

ADDRESS: 4200 Campbell Ave.
Arlington, Virginia
22206

BOX OFFICE: 703 820 9771
ADMIN OFFICE: 571 527 1860

FACSIMILE: 703 845 0236
WEBSITE: www.signature-theatre.org

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:
Eric Schaeffer
MANAGING DIRECTOR:
Maggie Boland

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Contact: Peter Eramo, Jr., Publicist
(571) 527-1833
eramop@signature-theatre.org

You Can't Stop the Beat!
The Tony Award®-Winning Best Musical
Hairspray
Comes to Signature Theatre on November 21st

The Musical Comedy Phenomenon to Star
National Radio Host Robert Aubry Davis, Carolyn Cole,
Sherri L. Edelen, and Nova Y. Payton

Arlington, VA, October 24, 2011 – It's time to let your hair down and dance the night away! The 1960's are coming back to Washington as the Broadway sensation *Hairspray* will begin performances at the Tony Award®-winning **Signature Theatre** on November 21st – just in time for the holidays. Directed by Signature's Artistic Director **Eric Schaeffer**, the production will star national radio host **Robert Aubry Davis** (WETA's "Around Town" and Sirius/XM Radio), making his musical theater stage debut in the iconic role of Edna Turnblad. The impressive cast of DC favorites is headlined by **Carolyn Cole** (Tracy Turnblad), **Nova Y. Payton** (Motormouth Mable), **Sherri L. Edelen** (Velma Von Tussle), **Patrick Thomas Cragin** (Link Larkin), and **Harry A. Winter** (Wilbur Turnblad). *Hairspray* will play at Signature's MAX Theatre from **November 21, 2011 through January 29, 2012**. Tickets are now on sale.

Schaeffer said, "*Hairspray* is already a stage classic and we are so excited to reinvent it for the Signature stage with such a phenomenally talented cast, including Robert Aubry Davis in high-heels as Edna. With so much humor, heart, and a score of charming songs, *Hairspray* promises to be a delight for everyone this holiday season!"

Based on the 1988 New Line Cinema film directed by **John Waters**, *Hairspray* features music by Academy Award® nominee **Marc Shaiman**, lyrics by **Scott Wittman** and **Marc Shaiman**, and a book by **Mark O'Donnell** and **Thomas Meehan**. The musical, which played on Broadway for 6 ½ years, took home a remarkable eight 2003 Tony Awards®, including "Best Musical." Signature Theatre's production features an award-winning creative team including **Karma Camp** (choreographer), **Dan Conway** (set designer), **Kathleen Geldard** (costume designer), **Colin K. Bills** (lighting designer), and **Matt Rowe** (sound designer). **Jon Kalbfleisch** is the music director, with **Gabriel Mangiante** conducting a 9-piece orchestra.

In *Hairspray*, it's 1962 – the '50s are out and change is in the air. Baltimore's Tracy Turnblad, a big girl with big hair and an even bigger heart, has only one passion—to dance. She wins a spot on the local TV dance program, "The Corny Collins Show" and, overnight, is transformed from outsider to irrepressible teen celebrity. But can a plus-size trendsetter in dance and fashion vanquish the program's reigning princess, win the heart of heartthrob Link Larkin, *and* integrate a television show without denting her 'do? Only in *Hairspray*! Welcome to the '60s!

Hairspray is sponsored by **Jaylee Mead** and, in part, by **STGi**.

HAIRSPRAY

Book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan

Music by Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman

Directed by Eric Schaeffer

Based on the 1988 film directed by John Waters

November 21, 2011 – January 29, 2012

The MAX

Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings, with matinees on Saturdays and Sundays. There will be no performance on Thanksgiving Day. A special Monday night performance has been added as the first performance on November 21st. Tickets are now on sale and start at \$63. Single tickets are available in person at the Signature Box Office or by calling Ticketmaster at (703) 573-SEAT. Student discount tickets are \$30 and must be purchased the week of the performance. Signature is also offering "**\$22 for Tuesdays**," making available \$22 tickets to the first two public Tuesday performances on November 22nd & 29th.

