



For Immediate Release
March 29, 2017
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American Stage in the Park, 2017 Presents: HAIRSPRAY the Broadway Musical

**You can't stop the beat, and you won't want to when HAIRSPRAY dances its way to
Demens Landing on April 19th through May 14th. #CANTSTOPTHEBEAT**

St. Petersburg, FL – American Stage in the Park is excited to celebrate over 30 years outdoors with the musical **HAIRSPRAY** which won the **Tony Award for "Best Musical."** The music is by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman & Marc Shaiman, and book by Mark O'Donnell & Thomas Meehan. This Broadway musical is based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters. The Title sponsor of American Stage in the Park is Bank of America.

This outdoor production will be directed and choreographed by Shain Stroff and will have 24 actors both national and local. This large cast will feature St. Petersburg favorites Matthew McGee* as Edna Turnblad, Scott Daniel* as Corny Collins, Allyson Pace* as Tracy Turnblad, Alison Burns* as Velma Von Tussle, Jayne Trinette* as Motormouth Maybelle, David Michael Bevis* as Link Larkin, and more.

HAIRSPRAY's Director, Shain Stroff, received the Outstanding Choreography/Fight Direction Theatre Tampa Bay award for last year's smash hit SPAMALOT.

Stroff said, ***"HAIRSPRAY is often thought of as a fluffy, high energy, candy-colored pop musical (and it is!). But within those elements, it also provides the audience sophisticated and telling ways of understanding racism and social inequality in the 1960's and today."***

"We're so proud to continue a Tampa Bay area tradition when American Stage in the Park presents one of the best musicals of the 21st Century. So many of us are looking for some hopefulness in our entertainment right now. HAIRSPRAY balances up-beat, family-friendly music and story-telling with poignant and timely themes that remind us of the value of love and acceptance." - Producing Artistic Director Stephanie Gularte.

HAIRSPRAY runs from April 19 through May 14, 2017. **Gala Under the Stars, our Opening Night, is Friday, April 21, 2017.** The evening begins at 6 PM, with a gourmet dinner from Parkshore Grill Catering and an open bar of wine provided by Southern Wine and Spirits and Constellation Brands, and beer provided by Green Bench Brewing Co., followed by the 8 PM performance of HAIRSPRAY. Guests will enjoy a host of activities before the show, that help provide support for American Stage's artistic and educational programs year-round. This includes a live auction with a one of a kind glass art piece created by Duncan McClellan inspired by the American Stage in the Park production of HAIRSPRAY.

Gala Under the Stars is the organization's largest fundraising event of the season which benefits American Stage, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

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THE MUSICAL

YOU can't stop the beat...and you won't want to, when HAIRSPRAY dances its way into Demens Landing this spring! This family-friendly musical favorite takes us back to the 60's where teen Tracy Turnblad aims to land a dream TV gig, win the heart of the cutest boy in school, and strike a blow for civil rights - all without messing up her 'do!

"The Ultimate feel good show" -The Guardian

WINNER! 2003 Tony Award for "Best Musical"

ABOUT AMERICAN STAGE IN THE PARK

American Stage in the Park has been a celebrated Tampa Bay tradition for over thirty years. Established in 1986, American Stage in the Park was first known for presenting Shakespeare to audiences in and around Tampa Bay. American Stage in the Park expanded to include comedies and modern musicals presented under the stars each spring at **Demens Landing Park** in St. Pete.

FOOD & DRINK

Leave the food and fun to us!

Food and beverages (both alcoholic and non) are available at concessions. In support of American Stage, an exclusive park menu has been created specifically for American Stage in the Park by GotoSteves.com Executive Chef Chuck Bandel. A specialty beer was crafted by Green Bench Brewing Co. This year's brew is **The Integrated Blonde Ale** 4.5% ABV, a "Big, Blonde, and Beautiful" blonde ale aged on cacao nibs and vanilla beans.

