



RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

26
27 SEASON

HAIRSPRAY

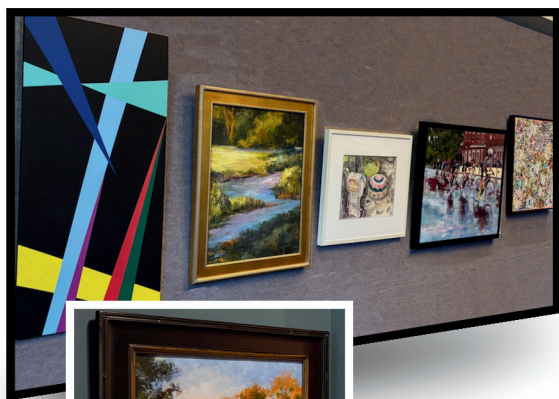


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OF RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 20

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RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE



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**RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE**

presents

HAIRSPRAY

BOOK BY MARK O'DONNELL AND THOMAS MEEHAN

MUSIC BY MARC SHAIMAN

LYRICS BY SCOTT WITTMAN AND MARC SHAIMAN

BASED ON THE NEW LINE CINEMA FILM

WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY JOHN WATERS

Directed by Lisa Jolley

Music Directed by Micaela Shanyce Bundy

Choreographed by Liz Sanford

Scenic Design by Shannon Clark

Costume Design by Jenny Mitchell

Lighting Design by Ethan Drezner

Sound Design by Jared Kirkpatrick

Props Design by Lora McIntosh

Stage Management by Chris Acevedo

Hairspray is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

**Any video and/or audio recording of this
production is strictly prohibited.**



@RLT1936

SPECIAL THANKS

Special thanks to Shannon Clark, Penn Holderness,
Elspeth McClanahan, Matt Steindl, David Watts, and
Jonathan Brewington and the Carolina Civic Center Theatre.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITION TOUR PARTNERS

Jeremy Tucker, Director of Arts Education, WCPSS
Jackie Jordan, Katherine Champion and
Kristin Rendina at Enloe High School
Kylee Elrod at South Garner High School
Julie Bradley at Cardinal Gibbons High School
Addie Lagenor and Kourtney Owens at Rolesville High School
Matthew Raines at Knightdale High School

SPONSORS

Thanks to our media sponsor, WRAL:



This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.



Hairspray is supported by United Arts Wake County, as well as the N.C. Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.



WELCOME TO THE '60S!

Every show we produce has a story behind it. This one has been part of mine for more than two decades.

My late husband, Todd Michel Smith, originated the role of IQ in the 2002 Broadway production. He was one of only two cast members who remained for the entire Broadway run, performing the show 2,585 times through its closing on January 4, 2009.

Hairspray became part of our family, too. Todd chose our daughter Peyton's name after "Peyton Place After Midnight," the wonderfully playful dance introduced in the show. Her name carries a piece of the music, movement, laughter, and joy of that extraordinary chapter in our lives.

Todd died from brain cancer in 2021. When the original cast reunited for the show's 20th anniversary in New York to tape "The Nicest Kids in Town," Peyton danced in her dad's place. Watching her surrounded by people who truly knew Todd was joyful, overwhelming, and a beautiful reminder that theatre families continue to make room for one another.

That feels especially meaningful at Raleigh Little Theatre, where families have been making memories together for 90 years. Our stages hold more than performances. They hold real pieces of people's lives.

Beneath the big hair, bright colors, infectious music, and enormous heart, *Hairspray* also has something important to say. Tracy believes people, systems, and communities can change when someone is brave enough to step forward. The show reminds us that hope can be an action, courage can be contagious, and joy can be a powerful force.

For me, this production celebrates Todd, Peyton, and theatre's remarkable ability to connect who we were, who we are, and who we might still become.

Thank you for sharing this very special *Hairspray* with us.

You really can't stop the beat.



