



MARK TUREK / THEATRE BY THE SEA

Jay Leland Krottinger, fourth from right, as Corny Collins is joined by, front from left, Nicole Calabrese, Jamie Markovich, Derek Johnson (kneeling), Rosalie Burke, Jimmy Larkin, Arielle Kook (kneeling), Emily Brockway, (back row from left) James Wells, Mike Baskowski and Zach Trimmer as "The Nicest Kids on Town" on The Corny Collins Show in the big fat Broadway sensation Hairspray.

'Hairspray' has holding power

By Morgan A. Turano
Special to the Press

Review
MATUNUCK – "Hairspray" the 1960s style upbeat musical that never stops has come to Theatre by the Sea. The musical, which is a hit after hit, is brought to life by a talented orchestra and performed by a truly gifted cast.

Alexa Shanahan makes Penny Pingleton's awkwardness seem natural, while Rebecca Gibel's Velma Von Tussle seems naturally mean; Yvette Monique Clark brings power to Motormouth Maybelle, and Erin McCracken makes audiences fall in love with heroine Tracy Turnblad.

Big company numbers are expertly choreographed by Russell Garrett, and make great use of the inspired sets. The bars of the cells in the house of detention, for instance, are set on casters, making the set dynamic and adding greatly to the dance performance.

An especially notable dancer is Antonio Tillman, who is playing Sea-weed during his summer internship at TBTS. The internship program is supported by patron contributions, and at the end of each performance cast members from the program collect donations from the audience.

The eye catching sets for the opening number "Good Morning Baltimore" start in Tracy's bedroom, and bring her from her front door all the way to school in swift clean changes which draw the audience into the story without distracting from McCracken's vocal performance.

Corny Collins' Council Members perform the lively "The Nicest Kids in Town" with great enthusiasm and impressive energy.

Tracy Turnblad's parents Wilbur and Edna



Tom Gleadow, left, and Erin McCracken star as Edna and Tracy Turnblad in the big fat Broadway sensation Hairspray being presented at Theatre By The Sea through August 13.

Turnblad, played by Sean McGuirk and Tom Gleadow respectively, bring a lot of fun to the show. Their duet "You're Timeless to Me" is hilarious, and even with adlibbed lines on opening night, the two never broke character.

The grounds of the theatre also offer tours of the gardens on select Saturdays at 10 a.m. The tours, which take 40 minutes, will be given on July 30 and August 20.

"Hairspray" will be at the Theatre by the Sea Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Thursday at 2 p.m., Saturday at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m., and Sunday at 5 p.m. until August 13. Tickets are \$39 to \$49, and rush tickets are available on a limited basis an hour prior to curtain.

For more information on tickets, contact the box office at 401-782-8587, or visit www.theatrebythesea.com. To reserve a space on the garden tour, call 401-782-3800 x11.

Family fun specials continue at Cross's Mills Library

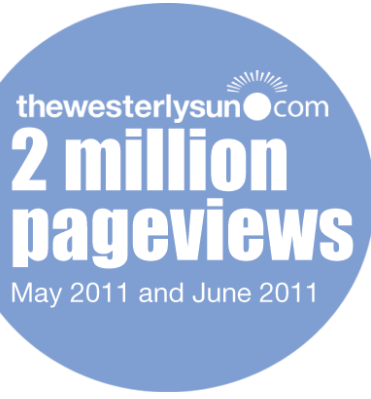
CHARLESTOWN – The Cross' Mills Public Library at 4417 Old Post Road has a variety of programs.

- Family Fun Specials take place on Monday at 7 p.m. for all ages and is offered free. On Aug. 1, Michelle Bach-Coulbaly will offer West African drumming and storytelling. On Aug. 15 Shanti Muthu will perform Indian cultural dances and yoga. This program includes audience participation. On Aug. 22 Bjorn the Magician and face painter Sally Doodles will perform. Prepare to be amazed with fun magic tricks. Stay after the show for face painting. The Rooster Lunch Bunch Book Club will meet on Tuesday, Aug. 2, 9, and 16 at noon.

Bring a lunch and listen to Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees (Rooster Book) and discuss the story with friends. Register by emailing Kerry@crossmills.org or call 401-364-6211. This program is free.

- A program called Putt-Putt Boats is set for Thursday, July 28, at 3 p.m. for ages 10 and up. Make your own steam-powered boat from a recycled milk carton and test it. The program is being led by Melanie and Tyler and is free.

- Family Movie Night will be held on Friday, July 28, at 6:30 p.m. Gulliver's Travels, featuring Jack Black, will be shown. This film is rated PG.



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