CAST BIOS

Jennifer Cameron (Ensemble) REGIONAL: Westchester Broadway Theatre: *42nd Street*; Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre: *Cats*; Virginia Musical Theatre: *White Christmas*; Prather's Broadway Palm: *42nd Street*, *A Chorus Line*, *Beauty and The Beast*; Reagle Players: *42nd Street*; Fireside Theatre: *Damn Yankees*; Mac-Haydn Theatre: *Carousel*; Tarrytown Music Hall: *Joseph...Dreamcoat*; Summer Lyric Theatre: *Guys and Dolls*, *Will Rogers Follies*.

Carolyn Cole (Tracy Turnblad) OFF-BROADWAY: *The New Hopeville Comics: a rock opera*. NATIONAL TOUR: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (w/ Donny Osmond). DC AREA: *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*, *The Stephen Schwartz Project*. REGIONAL: *The Mikado*, *Footloose*. CABARET/CONCERT/BENEFITS: *Carolyn in the City*, *Monday Nights New Voices*, *An Evening With Carolyn Cole*.

Matthew Conner (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *Sunset Boulevard* (Manfred), *Sweeney Todd* (Bird Seller/Jonas Fogg), *Show Boat* (Windy/Capt. Andy u/s), *Les Misérables* (Thenardier, Monparnasse, Pimp), *Kiss of the Spider Woman* (Ensemble, Aurelio), *Merrily We Roll Along* (Scottie), *The Witches of Eastwick* (Toby), *Into the Woods* (Steward, Baker u/s), *My Fair Lady* (Second Cockney), *Assassins* (John Hinckley, Jr.), *Pacific Overtures* (Tamate, Lion Dancer), *A Funny Thing...Forum* (Protean, Hero u/s). COMPOSITIONS: Signature: *The Hollow*, *Nevermore*, *Partial Eclipse*, *The Girl from No Man's Land* (Incidental music), *Crossing* (workshop); GMCW: *A Carol Christmas*; Creative Cauldron, inc.: *Martin: The King of Pizza*. DC AREA: Olney Theatre: *West Side Story* (Riff); Synetic Theatre: *Oscar Wilde's Salome* (Page of Herodias); ATW: *Naked Boys Singing*; Open Circle Theatre: *Jesus Christ Superstar* (Judas).

Patrick Thomas Cragin (Link Larkin) SIGNATURE: *Show Boat*, *Giant*. NATIONAL TOUR: *Grease* (Kenickie). DC AREA: Olney Theatre: *Forever Plaid* (Frankie); Studio Theatre: *That Face* (Henry); The Barn Theatre: *Big River* (Young Fool); Toby's Dinner Theatre: *West Side Story* (Action).

Robert Aubry Davis (Edna Turnblad) is a television and radio producer in Washington, DC. For 26 seasons, he has hosted "Around Town," WETA's Emmy Award®-winning weekly arts program. He hosts Symphony Hall and *Pops*, the classical channels on Sirius XM and is program director for the folk channel, The Village. He produces and hosts "Millennium of Music," now in its 33rd season, heard on public radio stations nationwide, Canada, New Zealand, the Philippines and on Radio Netherlands. A frequent lecturer and commentator for arts institutions throughout Washington, DC, he serves on boards for several arts and cultural organizations, including the Recording Academy, where for three years he presented the Classical Music awards at the annual Grammy celebrations. For his work in the arts he was made a Chevalier de L'ordre des Arts et Lettres by the Republic of France, and in 2006, he was made a Chevalier of the Order of Leopold on decree of King Albert II of Belgium.

Erin Driscoll (Amber Von Tussle) SIGNATURE: *[title of show]*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *The Witches of Eastwick*, *Into the Woods*, *Assassins* (Helen Hayes Award, Best Musical), *Urinetown* (2006 Helen Hayes Award, Outstanding Actress). DC AREA: Ford's Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Olney Theatre: *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Cinderella*, *Anything Goes*; Round House Theatre: *A Year with Frog and Toad*; Kennedy Center: *Regina* with Patti LuPone (Alexandra Cover). REGIONAL: Arden Theatre: *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Candide*; John W. Engeman Theatre, Long Island: *Jekyll and Hyde*. EDUCATION: James Madison University, BM. AWARDS: 2006 Roger Sturtevant Award.

