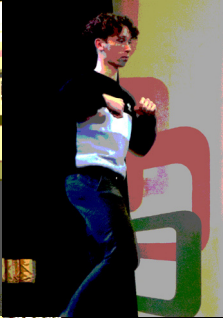


WHITGIFT



• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

Wednesday 4, Thursday 5, Saturday 7 December 2019  
7.30pm, Big School



## Directors' Note

TRACY: *I'm all for integration – it's the New Frontier!*

VELMA: *Not in Baltimore, it isn't.*

It's been a couple of years since our senior pupils have put on a musical as 'big and beautiful' as *Hairspray*, but when we look a little further – past the beehives, the spectroscopic costumes, those zany 60s colour palettes, and those irresistible toe-tapping numbers – we realise that this multi-award-winning musical is rooted in subject matter that is surprisingly hard-hitting: segregation, prejudice, racism and body image stereotypes. Somehow, a story set in 1960s Baltimore manages to feel just as profound for our modern-day context, doesn't it?

Perhaps this is the enduring quality of *Hairspray* that made it such a knockout success when it premiered on Broadway in 2002, winning the Tony Award for Best Musical, Best Book and Best Score: beyond all its period glitz and nostalgic glamour, this is show that has a very real and very admirable heart. Its 'heroes' are earnest and courageous; its 'villains' are deliciously detestable; and its ultimate message of inclusion, we hope, is one that you will find irresistible when we reach the show's famous final number.

The origins of *Hairspray* are not as widely known as the musical versions made famous by the likes of John Travolta and Michael Ball. Rather than being conceived as a musical, *Hairspray* instead began life as a 1988 film, written and directed by John Waters and starring Ricki Lake (yes, that Ricki Lake) and Debbie Harry (yes, Blondie) alongside Hollywood heavyweights such as Jerry Stiller and Michael St. Gerard. It would become much more of a cult success than a box office one; when the story was therefore adapted fourteen years later by Marc O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, it already enjoyed a very faithful following. Once Marc Shaiman (most recently Oscar-nominated for *Mary Poppins Returns*) joined the team and added his sensational score in collaboration with lyricist, Scott Wittman, the musical was set for success. It was this Broadway version that would later be adapted for a return to the big screen in the 2007 Travolta-led film that perhaps most of us know best.

With a few Whitgift productions now under our collective belts, we jumped at the chance to take this production

forward together, though of course this was not a two-person feat: Mr Bhatti and Mrs Binacchi have served as Artistic Directors for the production, sketching concept art, creating mood boards, and working on delivering the 'Sixties aesthetic' we needed; Mr Crook, Mr Jenkinson, Mr Hill and Mr Crestani transformed these concepts into stunning reality, working tirelessly (often long past everyone else had gone home for the night) to provide the cast with a 'West-End' experience; Mr Motley, as Musical Director, has guided the company with a natural confidence that belies the fact this is his debut musical; and Miss Seal, unseen though not unsung, has brought much-appreciated veteran leadership backstage.

Of course, this is a school production, and our greatest privilege has been to work alongside such a talented, funny and dedicated cast of pupils from across Whitgift, Old Palace and WAVPA, as well as a troupe of formidable musicians, who have helped to bring this production to life. Though the rehearsal process has been rigorous and demanding – certainly putting our stamina to the test – it has been a joy to see the cast embrace the challenge, tapping into seemingly-bottomless reserves of energy to deliver this show to you all.

And so, for the next two hours, we invite you to forget about a wintery Croydon evening, and instead back-comb your beehives, style your kiss-curls, put on your Buster Browns, and come dance with us. After all – you can't stop the beat.

