



Hairspray JR

Audition Information and Important dates



Welcome to Western Arts Theatre Inc. We're so excited to stage our next all junior show – Hairspray Jr and just as excited to have you be a part of it. Listed below is all the information you'll need to prepare for your audition. This pack is designed to make the process as easy as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at westernartsproducer@gmail.com

The Show

The 1950s are out, and change is in the air! *Hairspray JR.* is the family-friendly musical piled bouffant-high with laughter, romance and deliriously tuneful songs. Adapted from the Broadway production that won eight Tony Awards, including Best Musical, *Hairspray JR.* is a show that will celebrate your students' diversity and bring audiences to their feet with its positive message and uproarious sense of humour.

It's 1962, and spunky, plus-size teen, Tracy Turnblad, has one big dream — to dance on the popular "Corny Collins Show." When she finally gets her shot, she's transformed from social outcast to sudden star. In balancing her newfound power with her desire for justice, Tracy fights to dethrone the reigning Miss Teen Hairspray, Amber von Tussle, and integrate a TV network in the process. With the help of her oversized mom, Edna, and guest DJ, Motormouth Maybelle, the rhythm of Tracy's new beat just might prove unstoppable.

Audition Dates

Solo Vocal Audition Times

Monday, December 2nd 7:00pm – 9.40pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Wednesday, December 4th 7.00pm – 9.40pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Sunday, December 8th 10.00am – 1.30pm Solo Vocal Auditions

Dance Audition Times

All auditionees are required to attend a dance audition; Juniors are from 7 – 11 years, Seniors are from 12 – 18 years. You will be notified at your solo vocal audition if we require you to attend a different dance call. If you have a clash with any of the times, please notify the audition panel at your solo vocal audition

Sunday, December 8th 2.00pm – 3.00pm Junior Dance Call

Sunday, December 8th 3.30pm – 4.30pm Senior Dance Call

Call Back Times

Monday, December 9th 7.00pm – 10.00pm (as required)

Invitation to call backs will be made in the evening of Sunday December 8th. Any material will be emailed to you to prepare for your call back although this will be kept to a minimum in consideration of the time frame.

Audition Venues

Sunday auditions – Masonic Centre, 840 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds

Monday and Wednesday auditions – Essendon Baptist Church, 134 Buckley Street, Essendon

(please enter off Buckley Street)



Solo Vocal Audition Information

Bookings for auditions can be made through trybooking – www.trybooking.com/BGQVP this link is also available on the Western Arts Theatre Facebook page or Western Arts Theatre website.

Please print out and turn in the attached Audition Form when you arrive for your audition. All auditionees will require the signature of a parent/guardian on their Audition Form as they are under 18 years of age.

Please arrive 10 minutes before your audition time to be fully prepared, have audition forms filled out and have your casting photo taken.

For your vocal auditions, you will need to perform one song in the style of the show.

Songs need to be performed to sheet music; no backing tracks or acapella will be allowed. A piano accompanist will be provided.

As the Production team may not have time to hear your whole song, please prepare the best section of the song to make sure it shows off your best vocal range, ie. If there are three verses in the song, maybe only prepare just one verse, the chorus and bridge. The recommended time for a song is between 1:30 – 1:50 minutes.

During the audition there may be a vocal range check and auditionees may be asked to repeat a short phrase.

Please ensure that your sheet music:

- **Is in the correct key**
- **Has any cuts/alterations clearly marked**
- **Is printed and in a display folder**

Please DO NOT:

- Staple the pages
- Provide your music as PDF on your tablet or device.

You may be asked to read dialogue for the role you are auditioning for, or for a role the creative team feel you may suit. Script excerpts will be available when you arrive, and you may read through them before being called in. There is no pressure in the reading of the script –it is simply an opportunity for the production team to see how you work. You will not be required to memorise the script. We do ask that you try to use your best American accent when reading.

Dance Audition

Please wear comfortable clothing that's easy to move in. Other things that you will need to bring include dance shoes or sneakers (no bare-feet please) and a water bottle. Long hair needs to be tied back.

The dance call will be a fun and supportive environment even if you don't think you are a dancer, and everyone will be encouraged to smile and give it a go!

Don't be nervous. Every one of us on the audition panel has stood before an audition panel before and knows how you feel. Just do your best and have fun!

