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hairspray

• THE BROADWAY MUSICAL •

DIRECTOR DAVID SIDWELL CHOREOGRAPHER SONJA MCGIRR-GARRETT
MUSICAL DIRECTOR MARILEE MATENGA

Book by
**Mark O'Donnell &
Thomas Meehan**

Music by
Marc Shaiman

Lyrics by
**Marc Shaiman &
Scott Witman**

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by John Waters
Licensed exclusively by Music Theatre International (Australasia).
All performance materials supplied by Hal Leonard Australia.

August 10 - 13 Clarence Street Theatre

A NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Virginia Crawford

We invite our school community to attend Fraser High School's wonderfully entertaining production, *HAIRSPRAY*. Our students, families, staff and Director have worked extremely hard to showcase Fraser's amazing performance talents and skills, to present an outstanding musical, that is guaranteed to tickle your senses and is a gaggle of laughs and hilarity.

You will love Fraser's light and bubbly performance of *HAIRSPRAY*. The cast is adorable and under the sublime direction of Mr David Sidwell, Fraser's student and staff performers and actors are fresh and professional.

Mr Sidwell has successfully revealed Fraser's heart through our performance and we are extremely grateful not only for his direction, but also for his mentoring and coaching of our students and staff in the Arts. You will see this on stage as we celebrate Fraser, *HAIRSPRAY* and the Arts.

Just like Fraser, *HAIRSPRAY* is full of mischief, joy and a kaleidoscope of visual delights.

Thank you for supporting our students, families and school community, and please let's enjoy ourselves together.

Virginia Crawford - Principal, Fraser High School -



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A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

David Sidwell

GOOD MORNING HAMILTON!! She is...loveable, pleasantly plump, effervescent, loquacious, loud, honest and full of dance! This is how I can best describe not only our heroine Tracy Turnblad but also *HAIRSPRAY*, the Broadway Musical itself!

HAIRSPRAY is one of those endearing musicals that on the surface appears superficial and clichéd, however as an audience member you will soon realise this is no 'light weight', ill-conceived bit of musical fluff. In reality, it is a very cleverly crafted piece of musical theatre that not only entertains with its infectious music, comedic cartoon-like characters, energetic dancing and colourful staging, but also deals with serious social and political issues.

HAIRSPRAY is meaningful and revolutionary. We can all learn a great deal from Tracy Turnblad, she has a dream and she doesn't stop until she achieves it!

We can be inspired watching her bring all these different people together into one harmonious group. She accepts and celebrates people who are different and discriminated against. It is also a story about America's and more widely the world's continuing struggle with racial and economic injustices and how the power and courage of young people can truly bring about change. For me, along with the rest of the extremely talented creative team, cast and crew, it has been absolute blast bringing *HAIRSPRAY* to Clarence Street Theatre and the Fraser High community...now for you, the audience, please sit back and enjoy this non-stop theatrical rollercoaster ride.

In the inimitable words of Motormouth Maybelle:

"There's a dream in the future, there's a struggle we have yet to win, and there's pride in my heart 'cause I know where I'm going and I know where I've been."