Michele Weathers
Producing Artistic Director





RALEIGH
LITTLE
THEATRE

28
27 SEASON

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD

WRITTEN BY
TOM STOPPARD

DIRECTED BY
JERI LYNN SCHULKE

OCTOBER 23 -
NOVEMBER 8

CELEBRATING
90
YEARS
OF RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE



This program is funded in part by the City of Raleigh based on recommendations of the Raleigh Arts Commission.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead is supported by the United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County, as well as the N.C Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

919-821-3111

RaleighLittleTheatre.org



SCAN FOR TICKETS

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

ORDER OF SONGS

There will be a 15-minute intermission after Act 1.

ACT I

Good Morning Baltimore.....	Tracy & Company
The Nicest Kids in Town.....	Corny Collins & Company
Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now.....	Edna, Tracy, Penny, Velma, Amber & Company
I Can Hear the Bells.....	Tracy & Company
Miss Baltimore Crabs.....	Velma
The Nicest Kids in Town Reprise.....	Corny Collins & Company
It Takes Two.....	Link, Tracy, & Company
Velma's Revenge.....	Velma
Welcome to the 60s.....	Tracy, Edna, & Company
I Can Hear the Bells Reprise.....	Link
Run and Tell That.....	Seaweed, Little Inez, & Company
Big, Blonde, and Beautiful.....	Motormouth, Tracy, Edna, & Company

ORDER OF SONGS

ACT II

The Big Dollhouse.....	Company Women
Good Morning Baltimore Reprise.....	Tracy
You're Timeless to Me.....	Edna and Wilbur
You're Timeless to Me Reprise.....	Edna and Wilbur
Without Love.....	Tracy, Link, Penny, Seaweed, & Company
I Know Where I've Been.....	Motormouth & Company
(It's) Hairspray.....	Corny Collins & Company
Cooties.....	Amber & Council Members
You Can't Stop the Beat.....	Company
Bows.....	Company