Production Team

Producer: Sarah Charles

Production Manager: Sarah Daly

Director: Meg Warren

Musical Director: Bec Muratore

Choreographer: Samira Reason

Asst Director & Asst Choreographer: Steph McKeon

Stage Manager: TBC

Rehearsal Pianist: Minna Ikonen

Set Design and Construction: Mark Clark

Costume Design and coordination: Meg Warren & TBC

Properties Coordinator: TBC

All members of the production team and all child minders of the show have a valid Victorian Working with Children's check. There will be a qualified First Aid Officer at every rehearsal.

Character descriptions

Tracy Turnblad

Our story's unsuspecting protagonist, she is large and in charge. Confident, talented, and incredibly determined. A romantic with a good heart and desire to cut up the dance floor. Always on top of the latest trends.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Corny Collins

The charismatic host of the Corny Collins' Show. Good looking and smooth talking, he is a genuinely nice guy both on and off camera.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A4

Vocal range bottom: D3

Edna Turnblad

Tracy's big and blonde mother. She is a working housewife who has lost her confidence and dream to be a plus-size clothing designer. Boisterous and commanding. Played by a male in drag.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Penny Pingleton

Tracy's best friend and dorky sidekick. Not the brightest girl, but she has good intentions. Bursting to get free of her mother's dominating control, she falls for Seaweed with childlike curiosity.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: G5

Vocal range bottom: A3



Velma Von Tussle

Amber's mother and the director of Corny Collin's show. She is a devious taskmaster and snobby racist. The former Miss Baltimore Crabs will go to any length to ensure her daughter is the next big thing.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Amber Von Tussle

Link's girlfriend and Tracy's nemesis. She is pretty, thin, shallow, snobby, and racist. Can't dance but is expected to win Miss Baltimore Hairspray. Always feels the need to be the center of attention.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: A3

Link Larkin

The star heartthrob on Corny Collins' show. He is extremely attractive and talented. Hoping to get his big break with a recording contract, he unexpectedly falls for Tracy.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: G3

Seaweed J. Stubbs

Tracy's classmate and friend, who is discriminated against due to his skin color. He is cocky but surprisingly lovable. Talented in song and dance. He falls for Penny.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Little Inez

Seaweed's little sister and very talented dancer. Little Inez is a determined young dancer who wants to be on the Corny Collins show.

Gender: Female

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: F3

Motormouth Maybelle

Seaweed and Little Inez's mother, she also appears as the Guest DJ on the Corny Collin's Negro Day show. Big, blonde, beautiful and proud of it. She is sassy and confident.

Gender: Female or Male

Vocal range top: E5

Vocal range bottom: F3



Wilbur Turnblad

Tracy's simpleminded and kind father. He owns a joke shop and supports his daughter in spite of everything else. He also loves his wife, Edna, very much.

Gender: Male

Vocal range top: A5

Vocal range bottom: A3

The Dynamites

The dynamites consist of Judine, Kamilah and Shayna. The Dynamites are a talented vocal trio who are featured in many numbers and usually in tight harmony.

Gender: Females

Vocal Ranges: Soprano, Mezzo Alto and Alto

Prudy Pingleton

Penny's strict mother. Very conservative, controlling, and closed minded.

Gender: Female

Age: 40 to 50

Vocal range top: B4

Vocal range bottom: D4

Ensemble

Corny Collins' Kids (Tammy, Brad, Brenda, Sketch, Shelley, Etc.); Students; Dancers; Protestors

Casting Announcement

Casting of the show will be done at the conclusion of the call backs on Monday, 10th December. Roles will be offered by Thursday, 12th December. Full cast will be announced on our website and Facebook page on Saturday, 14th December in preparation for our meet and greet on Wednesday, 18th December.

Important Dates

Please notify us of any unavailability on your audition form. If not notified, we expect you to be available for all of the following dates unless in the case of an emergency or upon negotiation with the Production Team.

