



Press Release

SWRA's Hairspray production a Christmas sell-out!

Sir William Robertson Academy's 2018 school production of Hairspray, the musical which ran for three nights before Christmas was a resounding success and a sell-out. More than 70 pupils from Years 7 through to Year 13 were cast in their version of the hit musical and film which they have been rehearsing for since the summer. The production was put together by SWRA's Drama and Music Departments and led by Miss Bryony Burrough, Head of Drama and Mr Mike Willson, Head of Music with help from Mrs Claire Jex.

Hairspray is an American musical with music by Marc Shaiman, lyrics by Scott Wittman and Shaiman and a book by Mark O'Donnell and Thomas Meehan, based on John Waters' 1988 film of the same name. The songs include 1960s-style dance music and "downtown" rhythm and blues. In 1962 Baltimore, Maryland, teenager Tracy Turnblad's dream is to dance on The Corny Collins Show, a local TV dance programme based on the real-life Buddy Deane Show. When Tracy wins a role on the show, she becomes a celebrity overnight, and meets a colourful group of characters, leading to social change as Tracy campaigns for the show's integration.

Tracy Turnblad was played by Poppy Haggio (Y11) from Greylees, Sleaford, Link Larkin was played by Jake Stamp (Y13) from Navenby and Corny Collins was played by Ewan Armstrong (Y13) from Balderton. Other lead roles were Edna Turnblad played by Y13 student Jake Shaw from Newark, Wilbur Turnblad played by Aaron Simons (Y13) from Coddington, Amber Von Tussle played by Libby Carrington (Y11) from Balderton and Penny Pingleton by Katie Randall (Y11) from Wellingore.

Visitors to the show commented on the school's Facebook post: "It was simply amazing, such talent and great to see the younger years progressing, well done!" "What a brilliant show!!.....loved it!!" "Wow just wow what an amazing show! Loved every minute. Well done to all involved." "Loved the show! Well done to all. The choreography and dancing were amazing."

Miss Burrough commented: "Thank you to all of the students for making the show such an enjoyable experience for myself, Mr Willson and Mrs Jex. There is so much talent at SWRA and the students have made us extremely proud. We are all looking forward to 2019 show already!"

Mr Willson and the cast members also organised a fun Hairspray workshop tour around the primary schools in late November and those primary schools got the chance to come and see the show at a special matinee performance.



Ends

10th January 2019

For more information, please contact Suzanne Alexander, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator

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