**Mr S Michael and Mrs F Carter**





# Musical Numbers

## ACT ONE

*Good Morning, Baltimore*

*The Nicest Kids in Town*

*Mama, I'm A Big Girl Now*

*I Can Hear the Bells*

*(The Legend of) Miss Baltimore Crabs*

*It Takes Two*

*Velma's Revenge*

*Welcome to the Sixties*

*Run and Tell That*

*Big, Blonde and Beautiful*

## ACT TWO

*The Big Dollhouse*

*Good Morning, Baltimore (reprise)*

*You're Timeless to Me*

*Without Love*

*I Know Where I've Been*

*(It's) Hairspray*

*Cooties*

*You Can't Stop the Beat*



# Cast

<i>Tracy Turnblad</i>	Olivia O'Sullivan
<i>Edna Turnblad</i>	Jack Godwin
<i>Corny Collins</i>	Jacob Rose
<i>Penny Pingleton</i>	Molly Behan
<i>Link Larkin</i>	Teddy Homes Summers
<i>Velma Von Tussle</i>	Emily Speed
<i>Amber Von Tussle</i>	Sorrel Crayford
<i>Seaweed J. Stubbs</i>	Joshua Tikare
<i>Motormouth Maybelle</i>	Yasmin Irving
<i>Little Inez</i>	Safiya Joseph-Fynn*
<i>Wilbur Turnblad</i>	William Allnutt
<i>The Nicest Kids in Town</i>	Giselle Foulds*, Xabi Geering, Sami Haddour*, Fraser Murray, Claudia Perez*, Alex Saunders, Ellen Scott-Smith, Ellie Willmer
<i>The Dynamites</i>	Adebolarinwa Badejo, Varsha Balakrishnan, Nicole Hungley, Beth Sanders*
<i>Seaweed's Crew</i>	Nathanael Adegoke, Gibran Ahmed, Zain Ahmed-Safdar, Damola Amusa, Nifemi Bankole, Arjun Gobiraj, Bakari Leon, Tilly Lewis, Elishe Lim, Pierre-Loic Pennaneac'h
<i>Prudy Pingleton</i>	Holly Bain
<i>Harriman F. Spritzer</i>	Marius Hatteland-Dunn
<i>Mr Pinky</i>	Alex Braglewicz
<i>The Principal</i>	Marlon Barrios Araya
<i>Gym Teacher/Prison Matron</i>	Bethany Elliott*
<i>Prison Guard</i>	Zoe Denning
<i>Newscaster and Announcer</i>	Zachary Gideon
<i>Swing</i>	Charlotte Watkins
<i>Understudies</i>	Elishe Lim ( <i>Seaweed</i> ), Ellen Scott-Smith ( <i>Tracy</i> )
<i>Ensemble</i>	Nathanael Adegoke, Zain Ahmed-Safdar, Damola Amusa, Holly Bain, Adebolarinwa Badejo, Varsha Balakrishnan, Marlon Barrios Araya, Emily Binacchi, Zoe Denning, Elise Denning, Bethany Elliott*, Zachary Gideon, Nicole Hungley, Tilly Lewis, Elishe Lim, Ben Naylor, Gavin Murugan, Beth Sanders*, Ellen Scott-Smith, Emily Tellem, Charlotte Watkins, Ellie Willmer

\*denotes member, past or present, of WAVPA (Whitgift Academy of Visual and Performing Arts)

## Production Team

### *Directors*

Mr Sami Michael  
Mrs Faye Carter

### *Musical Director*

Mr Thomas Motley

### *Choreography*

Mrs Faye Carter

### *Technical Director*

Mr Peter Crook

### *Artistic Directors*

Mr Osman Bhatti  
Mrs Daniela Binacchi

### *Stage Manager*

Miss Rosanna Seal

### *Lighting*

Mr David Jenkinson

### *Sound*

Mr Alex Hill

### *Scenic Artist*

Mr Luca Crestani

### *Repetiteurs*

Mr Hugh Beckwith  
Mr Liam Connery  
Ms Fiona Joyce Myall

### *Hair and Make-up*

Mrs Alison Barber  
Mr Osman Bhatti  
Mrs Daniela Binacchi  
Miss Claudia Calamita  
Miss Steph Flood  
Miss Christine Pennicott  
Mrs Laura Wellbrook