CAST

Tracy Turnblad
Alysse Miller

Edna Turnblad
Kevin Ferguson

Wilbur Turnblad
Colby Freeman

Penny Pingleton
Mary Helen Phares

Velma Von Tussle
Cassie Ford

Amber Von Tussle
Kiersten Paige

Link Larkin
Justin Jones

Seaweed J. Stubbs
Nehemiah Ogbonna-Fulton

Corny Collins
Coltan Compton

Little Inez
Chloe Olivia Taylor

Motormouth Maybelle
A'zhariyha T. Vaughan

Prudy Pingleton/ Female Authority Figure
Leslie Alger

Mr. Pinky/ Harriman F. Spritzer/ Male Authority Figure
Matthew Delaney

CAST

Dynamite #1
Alana Williamson

Dynamite #2
Erin Lewis Renfrow

Dynamite #3
Lady X

Gilbert
Aaron Azcona

Duane
Triston McCord

Thad
Elijah Kalonji

Tammy
Livi Swain

Brenda
Miranda Rose Wick

Shelley
Ivy Ries-Kinney

Fender
Noah Medlin

Brad
Evan Wardaszka

Sketch
Gavin Frail

IQ
Jason Ertl

Lou Ann
Maddie Alger

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director
Lisa Jolley

Stage Manager
Chris Acevedo

Music Director
Micaela Shanyce Bundy

Production Manager/Technical
Director
Dennis R. Berfield

Choreographer
Liz Sanford

Assistant Stage Managers
Bri Flynn

Scenic Designer
Shannon Clark

Sonya LaLeaf
Zara Van Hemert

Costume Designer/ Costume
Shop Manager
Jenny Mitchell

Wig Designer
Elisa Acevedo

Lighting Designer
Ethan Drezner

Wig Stylist
Jillian Mann

Sound Designer
Jared Kirkpatrick

Fight and Intimacy Director
Montgomery Davis

Props Designer
Lora McIntosh

Team Dynamics Strategist
Kristina Brunelle

MUSICIANS

Keys 1
Cranfield King

Trombone
Jordan Jones

Bass
Ron May

Keys 2
Michael Miguel
Williams

Reeds
Niles Loughlin
Dr. Ronnal Ford

Percussion
Vince Moss
Tim Wall

Trumpet
Hannah Markun
Dolly Mae Terlizzi

Guitar
Lanif Azcona
Keenan Jenkins

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

As an actor and theatre educator, I can't imagine a more fitting show than *Hairspray* to begin my relationship with Raleigh Little Theatre. "The 'Spray" and I go back twenty years (my Broadway debut!) and I've performed it countless times. It's near and dear to my heart for a whole slew of reasons, not the least of which is the large group of people I'm lucky enough to call my *Hairspray* family. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to expand that family to now include the RLT community.

With this production, we wanted to cast as many teens as we could to play the teen characters. It's been a thrill seeing these young actor/singer/dancers work so hard to build a show alongside their more seasoned cast mates, and on behalf of the entire RLT *Hairspray* family, I'd like to thank their families for sharing them with us.

Hairspray's energy is infectious; it's a funny, fast-paced thrill ride with one showstopping number after another. This show is a celebration of community, and what happens when we have the courage to embrace empathy and inclusion, to speak truth to power, and to hold the (front) door open for everyone.

We side with Tracy Turnblad because she stands up for what she knows is right. But what sets Tracy apart is that she's curious and compassionate, and knows that she doesn't have all the answers. She's not a savior here; she's in a position to open the door.

While *Hairspray* is based on true events of the not-so-distant past, there are reminders everywhere that we still have a long way to go. and I'd like to think we can get there, as long as we know where we've been.

Enjoy the show, and thank you
for supporting live theatre!

Lisa Jolley
Director



CAST BIOGRAPHIES



LESLIE ALGER (Prudy Pingleton/ Female Authority Figure) is thrilled to be back on the Raleigh Little Theatre stage having last been seen in *Kinky Boots* (Trish) and this time with her daughter, Maddie (Lou Ann) for their very first production together. Recent credits include: *Ragtime* and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* at McGregor Hall Performing Arts Center and *Carousel* with Drop Spindle Theatre Company. UNCSA 95' Much love to my family and friends. Enjoy the show!!



MADDIE ALGER (Lou Ann) is so excited to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre, where she did her first show ever as *Junie B. Jones* when she was 9 years old. She graduated in May with a BFA in Musical Theatre from Millikin University and plans to move to NYC in January. Maddie is so thankful to get to perform one of her dream shows alongside her mom, who has supported her from the very beginning! www.maddiealger.com



AARON AZCONA (Gilbert) is excited to be a part of his first show at Raleigh Little Theatre. Some favorite roles include *13 The Musical* (Brett), *Newsies Jr* (Weizel and Ensemble), and *Seussical Jr* (Cat in Hat). Triangle Credits: *Ragtime* (Coalhouse Gang/Harlem Chorus) with McGregor Hall Productions, *Mean Girls: Teen Edition* (Featured Dancer) with North Carolina Theater Conservatory, and *On Your Feet* (Young Emilio) with NCT. Aaron is part of the Pre Professional Department of the

International Ballet Academy. He is an 11th-grade homeschooled student and would like to thank his family for their support.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



COLTAN COMPTON (Corny Collins) is a young professional excited to make his Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Previously, he performed in Stone Soup Theatre Company's production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and Chapel Hill School of Musical Arts' Adult Broadway in Concert. Outside of music making, Coltan enjoys drawing, running, and trying out new coffee shops.



MATTHEW DELANEY (Mr. Pinky/ Harriman F. Spritzer/ Male Authority Figure) a proud Raleigh native, is making his long-overdue debut at Raleigh Little Theatre. He earned his MFA in Acting from UNCG and his BA in Theatre from Appalachian State University. A local actor, voiceover artist, and theatre producer, recent credits include Mr. Tumnus in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* at Firebox Theatre Company. Endless love to Catherine, Lavinia, and Cordelia.