CAST

Tracy Turnblad: Allyson Pace*	Ensemble / Sketch / Stooie: Matt Acquard
Edna Turnblad: Matthew McGee*	Male Authority Figure: Tom Bengston
Corny Collins: Scott Daniel*	IQ: Emanuel Carrero
Motormouth Maybelle: Jayne Trinette*	Kamilah / Dynamite: Shante Clark
Velma Von Tussle: Alison Burns*	Duane: Terrence Jamison
Link Larkin: David Michael Bevis*	Inez / Shayna / Dynamite: Nia Jamison-Sissle
Female Authority Figure: Melanie Souza*	Tammy: Erin Leigh Knowles
Seaweed J. Stubbs: DeeJay Young*	Ensemble / Lou Ann: Sadie Lockhart
Penny Pingleton: Kayla Tomas	Gilbert: Xerron Mingo
Wilbur Turnblad: Thomas Mothershed	Brenda: Brianna Mooney
Amber Von Tussle: Meredith Pughe	Judine / Dynamite: Jessica Rebecca
	Fender: Ethan Zeph
	Brad: Adam Zeph

DIRECT LINK to publicity photos: www.AmericanStage.org/media

**Photo credit is Joey Clay. Please note that publicity photos are not typically available until 2 weeks prior to opening. Please contact the American Stage marketing team for immediate needs.*

For Cast Bios please visit www.AmericanStage.org/park

CREATIVE

Shain Stroff (Director / Choreographer)

Michael Raabe (Music Director)

Jerid Fox (Scenic Design / Properties Master)

Mike Wood (Lighting Design)

Tricia Kelly (Costume Design)

J. Thor Productions (Sound Design)

Shelby Smotherman (Scenic Painter)

Miriam Rochford* (Stage Manager)

*Members of Actors' Equity Association

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THE SONGS

Act 1

Good Morning Baltimore
The Nicest Kids in Town
Mama I'm a Big Girl Now
I Can Hear the Bells
Miss Baltimore Crabs
It Takes Two
Welcome to the 60's
Run & Tell That
Big, Blonde & Beautiful

Act 2

The Big Doll House
You're Timeless to Me
Without Love
I Know Where I've Been
(It's) Hairspray
Cooties
You Can't Stop the Beat

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: American Stage in the Park presents HAIRSPRAY the Broadway Musical

WHERE: Demens Landing Park

located on the corner of 1st Avenue South and Bayshore Boulevard SE
in downtown St. Petersburg, FL.

WHEN: April 19 – May 14, 2017

WEDNESDAY – SUNDAY | 8pm

Gates open at 6 pm and Will Call opens at 5:30 pm

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES:

Preview Wednesday, April 19, 8pm, "Pay What You Can"

Preview Thursday, April 20, 8pm, "Pay What You Can"

Opening Night Gala: Friday, April 21, 6pm (Performance: 8pm)

For tickets and/or table purchase or more details, visit: www.AmericanStage.org/gala

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION NIGHTS:

Sunday, April 30th - PRIDE in the Park

Sunday, May 7th - Pets in the Park*

Pets are allowed only on designated night.*

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BOX OFFICE:**TICKETS START AT \$18****Lawn and Reserved seating available.****GENERAL Lawn Admission (ADVANCE):**

Wed, Thurs, Sun – \$18

Fri & Sat – \$25

PREMIUM Blanket Seating:

Wed, Thurs, Sun – \$32

Fri & Sat – \$35

GENERAL Lawn Admission (AT THE GATE):

Wed, Thurs, Sun – \$22

Fri & Sat – \$30

RESERVED Chair Seating:

Wed, Thurs, Sun – \$38

Fri & Sat – \$40

Children 6 and under are free on the lawn.

TICKET PURCHASES:**Box Office:** (727) 823-PLAY (7529)**Email:** BoxOffice@AmericanStage.org**Online:** www.americanstage.org/park**Walk-up:** 163 3rd Street North, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 or at Demens Landing Park when gates open.**SERVICES & FACILITIES**

Accessible parking, entrances, restrooms, and seating.

ABOUT AMERICAN STAGE

Since 1977 American Stage has been dedicated to telling meaningful, compelling stories with integrity and professionalism. As the Tampa Bay area's longest-running, most critically-acclaimed professional theatre company, we seek to bring the power of quality live theatre to each generation in our community. American Stage invites you to lean forward and experience the most captivating stories of the moment and the most relevant stories of the past. All told with passion and a commitment to excellence.

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#asHAIRSPRAY

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