

## fall musical was ultra clutch...hairspray

Actors were waiting anxiously backstage. Props were lined up. "Hairspray" was ready. The curtain opened and the musical began.

The colorful '60s-set musical, based on the 1988 John Waters' film comedy, was chosen for the fall. Casting for "Hairspray" was at the end of August with about 75 people trying out, despite the show not being until the end of October. Two months allowed a little extra time to prepare for the two-hour show.

"It's a process, but it's going to be really good. It's going to be one of our best shows so far," theatre director Mark Swezey said.

"Hairspray," which had been made into a movie twice, was set in 1960s Baltimore, where teen Tracy Turnblad got a spot to be on "The Corny Collins Show." She used her sudden fame to bring racial integration to the show.

"It's about holding a mirror up to the world and knowing what's good or bad. It's about being different and finding acceptance," Swezey said.

This show was for the whole family because of the good message behind it, while still being cute and funny.

"Playing Tracy Turnblad has been my dream role since I was 10 years old," senior Rachel Field said. "When I first saw the show in fifth grade I knew I had to play her."

What made Field and Tracy so similar was their determination to change the world. They both carried strong goals and were set to leave their mark on the world. Besides all their similarities, Tracy's and Field's personalities weren't identical.

"Tracy is an independent person who doesn't care what anyone else thinks of her," Field said. "Her free-spirit allows her to do whatever she wants. I feel like a lot of high schoolers aren't like this, including myself. Even though I wish I was more like Tracy in this aspect, we all kind of care too much about what others think about us."

For junior Megan Berning, her biggest obstacle was memorizing lines, songs and the dances, which were needed for her to play Amber Von Tussle, the spoiled, rich girl who would do whatever it took to get the spotlight back on her.

"All the obstacles I faced, and all the outside work that was put into the show was worth it in the end after all the bonds and friendships I've made through theatre," Berning said.

With five performances, Oct. 28-31, mistakes on stage were inevitable, but the show went on.

"When you forget a line, you just have to make it through, play it off and try not to break character. You have to remember that there's always going to be a mistake in a show," Field said.

Despite being in seven previous South shows, senior Teah Nguyen still struggled with the difficulties that came with theatre, such as nerves, the audition and music. Regardless of the difficulties, Nguyen loved theatre because she put her singing and dancing into one

“My favorite part about playing Penny, Tracy’s best friend, is being able to chew gum on stage,” Nguyen said.

Assistant stage manager junior Jacob Robertson, helped keep the show running smoothly throughout the chaos.

“The dress rehearsals were really stressful because we were missing some set pieces and we still had things to fix,” Robertson said. “I’m in charge of everything technical, like communicating with sound and lights and cueing people to get props. It’s such a relief at the end of a performance knowing everything went well.”