JASON ERTL (IQ) is thrilled to be making his Raleigh Little Theatre debut! A California native, he has spent his entire life on and off the stage as an actor, dancer, production designer, and assistant director. Some of his favorite recent roles include Bert (*Mary Poppins*), Charlie Brown (*You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*), and Puck (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*). He's so grateful for this opportunity and the support of everyone who made it possible!

IG: @jeef_0.0

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This production was made possible
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CAST BIOGRAPHIES



KEVIN FERGUSON (Edna Turnblad) is grateful to be back in the family, having last appeared at Raleigh Little Theatre as Wilbur in the 2014 production of *Hairspray*(!). Favorite roles include: *Sunday in the Park With George* (George); *How To Succeed...*(Finch), *Into the Woods* (Baker); *A Chorus Line* (Zach); *Moonlight and Magnolias* (Fleming); *South Pacific* (Luther Billis); *Cabaret* (Ernst Ludwig). Fortunate to run Gibbons Drama for the last 20 years. Thanks & love to his real life tiny family trio.



CASSIE FORD (Velma Von Tussle) is thrilled to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre. Recent credits include *Sweeney Todd* (Mrs. Lovett, McGregor Live!), *Bright Star* (Mama Murphy, Temple Theatre), and *Dancing at Lughnasa* (Maggie, Firebox Theatre). When not performing, she works as a public health scientist and statistician at Duke. She would like to thank Lisa, Micaela, Liz and the entire team at RLT, and sends her unending gratitude to her husband Ross, and boys Ryland and Hudson, for their love and support!



GAVIN FRAIL (Sketch) is ecstatic to be making his Raleigh Little Theatre debut! Some of his favorite past roles include Emmett in *Legally Blonde* and Dormouse in *Alice in Wonderland*. Before he hit the stage, he spent multiple years as crew backstage! Outside of theatre, he enjoys building Lego sets and playing guitar. He is grateful for this opportunity and thanks everyone involved. He also thanks his family and friends for helping him follow his dreams!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



COLBY FREEMAN (Wilbur Turnblad) made his stage debut in Middle School, playing Fyedka, in *Fiddler On The Roof*. After years of doing theater, Colby took a long hiatus, returning to the stage in Raleigh Little Theatre's 2023 production of *Cinderella*. Theatre is now Colby's happy place! He thanks his family and friends for their love and support, especially his daughter, Charlotte, for her inspiration and for all of her scene work and notes over the years!



JUSTIN JONES (Link Larkin) is elated to be joining Raleigh Little Theatre for the third time in *Hairspray*! He can't wait to tackle this incredible show with such a talented team of new and familiar faces alike! Previous credits include Laurie in *Little Women* (Southern Wake Players) and Kenickie in *Grease* (Cary Players). Justin extends the biggest thanks to his friends and family who make doing shows not only possible, but fulfilling and worthwhile. Cheers!



ELIJAH KALONJI (Thad) is thrilled to make his Raleigh Little Theatre debut in *Hairspray*. Represented by KU Talent Agency, he has over 10 years of theatrical and musical experience, with training through Actorsite and vocal coaching at Lisa Blair-Hawkins Studio/ Musicians Learning Center. Previous credits include *Dear Evan Hansen*, *The Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Misérables*, *The Color Purple*, and *Shrek the Musical*. Elijah thanks his friends and family for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



TRISTON MCCORD (Duane) is a junior at TMSA Apex who has enjoyed performing since his first middle school production. Since then, he's had roles with Starbright Little Theater including *Addams Family Jr.* - Lurch, *Christmas Carol* -Ebenezer Scrooge, *Something Rotten Jr.* - Nigel Bottom/ensemble, *Beetlejuice* in *Beetlejuice Jr.*, and recently Orpheus of *Hadestown Jr.* Offstage he enjoys cosplay, martial arts, ballet and any sport he can fit into the schedule. He is so excited about his first role with RLT. Even more so to be working with such a diverse cast!