### *Backstage*

Oba Lala  
Alex Lovely  
Vy Nguyen

### *Follow-spot Operators*

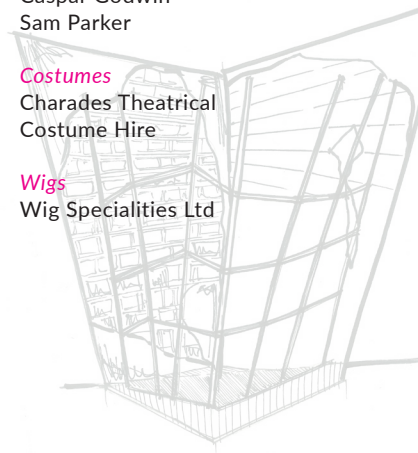
Caspar Godwin  
Sam Parker

### *Costumes*

Charades Theatrical  
Costume Hire

### *Wigs*

Wig Specialities Ltd



## Band

### *Conductor*

Mr Thomas Motley

### *Keyboard*

Ms Fiona Joyce Myall  
Mr Liam Connery  
Daniel Munks

### *Drum kit*

Joseph Bainbridge

### *Bass*

Mr Ashley Myall

### *Cello*

Christopher Chetwood  
Mr Jonathan Few  
Ms Rachael Bull

### *Guitar*

Mr Shane Hill  
Matthew Willson  
Mr Simon Uwalaka

### *Percussion*

Brian Wong

### *Reed*

Ms Maggie Gray  
Kamau Davis  
Stef van Bockstaele  
Ms Nadia Barbosa

### *Violin*

John Lui  
Max Sitter  
Justin Lau

### *Trumpet*

Gus Bradford  
Ms Claire Duncan

### *Trombone*

Ewan Baumann  
Ms Lorraine Temple



## Cast Biographies

### **Olivia O'Sullivan** – Tracy Turnblad

Olivia has been involved with Old Palace productions such as *Seussical* and Whitgift productions including *Spamalot*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Guys and Dolls*, either performing or backstage. She has performed at Garsington in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and is currently studying Music A-level. She also studies the French Horn, Singing and Piano. Olivia feels proud to be part of such a talented cast and to have the chance to play such a fun character.



### **Jack Godwin** – Edna Turnblad

Jack couldn't resist auditioning for the part of Edna – a character so different from his previous roles, including the titular *Macbeth* and Roger in *Lord of the Flies* at Whitgift; she is certainly 'larger than life' and distinctly less-villainous! Jack's stage experience encompasses National Youth Theatre-run acting courses and Musical Theatre courses with West End Stage, a key ensemble role in Whitgift's *Guys and Dolls* and a stint strutting his stuff as Ms Hannigan in a production of *Annie* in New Zealand ... there is a theme emerging here! Away from the stage Jack is a keen rugby and guitar player. He urges you to hold on tightly to your seats whilst watching this production of *Hairspray*, because you're in for one exciting ride!



### **Jacob Rose** – Corny Collins

Performing has always been one of Jacob's favourite things to do, having played O'Dreary in Whitgift's production of *Bugsy Malone*, Big Jule in Whitgift's *Guys and Dolls* and George in a production of *The Wedding Singer* to name some of his favourites. Jacob is thrilled to be playing Corny Collins in *Hairspray* and can't wait to get on stage!





**Molly Behan – Penny Pingleton**

Molly has a passion for music and drama. She has participated in many productions, such as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Annie*, and *Guys and Dolls*. Molly has a love for the piano and is currently working towards her diploma having already achieved grades 1-8. She has also achieved grades 1-6 in singing and is a hard-working Music A-level student. She is very much looking forward to playing the role of Penny as she loves her humour and ditzzy personality!



**Emily Speed – Velma Von Tussle**

Emily has a passion for musical theatre. She played the role of Adelaide in Whitgift's *Guys and Dolls*, Lady Macduff in *Macbeth*, and Popova in last year's Sixth Form play, *The Sneeze*. She has achieved her Grade 8 singing and is now working on her LCM Musical Theatre diploma. Emily has been dancing since she was two and recently took her RAD intermediate ballet exam. She attends the Centre for Advanced Training in Dance scheme at The Place, and recently appeared in a short film created by the English National Ballet. Emily also plays the piano, the flute and the drums and has been in several professional operas, including playing the role of Germont's Daughter in *La Traviata* at the ENO. She is very excited to take on the role of Velma, not least because she has never played a baddie before!



