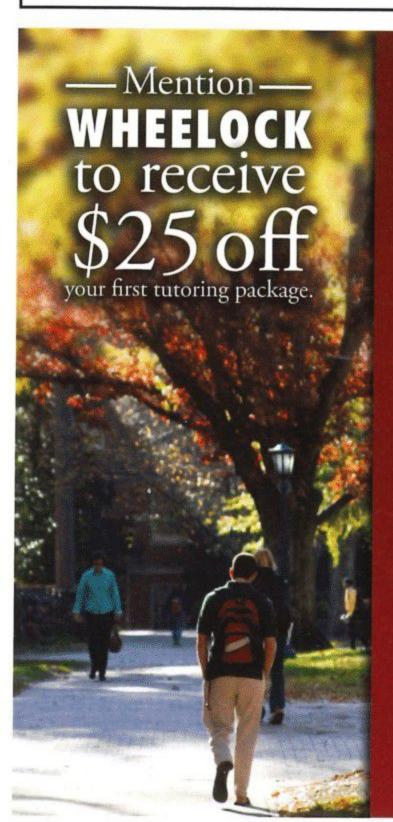
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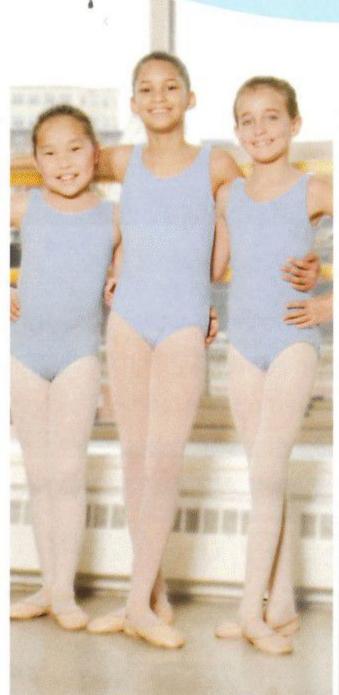
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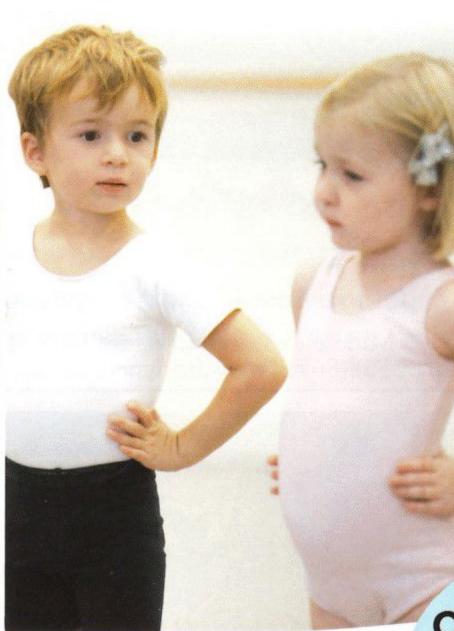
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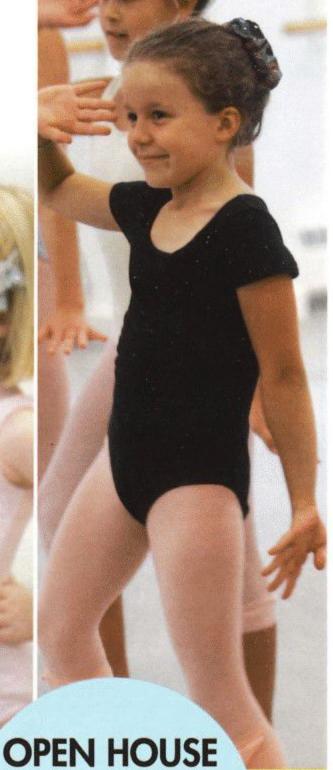
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Learn more at Wheelock.edu/toughenough