NOAH MEDLIN (Fender) is so thrilled to join his second show at Raleigh Little Theatre. He's a senior at Enloe and has previously played Hermes (*Hadestown*), Javert (*Les Mis*), Mitch (*A Streetcar Named Desire*), Both Princes (*Into the Woods*), PrinceOliver (*Between The Lines*) and many more. He'd like to thank his parents, castmates, directors, and producer for this amazing opportunity. Sponsored by Ultra Clutch!™



ALYSSE MILLER (Tracy Turnblad) is a 2024 graduate of Lee University, with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre. Recently married and relocated to North Carolina, she is grateful to continue pursuing theatre in a new community, including as Queen Darling III in Raleigh Little Theatre's *Cinderella*. Alysse is thrilled to take on the role of Tracy Turnblad, a dream role she has hoped to play for years. She is deeply grateful for this opportunity and strives to use her gifts and talents as a reflection of Christ.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



NEHEMIAH OGBONNA-FULTON (Seaweed J. Stubbs) is a junior at North Wake Early College and Career Academy, where he is enrolled in the business program. He is an active member of Wakefield High School's International Thespian Society and theatre program. He has performed in *Mamma Mia* (Pepper) and *Matilda* (Escapologist), trained at Moonlight Stage Co and Back to One Studios, and thoroughly enjoyed working with this cast and growing as a performer. IG: @nenerificc



KIERSTEN PAIGE (Amber Von Tussle) is thrilled to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut as Amber Von Tussle in *Hairspray*. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in 2025 with a major in Dramatic Arts and minors in Musical Theatre and Entrepreneurship. Recent roles include Liesl von Trapp in *The Sound of Music* (Center Theater) and Heather Chandler in *Heathers: The Musical* (UNC-CH). She promises she is much nicer than Amber.



MARY HELEN PHARES (Penny Pingleton) is a Senior at Cardinal Gibbons High School and is ecstatic to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! At Gibbons she has been in the following productions: *Matilda*, *Lend Me a Soprano*, *Shrek*, and *Joseph...Dreamcoat*. Mary Helen would like to thank her parents, 2007 Zac Efron, her friends, and the amazing cast and crew of *Hairspray*!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



ERIN LEWIS RENFROW (Dynamite #2) is thrilled to be returning to the stage after nearly a decade away. Previous credits include *For Colored Girls* (Lady in Purple), *Little Shop of Horrors* (Ronette), and *Seussical the Musical* (Sour Kangaroo). Offstage, Erin is a macro social worker focused on initiatives that support youth and families. She is thankful to Raleigh Little Theatre, her family, friends, and the cast and crew for making her return to the stage so memorable.



IVY RIES-KINNEY (Shelley) is thrilled to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut. She has recently been seen in *Mean Girls* (North Raleigh ACT), *Addams Family* (Theatre Raleigh ACT), *Shrek* (Durant Road Musical Theatre). She has also done several productions with Carroll Middle School. She would like to say thanks to her family, friends, and directors for all their support the past few years. Enjoy the show! @ivy.rieskinney



LIVI SWAIN (Tammy) is thrilled to make her Raleigh Little Theatre debut! A junior at Cardinal Gibbons High School, she has been seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Mrs. Zebulun), *She Loves Me* (Swing/Dancer), and *Shrek the Musical* (Sugar Plum Fairy). She's endlessly grateful to Jodi Lewis, NCDI, Cardinal Gibbons Drama, and her family for their support. You can find her on Instagram: @livi.g.swain

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



CHLOE OLIVIA TAYLOR (Little Inez) is a rising sophomore at Wake Forest High School and a dedicated performing arts student with The Gifted Arts, Inc. Known as the “Songbird” by her family, she has loved singing since she was 12 months old. Chloe enjoys acting, dancing, and visual art, including drawing and sketching. She is excited to appear as Little Inez in *Hairspray* and thanks her family and instructors for their support.