Parker Drown (Ensemble) DC AREA: Rep Stage: *Speech and Debate*; Olney Theatre: *Grease*, *Joseph...*; The Keegan Theatre: *RENT* (2010 Helen Hayes Award); Adventure Theatre: *Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer*; Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Hairspray*, *Oklahoma!*, *High School Musical*, *The Producers*, *All Shook Up*, *A Christmas Carol*.

Jamie Eacker (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *Chess* (Ensemble/Assistant Choreographer). NATIONAL/INTERNATIONALTOUR: The Kennedy Center: *The Phantom Tollbooth*; Phoenix Entertainment: *Grease* (China). DC AREA: Teatro101: *The Wild Party*, *Queenie*; Ford's Theatre: *A Christmas Carol*; Studio Theatre: *Grey Gardens*, *Jerry Springer: The Opera*; Kennedy Center: NSO POPS; Washington Savoyards: *The Music Man*; Olney Theatre: *Joseph...*, *Fiddler On the Roof*; Keegan: *DMLRR-The Oresteia*; Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Hairspray*, *Aida*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *George M!*, *Footloose*, *Grease*; Imagination Stage: *Miss Nelson Is Missing*. UPCOMING: *Xanadu*.

Sherri L. Edelen (Velma Von Tussle) SIGNATURE: *The Boy Detective Fails*, *The Hollow*, *Side by Side by Sondheim*, *Walter Cronkite is Dead.*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Les Misérables* (Helen Hayes Award), *Urinetown*, *Elegies* (Helen Hayes nomination), *Side Show* (Helen Hayes Award). DC AREA: Kennedy Center/Sondheim Celebration: *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Merrily We Roll Along*; Shakespeare Theatre: *Design for Living*; Olney Theatre: *She Loves Me* (Helen Hayes nomination); Rep Stage: *Kimberly Akimbo*; Round House Theatre: *The World Goes 'Round*, *The Diary of Anne Frank*; Arena: *Cabaret* (Helen Hayes nomination); REGIONAL: NY Fringe Festival: *Citizen Ruth*; Arden Theatre: *Our Town*, *Caroline, or Change* (Barrymore nomination); Philadelphia Theatre Co.: *The Light in the Piazza* (Barrymore Award), *Elegies* (Barrymore nomination); Stages St. Louis: *The Music Man*, *Annie Get Your Gun*.

Nick Hovsepian (Ensemble) REGIONAL: *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers* (Gideon), *Hairspray* (Link), *Ragtime*, *Music Man*, *Will Rogers Follies*, *Wizard of Oz*. NEW YORK: *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Reporting Live*, *State Fair*, *A Year With Frog and Toad*. FILM/TV/COMMERCIAL: *Simon Birch*, NBC's *Providence*, WB's *Popular*, McDonalds, Pizza Hut, Play Station, Toyota.

Brandi Knox (Ensemble) *The Wiz* (Dorothy), *Dreamgirls* (Lorrell). EDUCATION: The American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Sean-Maurice Lynch (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *[title of show]* (u/s), *Sweeney Todd*, *Show Boat*. DC AREA: Ford's Theatre: *Parade* (u/s); Studio Theatre: *Pop!* (Pope Ondine), *Passing Strange* (Mr. Franklin/Mr. Venus); Adventure Theatre: *A Year with Frog & Toad* (Toad); No Rules Theatre: *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* (Schroeder).

Nova Y. Payton (Motormouth Mable) NATIONAL TOUR: *3 Mo' Divas* (PBS Special, DVD and CD); *Smokey Joe's Café* (BJ). DC AREA: Washington Savoyards: *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Nell); H Street Playhouse: *Black Nativity*; Adventure Theatre: *Happy Elf* (Mrs. Claus/Gurt). REGIONAL: Prince Music Theatre: *Dreamgirls* (Effie, 2005 Barrymore Nominee for Best Lead Actress in a Musical); Flat Rock Playhouse: *Smokey Joe's Café* (BJ).