- First Rehearsal/Meet & Greet: Wednesday, December 18th – 7.30pm – 10.00pm
Parents will be required at the first hour of this rehearsal – 7.30pm – 8.30pm
- Intensive Rehearsal Weekend: a firm date for this is still to be confirmed, however; it will be either 15-16 February OR 22-23 February (Western Arts will cater for these days)
- Bump In: Sunday, 29th March – 9.00am onwards (a roster will be organised for this – you will be required to contribute for at least 2 hours on this day)
- Bump Out: Sunday, 5th April – from the conclusion of the final show onwards (a roster will be organised for this – you will be required to contribute for at least 2 hours on this evening)

Other rehearsals: Starting the Thursday, 30th January, rehearsals will be held in Essendon every Monday and Thursday evening from 7:00pm to 10:00pm and on Sundays from 12:00pm until 5:00pm. See below for rehearsal venues.

Cast Fees and Membership

All cast members are expected to pay a Cast Fee of \$170. This covers a show libretto, commemorative show patch, catering on both days of rehearsal weekend, a fundraising box of chocolates to sell, costuming and other show expenses. Each fundraising box of chocolates, once sold, will reimburse you \$60 on your initial Cast Fee payment. The Cast Fee is due at the first rehearsal on **Thursday 30th January** and can be paid by direct debit, via a trybooking link or cash at the rehearsal. The trybooking link will be provided with the email welcoming you to the cast. We are more than happy to work out payment plans if this helps your family in any way.

Additionally, membership is required to be a part of the show. Membership costs are:

Individual membership - \$30

Family membership - \$80 (covers 4 members of the family and a maximum of 2 Adults)

Memberships last for 12 months and we advise that at least one parent is a financial member along with the cast member. Membership is due at the Meet and Greet on **Wednesday 18th December** and can be paid by direct debit, trybooking or in cash. Membership must be paid in order to cover all cast with public liability insurance.

We understand that sometimes finances are hard so please feel free to talk to the Producer about this should you have any questions.

Fundraising and Promotion

Cast members may be asked to participate in fundraising and promotion for the show. These may include performing at a fundraising event, distributing promotional material, appearing on broadcast radio programs, participating in photo-shoots and/or promotional performances at public venues. Availability will be considered once these events are secured. Our main fundraising Trivia night is proposed for **Saturday, 15 March 2020**

Cast and Parent involvement

As a cast member and family of a Western Arts Theatre show, we ask that you contribute to the building of the show in some way. This will include helping at working bees for set construction, costume assistance, contributing to bump in and bump out and helping back stage. Many of the jobs that need to be completed are not designed for the kids in the cast so we are always appreciative of the help of parents and older family members. A form with the ways you choose to help with the show will be distributed at the Meet and Greet on Wednesday 18th December.

Rehearsal Information

Rehearsal** times and venues will be as follows:

Monday and Thursday rehearsals – 7.00pm to 10.00pm

Essendon Baptist Community Church – 138 Buckley Street, Essendon

(entry down the side stairs off Buckley Street)

Sunday rehearsals – 12.00pm to 5.00pm

St John's Uniting Church – Cnr Mt Alexander Road & Buckley Street, Essendon

(entry off Mt Alexander Road after the Buckley Street intersection)

Not all cast will be required at all rehearsals. A detailed rehearsal schedule will be provided with at least 2 weeks' notice in all cases. Whilst we try our best to accommodate younger members of the cast, keeping their rehearsal times earlier than older members of the cast, there will be times when the junior members of the cast will be required until 10.00pm. We will attempt to keep this to a minimum.

***Please note: All rehearsals will be closed rehearsals.*

Production Week & Performances:

Performances will be at St Bernard's College Theatre, Rosehill Road, Essendon. Details of how to access the theatre will be provided closer to the dates of performance.

Production Week

Sunday, 29 th March	9.00am - onwards	Bump In
Monday, 30 th March	6.00pm - onwards	Tech Rehearsal
Tuesday, 31 st March	6.00pm – onwards	Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday, 1 st April	6.00pm - onwards	Dress Rehearsal

Performances

Thursday, 2 nd April	6.00pm - onwards	Opening Performance (7.30pm)
Friday, 3 rd April	6.00pm - 9.30pm	2 Performance (3.30pm and 7.30pm)
Saturday, 4 th April	2.00pm – 9.30pm	2 Performance (3.30pm and 7.30pm)
Sunday, 5 th April	2.00pm - 5.00pm	Closing Performance (3.30pm)
Sunday, 5 th April	5.00pm – onwards	Thanks yous and Bump Out