A'ZHARIYHA T. VAUGHAN (Motormouth Maybelle) is a classically trained music performance scholar, who has performed nationally and internationally singing opera, jazz, and musical theatre. She is a local artist, educator, and vocal coach in the Triangle. She has appeared in *The Color Purple* (Celie) at RLT, *The Amen Corner* (Margaret Alexander), *The Wiz* (Aunt Em/ Evilene), *Chicken & Biscuits* (Baneatta), *Once on this Island* (Asaka), *Hairspray* (Motormouth); at the FSU School

of Musical Theatre, *Next to Normal* (Diana), and *Addams Family*. She is honored to tell a story that never seems to expire its relevance.



EVAN WARDASZKA (Brad) is incredibly excited to make his debut with Raleigh Little Theatre. He is a Junior at Cardinal Gibbons High School and has recently been seen in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* (Reuben), and *She Loves Me* (Kodaly). Evan would like to send a massive thank you to his family, friends, and the amazing team at Raleigh Little Theatre and for their endless love and support. Enjoy the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



MIRANDA ROSE WICK (Brenda) is a rising junior at Longleaf School of the Arts and is thrilled to be part of her first production with Raleigh Little Theatre! She has been performing for over half her life, with favorite roles including Baby Bear in *Shrek the Musical*, and Thing 4 in *Seussical the Musical*. She would like to thank her mother for her endless support, as well as her dance teacher for rekindling her love of dance.



ALANA WILLIAMSON (Dynamite #1) (she/her) is a Senior Musical Theatre Major at Catawba College. Some of her recent credits include the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, Old Man Strong in *Urinetown*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Narrator 2 in *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*, Marianne Angelle in *The Revolutionists*, Tilly in *She Kills Monsters*, Governor's Aide/Melvin P Thorpe Singer in *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, and Henrietta Leavitt in *Silent Sky*.

She would like to thank all of the fantabulous humans for their love and support! @alanainprogress



LADY X (Dynamite #3) is a proud graduate of North Carolina Central University with a B.A. in Theatre Performance. She discovered her passion for the arts at a young age and made her stage debut as Dorothy in *The Wiz* in 2019. She thanks God, her family, and friends for their continued love and support.



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PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

LISA JOLLEY (Director) is thrilled to be making her Raleigh Little Theatre debut with this show, having appeared in *Hairspray* on Broadway and at the North Carolina Theatre. Other regional credits: *The King Stag*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Disaster*, *Sylvia*, *Souvenir*, *Next to Normal*, *Spamalot*, *Into the Woods*, *Les Miserables*, and *The Producers*. A veteran improviser, she is an alum of Amsterdam's Boom Chicago, UCB (NY), and has received critical acclaim for her improvised cabaret, *Jolley On the Spot*. Lisa has taught acting/improvisation at the Yale School of Drama, UNC Chapel Hill, the Broadway Theatre Project, NC Theatre Conservatory, Theatre Raleigh ACT, William Peace University, (where she directed *Working*), Moonlight Stage, Saint Mary's School, and more. A 3-time finals judge and current coach for the DPAC Rising Stars Awards, she runs a private studio and teaches improvisation at ComedyWorx in Raleigh. Training: BFA, University of Cincinnati, College-Conservatory of Music. www.lisajolley.com

MICAELA SHANYCE BUNDY (Music Director) is a classically trained vocalist, music director, voice coach, arts leader. She holds degrees in Music Education from North Carolina A&T State University and Arts Administration from Winthrop University. She has music directed productions across North Carolina. Favorites include *Violet*, *Twelfth Night*, *Hands on a Hardbody*, *Hadestown*, *Once on This Island*, and many others. Micaela believes music should deepen storytelling and emotional connection onstage. She also works in nonprofit arts leadership, specializing in programming, community engagement, equity initiatives, and development. Instagram: @caelibee