Kirstin Riegler (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *The Hollow*, *The Boy Detective Fails*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Sweeney Todd*. DC AREA: Adventure Theatre: *A Year with Frog and Toad*, *Spot's Birthday Party*; Olney Theatre: *Camelot*; Studio Theatre: *Jerry Springer: The Opera* (Helen Hayes nomination); Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Damn Yankees*; Washington Savoyards: *The Music Man*. REGIONAL: Broward Stage Door Theatre: *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; Flat Rock Playhouse: *Children of Eden*; Mac-Haydn Theatre: *The Pajama Game*.

James Hayden Rodriguez (Seaweed) REGIONAL: Papermill Theatre: *RENT*, *Almost Maine*; Shenandoah Music Theatre: *Oklahoma!*, *Show Boat*, *West Side Story*, *Hairspray*, *Joseph...*, *Beauty and the Beast*; Way Off-Broadway Dinner Theater: *The Rocky Horror Show*, *The Full Monty*. EDUCATIONAL: Shenandoah Conservatory: *Crossing*, *A Chorus Line*, *Angels in America*, *The Jungle Book*, *A Grand Night for Singing*, *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *The Grapes of Wrath*.

Stephen Gregory Smith (Corny Collins) SIGNATURE: *The Boy Detective Fails* (Billy Argo), *Sunset Boulevard*, *Les Misérables* (Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Ensemble), *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Into the Woods* (Jack), *My Fair Lady*, *Assassins* (Balladeer/Lee Harvey Oswald), *Pacific Overtures*, *The Highest Yellow*, *One Red Flower* (Billy), *Allegro* (Charlie), *110 in the Shade* (Jimmy, 2004 Helen Hayes Award), *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Grand Hotel*, *Gypsy*. DC AREA: DCAC: *High Fidelity* (Rob); Studio Theatre: *Adding Machine: A Musical* (SHRDLU); MetroStage: *tick, tick...BOOM!* (Jon); Ford's Theatre: *The Civil War*, *Meet John Doe*; Arena Stage: *Damn Yankees*; Kennedy Center: *Regina*; Wolf Trap: *Street Scene* (Dick); Olney Theatre Center: *The Secret Garden* (Dickon). CABARET: *Swinging Santas*, *The Stephen Gregory Smith Show*, *Insomnieoke*, *Ebony and Ivory*, *The Last Garage Hurrah*, *Use What You Got*.

Nickolas Vaughan (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *Tamar on the River* (21/24 workshop). DC AREA: Studio Theatre: *Marcus Or The Secret of Sweet*, *F***ing A*; Kennedy Center: *The Amazing Adventures of Dr. Wonderful and Her Dog*, *Locomotion*, *Barrio Grrrr!*, *U.G.L.Y. A New Musical* (Page-to-Stage festival); Kay Theatre: *Shadowboxer* (world premiere); Ira Aldridge Theatre: *A Chorus Line*, *Working*, *Company*, *Saint Lucy's Eyes*. REGIONAL: Hangar Theatre: *The Piano Lesson*; DANCE: Kennedy Center: *Dangerous Liaisons*; Aaron Davis Hall: *This Woman's Work*.

Kara-Tameika Watkins (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *Sunset Boulevard*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*; Ford's Theatre: *Children of Eden*, *Little Shop of Horrors*; Arena Stage: *Crowns*; Studio Theatre: *Caroline, or Change*; Round House Theatre: *Once on this Island*. Olney Theatre: *Peter Pan*, *Camelot*. REGIONAL: Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera: *Hairspray*; North Shore Music Theatre: *Hairspray*; Las Vegas: *Hairspray*; Reno: *Smokey Joe's Café*.

