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BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE MAINSTAGE PRESENTS **HAIRSPRAY** A SHOW WITH SOUL AND BOUFFANTS

April 23–May 17, 2015

Based on the New Line Cinema film written and directed by **John Waters**
Music by **Marc Shaiman** • Lyrics by **Marc Shaiman** and **Scott Wittman**
Book by **Mark O'Donnell** and **Thomas Meehan**

Berkeley, CA (March 17, 2015) – **Berkeley Playhouse** at the historic Julia Morgan Theater continues their seventh season with *Hairspray*, directed by Producing Artistic Director **Daren A.C. Carollo** (Broadway: *A Time to Kill*; Off-Broadway: *bare The Musical*; Regional: Diablo Theatre Company, Solano College Theatre, Napa Valley Opera House, Ohlone College, Town Hall Theatre Company, DRAA's On Broadway, El Campanil Theatre, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, Missouri Street Theatre, Role Players Ensemble) and choreographed by **Alyssa Bond** (Diablo Theatre Company, San Francisco State University, Golden State Theatre Productions, and Alameda Civic Light Opera). Previews begin April 23. Show runs from April 25 to May 17, 2015 at the Julia Morgan Theater, 2640 College Ave. in Berkeley. Tickets are now available through the Box Office, call **(510) 845-8542 x351** or visit **berkeleyplayhouse.org**.

The winner of eight Tony Awards including Best Musical, *Hairspray* is based on the 1988 John Waters film of the same name and is replete with laughter, romance, and deliriously tuneful songs. The story revolves around plus-sized teen Tracy Turnblad who suddenly becomes a dance superstar on the popular Corny Collins Show! Not dissuaded by fame, and with morals as high as her bouffant, Tracy uses her new star power to fix the personal and social plights affecting 1962 Baltimore.

"I am honored to make my Berkeley Playhouse directorial debut with *Hairspray*. Our production will have all of the fun from the Tony Award winning musical, some of John Waters' dark sensibility from the film, as well as an emphasis on the heart wrenching Civil Rights Movement," said Carollo.

Carollo's creative team includes Musical Direction by **Michael Patrick** (Bay Area Children's Theater, Center REP, Contra Costa Civic Theatre, San Francisco Opera Guild, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, The Willows Theater), Scenic Design by **Robert Broadfoot** (Berkeley Playhouse, Magic Theatre, Center REP, Shotgun Players, Phoenix Theatre), Lighting Design by **Mark Hueske** (Berkeley Playhouse, Barry Manilow at the Las Vegas Hilton, Teatro ZinZanni, *State of Grace* - a collaboration with visual artist Anne Patterson at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, *Letter from Birmingham Jail* with Anna Deavere Smith), Costume Design by **Liz Martin** (Berkeley Playhouse, Tri-Valley Rep, Contra Costa Musical Theatre, Altarena Playhouse, Town Hall Theatre), Sound Design by **Taylor Gonzalez** (Berkeley Playhouse, San Francisco Mime Troupe's Youth Theater Project), and Prop Design by **Kirsten Royston** (Aurora Theatre, Shotgun Players, Marin Theatre Company).

THE CAST: The cast of 33 will be headed by **Monica Turner** (*Triassic Park*, *Ray of Light*; *Hairspray*, Cabrillo Stage; *Legally Blond*, Diablo Theatre Company) as Tracy Turnblad, **Glen Riggs** (*Dogfight*, [title of show] with OMG Productions), **Hannah Foster** (*Peter Pan*, *Oklahoma!*, *The Little Mermaid*) as Penny Pingleton, **Branden Thomas** (*25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee* and *Shrek The Musical*, Berkeley Playhouse; *Avenue Q*; *Hairspray*) as Seaweed, **Andrew Humann** (National Tour: *American Idiot*; *Pirates of Penzance*, *Oliver*, Berkeley Playhouse; *Dog Sees God*, *Hedwig*, Boxcar Theatre) as Link Larkin, **Berwick Haynes** (Marin Theatre Company, TheatreWorks, Center REP, The Goodman, Ravinia Festival, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, and LaMama Theatre) as Motormouth Maybelle, and **Chelsea Holifield** (*Mary Poppins*, Berkeley Playhouse; *Zombie! The Musical: Live in Concert*, *Carrie The Musical*; *Triassic Park*) as Amber Von Tussle. Also in the cast: **Anya Absten**, **Tielle Baker**, **Taylor Bartolucci**, **Joshua Castro**, **Jamella Cross**, **Khalia Davis**, **Vida Mae Fernandez**, **David Glazer**, **Jeffrey Hyche**, **Janelle LaSalle**, **Tosca Maltzman**, **Melissa Martinez**, **Jude McEntee**, **Kelvyn Mitchell**, **Samantha Pistorosi**, **Daniel Quezada**, **Ally Reardon**, **Joel Roster**, **Carina Lastimosa Salazar**, **Maurice André San-Chez**, **Majesty Scott**, **Kimille Stingily**, **The T**, **Gil Torres**, **Kyle Valentine**, **Scottie Woodard**.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Berkeley Playhouse will partner with the non-profit, Dress for Success San Francisco during the run of *Hairspray*. Tracy and Edna Turnblad know that a new dress or outfit can make all the difference in how you perceive yourself and your self-esteem. Berkeley Playhouse will be holding a clothing drive on behalf of Dress for Success, with patrons welcome to donate any business or business-casual attire, or accessories that will help low-income women currently

searching for a job. In appreciation for these donations, Berkeley Playhouse will provide those donors with a discount on tickets to *Hairspray*.

“We are very excited to partner with Berkeley Playhouse in order to help provide interview suits, career services and employment retention services to more women within our local community,” said **Renée Surcouf**, Executive Director of Dress for Success San Francisco. “We are so grateful for Berkeley Playhouse’s generous contribution to our organization and our supporters as it is only through the generosity of the community that we are able to sustain our programs.”

ABOUT BERKELEY PLAYHOUSE: Berkeley Playhouse was founded in 2007 by actor, director, and teacher **Elizabeth McKoy**. In 2014, McKoy and the Board of Directors hired Producing Artistic Director **Daren A.C. Carollo**, who with Managing Director **Lauren Hewitt** continues to develop Berkeley Playhouse into a professional musical theatre company, providing people of all ages a unique and sophisticated experience. Additionally, Berkeley Playhouse’s robust School of Musical Theatre offers a range of skill and performance classes for ages 3–17. In 2009, Berkeley Playhouse made the historic Julia Morgan Theater its permanent home. **Previews:** Thursday, April 23 at 7pm and Saturday, April 25 at 1pm

Opens: Saturday, April 25 at 6pm

Press: Saturday, April 25 at 6pm; Sunday, April 26 at 12pm and 5pm

Closes: Sunday, May 17 at 5pm

All performances: Fridays at 7pm; Saturdays at 1pm and 6pm; Sundays at 12pm and 5pm at Berkeley Playhouse at The Julia Morgan Theater. 2640 College Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704

TICKETS: On sale now. For tickets (\$17 for previews, \$25–\$60 for regular performances) or more information, the public may call **(510) 845-8542 x351** or visit **berkeleyplayhouse.org**. Group rates available for 10 or more people.

“Pay What You Can” nights to be announced. Cash only, \$5-\$20 sliding scale.

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