**Sorrel Crayford – Amber Von Tussle**

Sorrel is a keen choral singer, having performed on several occasions in operas at the Royal Opera House and at the English National Opera, as well as in many choirs at school. She has been a regular on the Whitgift stage in productions of *Guys and Dolls* and *Eugene Onegin*, and is delighted to be playing the role of Amber in this production of *Hairspray* as she is a comically evil character and therefore a real challenge to portray.



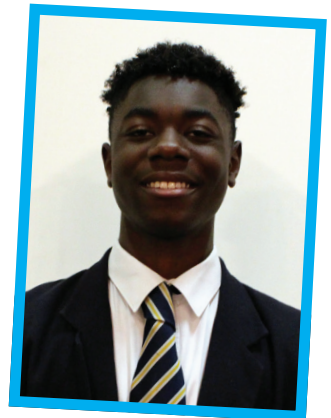
**Teddy Homes Summers – Link Larkin**

Teddy is a regular on the Whitgift stage, with performances in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, *The Government Inspector*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Ash Girl* and *Another Country*. Teddy has several LAMDA awards under his belt in Acting and Musical Theatre, and is a member of the Laine Theatre Arts Musical Theatre Squad. Teddy has thoroughly enjoyed the process playing the dim-witted-yet-good-hearted Link Larkin as his first principle role in a Whitgift production. He has found it to be a joyful experience that he will carry with him for years to come, as well as the wonderful memories formed with the talented cast of *Hairspray*.



**Joshua Tikare – Seaweed**

Josh is an aspiring actor/singer who has performed in the West End in the productions of *Matilda*, *Motown the Musical*, and *The Bodyguard*. With the cast of *Matilda*, he performed at the Royal Variety Performance in front of the Queen and Prince Philip. He has also performed at the National Theatre in the Rufus Norris production of *Everyman*, alongside Chiwetel Ejiofor. Josh performed in the school productions of *Spamalot* and *Wind in the Willows*. Along with performing, Josh also enjoys playing hockey, in which he has recently been selected for the England U16 team. Josh is excited to return to the stage to play the charismatic role of Seaweed in this production of *Hairspray*.



**Yasmin Irving – Motormouth Maybelle**

Yasmin had the opportunity to participate in a professional production of *Eugene Onegin* at Whitgift in Year 10. Since then, she has felt lucky to have been part of other productions including *Guys and Dolls*, Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth*, and last year's Sixth Form Play *The Sneeze*. Playing Motormouth Maybelle is a true joy and in her (albeit biased) opinion, her infectious joy combined with her general confidence and optimism creates a character you can't help but fall in love with.



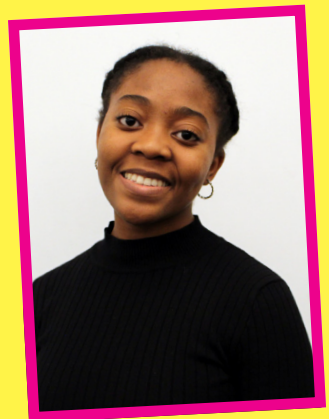
**William Alnutt – Wilbur Turnblad**

William has performed in *Lord of the Flies*, *Macbeth*, *Another Country* and now *Hairspray* as his first musical at Whitgift. He is currently studying Drama GCSE, but confesses to having never done dancing or singing before! He has certainly found it a 'unique' experience, having to sing, dance and act all at the same time and acknowledged that it is something that has taken a lot of time and effort. He is having a lot of fun playing the role of Wilbur Turnblad, the father of Tracy Turnblad, bringing the role to life and demonstrating his best 'dad dancing' too!



**Safiya Joseph-Fynn – Little Inez**

Safiya has been involved in Theatre and Dance productions at both Whitgift and Old Palace since Year 7, not least since joining WAVPA in 2013. She has performed in *The Sound of Music*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, *Spamalot*, *Oliver!* and annual contemporary dance shows. In her final year at school, Safiya feels honoured to be playing the role of Little Inez in what will be her last school production.



# hairspray

● THE BROADWAY MUSICAL ●

The Headmaster wishes to thank all those who have contributed to the success of this evening's excellent production, including Old Palace of John Whitgift School and WAVPA, who provided female cast members.



WHITGIFT



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PHILHARMONIC  
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