

OPENING NIGHT: “Welcome to the Sixties!”

Detailed Synopsis

“Hey mama look around! Everybody’s groovin’ to a brand new sound.”
- *Welcome to the 60’s*

ACT ONE

It’s a Monday morning in Baltimore, 1962. Tracy Turnblad, a pleasantly plump teenager dances through the streets of her city and dreams of being a star (“*Good Morning Baltimore*”). After school that day, Tracy and her friend Penny rush home to watch a dance TV show, The Corny Collins Show (“*The Nicest Kids in Town*”).

At the TV studio, hunky Link offers his Council Member ring to vapid dancer Amber (whose mother, Velma, is the show’s producer). Corny Collins announces auditions for a new female dancer on the show and an upcoming special where a Miss Teenage Hairspray contest will be held. Tracy begs her mother, Edna, to let her go. Meanwhile, Penny’s mother Prudy berates Penny for listening to “race music,” and Velma criticizes Amber on her poor dancing. All three girls argue with their mothers (“*I’m a Big Girl Now*”).

Tracy ultimately attends the auditions, where she literally bumps into Link, initiating a romantic dream sequence (“*I Can Hear The Bells*”). Velma rejects Tracy due to her weight and her positive view of

racial integration (“(*The Legend of) Miss Baltimore Crabs*”).

The following day at school, Tracy is sent to detention, where an African-American boy named Seaweed teaches her some dance moves. Afterwards, Corny guest DJs



Robert Hartwell, Annie Funke and Shina Morris - Photo by Squid Ink Creative, Courtesy of Music Theatre of Wichita.

at the school’s dance (“*The Madison*”) and is impressed by Tracy’s dance moves. He decides to give Tracy a shot on the show (“*The Nicest Kids in Town - Reprise*”). During an interview with Corny, Tracy again comes out in favor of racial integration. Amber is becoming increasingly jealous of Tracy, especially when Corny invites Link to sing a song to Tracy (“*It Takes Two*”). Tracy and Link kiss at the conclusion of the song.

During a discussion with Velma and the show’s sponsor, Ultra Clutch Hairspray, Corny stands up for Tracy and threatens to switch networks if Velma interferes. After he departs, a seething Velma decides to ruin Tracy (“*Velma’s Revenge*”).

At the Turnblad apartment, Tracy gets a call inviting her to become the spokesperson for plus-size clothing outfitter Mr. Pinky and asks Edna to represent her as her agent.



Todd DuBall and Hairspray Company - Photo by Squid Ink Creative, Courtesy of Music Theatre of Wichita.

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Edna receives an elaborate makeover (“Welcome to the 60’s”).

Tracy’s popularity is skyrocketing at school. Penny and Seaweed meet during a dodgeball game and immediately hit it off. Seaweed invites Tracy, Link and Penny to a party at his mom’s record shop. At first Link is uncomfortable going to Seaweed’s neighborhood, but Seaweed tells him it’s fine (“Run and Tell That!”).

Seaweed takes them to Motormouth Maybelle’s Record Shop, where he introduces them to his sister, Little Inez, who wants to dance on TV. Tracy hatches a plan to integrate the Corny Collins Show. Link is reluctant to participate and departs. Edna expresses her embarrassment at being seen on TV, but Motormouth assures her that it’s great to be “Big, Blonde and Beautiful.” During the protest at the television studio, Velma calls the police. Link changes his mind and supports Tracy as most of those present are arrested.

ACT TWO

All the females are stuck in jail (“The Big

Dollhouse”). Soon, everyone but Tracy has been released (“Baltimore - Reprise”). Tracy’s parents return home from jail upset but are comforted by their shared love (“You’re Timeless to Me”). Later, Link breaks into jail to help Tracy while Seaweed helps Penny sneak out of her room. Both couples declare their love for each other (“Without Love”). The friends are tempted to abandon their goal of integrating The Corny Collins Show, but Motormouth convinces them to struggle on (“I Know Where I’ve Been”).

It’s now the day of the live broadcast of The Corny Collins Show (“It’s Hairspray!”). Corny reports that Tracy and Amber are currently tied for Miss Teenage Hairspray. Amber performs an unflattering dance dedicated to Tracy (“Cooties”). Tracy storms onto the set, accompanied by Link, Penny, Seaweed, Little Inez, and company (“You Can’t Stop the Beat - Part 1”).

Corny crowns Tracy Miss Teenage Hairspray 1962 and Tracy declares the show officially integrated. As the show closes, the company celebrates a brand new day for Baltimore (“You Can’t Stop the Beat - Part 2”).



The Hairspray Company - Photo by Squid Ink Creative, Courtesy of Music Theatre of Wichita.