Lauren Williams (Penny Pingleton) SIGNATURE: *Into the Woods* (Little Red, Helen Hayes nomination), *My Fair Lady*, *The Happy Time*, *Nevermore*, *Allegro*, *Forum* (Philia, Helen Hayes nomination). DC AREA: Ford's Theatre: *Parade*, *Liberty Smith*. Kennedy Center: *Snow White*, *Rose Red (and Fred)*, *For the Love of Goldfish*, *The Phantom Tollbooth*; Studio Theatre 2nd Stage: *Reefer Madness*, *Dog Sees God* (Ensemble, Helen Hayes nomination); Rep Stage: *God's Ear*, *Butterfinger's Angel*; Adventure Theatre: *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*; DC Fringe Festival: *Super Claudio Bros*.

Harry A. Winter (Wilbur Turnblad) NATIONAL TOURS: *Gigi*, *Jolson: the Musical*. DC AREA: *Allegro*, *110 in the Shade*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Racing Demon*, *The Laramie Project*, *Circle Mirror Transformation*, *Pins and Needles*, and *Bringing Up Amy*.

Matthew Wojtal (Ensemble) SIGNATURE: *Sunset Boulevard* (Ensemble), *Giant* (Bobby Jr. u/s), *The Visit* (Lenny/Benny u/s). DC AREA: Washington Savoyards: *The Music Man*; Toby's Dinner Theatre: *Rent*.

Stephen Scott Wormley (Ensemble) OFF-BROADWAY: Alfred Preisser's *Black Nativity Now*. REGIONAL: Courthouse Arts: *Hairspray* (Seaweed); Spirit of Broadway Theatre: *Snow* (world premiere) (Milton Honeyfield); Tri-Arts Playhouse: *Hairspray* (Seaweed); First Stage Theatre: *Seussical* (Wickersham/Yertel/Cat in the Hat u/s). UNIVERSITY: *Sunday in the Park with George* (George); *The Spitfire Grill* (Joe Sutter), *She Loves Me* (Arpad Laszlo).

SIGNATURE'S 2011-12 SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

The remaining line-up for Signature Theatre's 2011-2012 season features the Tony Award®-winning shows *Hairspray* and *God of Carnage* and the Washington DC premiere of the cult classic musical *Xanadu*. Signature is also home to the world premiere works *Brother Russia*, and *Really Really*. In addition to the mainstage shows, Signature is presenting a special limited engagement of the world premiere musical *A Second Chance* (playing through December 11th). Stephen Sondheim's first musical *Saturday Night* will be a special concert event that will play for four performances only (October 29th and 30th). Discount subscription packages (starting at 3 shows) are available by calling the Signature Box Office at (703) 820-9771 or visiting www.signature-theatre.org.

ABOUT SIGNATURE

Recipient of the 2009 Regional Theatre Tony Award®, Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company in Arlington, Virginia dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals, and developing new work. Under the leadership of co-founder and Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer and Managing Director Maggie Boland, Signature has presented 35 world premiere productions and is renowned for combining Broadway-quality productions with intimate playing spaces.

In addition to hosting the finest talent from the DC metropolitan area and New York, Signature has been home to such theatre luminaries as Chita Rivera, George Hearn, Hunter Foster, Emily Skinner, Marc Kudisch, Judy Kuhn, John Kander and Fred Ebb, Cameron Mackintosh, Terrence McNally, and the company's signature composer, Stephen Sondheim. Since its founding in 1989, Signature has won 72 Helen Hayes Awards for excellence in the Washington, DC region's professional theater and has been honored with 293 nominations.

Signature is partially supported by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts and by a gift from Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources.

DIRECTIONS

Signature Theatre is located at 4200 Campbell Avenue (22206) off I-395 at the Shirlington exit (#6). After the exit, blue Signature signs mark the way to the theatre. Free parking is available in two adjacent public garages. Please note that Campbell Avenue is a new street and some GPS online mapping systems do not yet recognize Signature Theatre's address. For directions visit <http://signature-theatre.org/map.htm>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Subscriptions/Groups: (703) 820-9771

Single Tickets: Ticketmaster (703) 573-SEAT (7328)
Signature Administration (571) 527-1860
Signature Theatre • 4200 Campbell Avenue • Arlington, VA 22206
<http://www.signature-theatre.org>

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