

Encore to present Hairspray

From Contributed Reports

Get ready for a big summer musical sensation as Encore Theatrical Company presents "Hairspray" July 15-31.

It's 1962, the '50s are out and change is in the air. Baltimore's Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has only one passion — to dance. She wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show" and, overnight, is transformed from outsider to irrepressible teen celebrity.

But can a plus-size trendsetter in dance and fashion vanquish the program's reigning princess, win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin, and integrate a television show without denting her 'do? Only in "Hairspray!"

"Hairspray" is the winner of eight 2003 Tony Awards. Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters, who served as a creative consultant on the musical comedy, it features a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan.

"Hairspray" features an original score by Academy Award-nominated Marc Shaiman and lyrics by Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman.

Encore's talented cast of actors is led by Courtney Fix in the role of Tracy Turnblad. Courtney has been seen in several Encore shows and is a student at East Tennessee State University. Also playing Tracy at certain performances is Faith Rader, an Encore newcomer and a student at Carson-Newman College. Newcomer Thomas Cook shares the stage as Link Larkin, the television heartthrob. Lindsey Decker also returns to the stage as Penny Lou Pingleton, Tracy's best friend. Decker is joined by newcomer Chad Brooks as Seaweed Stubbs.

Encore is pleased to welcome back to Morristown Dr. Dennis Elkins in the role of Edna Turnblad, Tracy's mother. Elkins is a seasoned actor whose stage credits include work with the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Utah Shakespearean Festival, and many more. He is associate teacher of Fitzmaurice Voicework and currently a Professor of Humanities and Theatre with Milligan College.

For many years, Elkins brought to life many productions for the Morristown area during his tenure at Walters State Community College as Director of Theatre.

Nancy Duckles returns to the Encore stage as Velma VonTussle, the pushy producer of "The Corny Collins Show." Duckles flew into the hearts of Encore audiences in the title role of "Peter Pan," Encore's inaugural production.