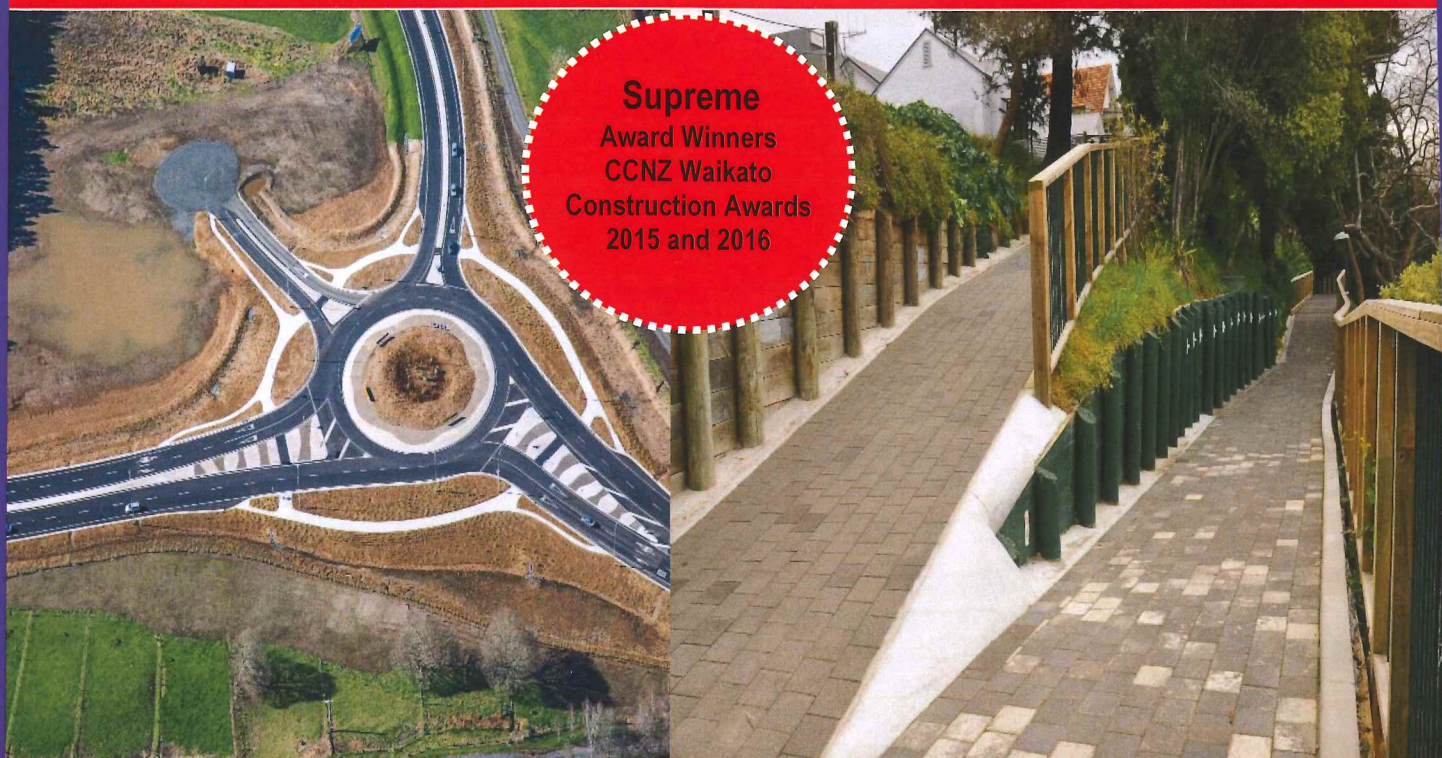
David Sidwell - Director



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FRASER HIGH SCHOOL'S PRODUCTION - HAIRSPRAY**

Creative Team



David Sidwell
DIRECTOR

With more than 40 years involvement in music and theatre as musical director, composer, orchestrator/arranger, and pianist in a broad range of musicals, it

is no wonder David Sidwell has become one of the country's most highly acclaimed directors of musical productions.

As an accomplished pianist, David has worked with numerous New Zealand recording artists and featured as the pianist in the New Zealand Film Archive touring road shows. His work as an arranger and orchestrator has taken him throughout New Zealand, Australia, and the USA.

David has recently completed the soundtrack for Yaniv Saves the World, a documentary film, and debuted a concert workshop of his own musical based on the short stories of the Russian author Nikolai Gogol.

In his early career as Musical Director, some of David's many productions included *Godspell*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Chicago*, *Evita*, *Annie*, *Hello Dolly!*, *Nunsense I & II*, *Juke Box*, *A Chorus Line*, *Les Miserable*, *Gypsy* and *Caught in the Act* (with Tina Cross).

With the support of musical theatre giants Bobbie Alderton and Robert Young, David made the ambitious move to Director. His many successful productions include: *My Fair Lady*, *Hair*, *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Chess*, *Big*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *70*, *Girls*, *Les Miserable*, *Tell Me On A Sunday*, *Buddy – The Buddy Holly Story*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Fame*, *Seussical*, *Blood Brothers*, *Godspell*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Crazy For You*, *Forbidden Broadway*, *AIDA*, *Pippin*, *Hairspray*, *Avenue Q*, the 'audience participation' version of *The Sound of Music*, a 'new experience' *Grease* and the sensational *Hamilton* seasons of *The Rocky Horror Show*, *CATS*, *OLIVER!* starring Richard O'Brien as Fagin, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Mamma Mia!* and *Evita*.

Alongside these full-scale musical productions, David manages the Postgraduate and Music Department in the School of Media Arts at Wintec and has directed the entertainment for numerous community events. He is currently in planning mode for the 2016 season of *The Rocky Horror Show*.

David was recently honoured with the prestigious 'Freedom of the City' award, an accolade bestowed by Hamilton City recognising David's services to the arts and culture in the city over the past 30 years.

It has been an absolute pleasure for David to return to Fraser High School and help revive their school productions after a five year break. He has enjoyed working with the talented cast of students and hopes that you enjoy the show.



Sonja McGirr-Garrett
CHOREOGRAPHER

Sonja originally hails from Canada where she has enjoyed a varied and exciting lifestyle.

As a youngster, Sonja travelled extensively with the Junior Canadian Olympic Gymnastics team. In her 20s she spent four years hitch hiking around the world with her best friend and amazingly supportive husband Simon. Together, they had two lovely girls who both adore the theatre as much as their mum.

Sonja really caught the theatre bug at the age of 12 when she enjoyed her first serious role as Anne in *Anne of Green Gables*; from there it was fast-track into musical theatre enjoying the extremes of both Broadway and Vegas shows, while at the same time gaining Honours in her four year Diploma of Musical Theatre and Dance. Sonja was lucky enough to work continually in Canada and the USA.

Her favourite bitter-sweet memory is of being in the original Canadian company of *CATS* where, unfortunately, she broke her back and spent two years in the hospital and rehabilitation. Sonja is a licensed sky diver and scuba diver though her passion for theatre seems to leave very little time for these leisure activities.

Sonja is thrilled to be choreographing Fraser High School's production of *HAIRSPRAY*, and working with such a talented cast of students, who she holds dear to her heart.



Marilee Matenga
MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Marilee has been involved in music education for over 25 years - (which in itself is quite

amazing since she is only 26 years of age!). She has taught and directed choirs, barbershop groups, vocal groups and performing arts groups over the years. Marilee has been part of the Fraser High School whanau for going on 2 years and loves it!

This year she has successfully lead the Senior Music Performance showcases and worked tirelessly over more than 10 weeks to produce an incredibly vibrant and professional