LIZ SANFORD (Choreographer) is honored to be back at Raleigh Little Theatre after choreographing *Hadestown: Teen Edition* last summer! Favorite credits: *Sesame Street Live!* (National Tour), Honest Pint Theatre *A Chorus Line* (Bebe), Candlelight Theatre *Cabaret* (Rosie). Training: BA in Dance from UNC-Charlotte. She is currently a company member of Black Box Dance Theatre and enjoys teaching dance around the Triangle. Much love and gratitude to Keegan and her friends & family. Thank YOU for supporting local art!

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

SHANNON CLARK (Scenic Designer) is delighted to return to work with the outstanding cast and crew of *Hairspray*! Shannon has worked as scenic designer/painter at Raleigh Little Theatre since 2005. He retired after a 27-year career as a theatrical designer and theatre artist. Most recently at RLT, he was the Scenic Designer for *1776* and the Scenic Painter for *School of Rock*. See you at the theater!

ETHAN DREZNER (Lighting Designer) is very excited to be joining Raleigh Little Theatre for the first time on this production! Some of his recent productions include; *A Chorus Line* - Theaterworks AZ, *Big Fish* - TheatreCharlotte, And *Newsies Jr* - Burning Coal. Ethan would like to thank his friends and family for their constant support, as well as the production team and actors for all of their hard work!

JARED KIRKPATRICK (Sound Designer) (he/they) has been a professional sound technician for over a decade. While relatively new to theatre sound design, Jared is no stranger to the theatre - they carry a deep love for performing arts of all kinds, having grown up in several musical theatre communities around the Triangle. He is thrilled to work with Raleigh Little Theatre for a third time, designing the soundscape and mixing the show.

LORA MCINTOSH (Props Designer) is thrilled to be a part of Raleigh Little Theatre's production of *Hairspray*! She thanks the creative team and cast for all the hard work everyone has poured into this project! It has been an honor for her to work with this wonderful group!!

PRODUCTION TEAM

BIOGRAPHIES

CHRIS ACEVEDO (Stage Manager) is a 10-year Stage Manager in the Raleigh area. His last work with Raleigh Little Theatre was *Cinderella* and his most recent project was with Pure Life Theatre and their production of *Alice by Heart*. Chris would like to thank his friends and family, Son-Son, Bri, Zara, Lisa, Micaela, Liz, and the RLT Family. He would also like to thank you for continuing to support local live theatre and keeping it alive! Welcome to the 60s and we hope that you enjoy the show! Instagram: livinglife1994

BRI FLYNN (Assistant Stage Manager) is very excited to once again be the Assistant Stage Manager here at Raleigh Little Theatre. In addition to her 10 years of Film and Technical Theater experience, Bri is a graduate of The Savannah College of Art and Design where she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Production Design with a Set/Lighting Concentration. She is grateful to Raleigh Little Theatre for giving her the opportunity to join the wonderful cast and crew of *Hairspray*!

SONYA LALEAF (Assistant Stage Manager) is a little theatre gremlin who loves to be silly and talk about unicorns. They have been on many different backstage crews over the last 3 years. Some of their favorite shows they have done are *School House Rock Live*, *The Color Purple*, *Cinderella 41*, and *The Hobbit* at Raleigh Little Theatre. They are very excited to once again be working with their Theatre Mother!!! Sonya does not have enough hair to use hairspray, but they sure hope you have a blast watching the show!

ZARA VAN HEMERT (Assistant Stage Manager) is delighted to welcome audiences to the 1960s with Raleigh Little Theatre! Previous RLT credits include ASM for *Looking for Roberto Clemente* and backstage work on *Cinderella* and *School of Rock*. She recently earned a B.S. in Educational Studies from Campbell University. Outside the theatre, Zara enjoys color guard, swimming, and spending time with family and friends. She thanks her loved ones and the Raleigh Little Theatre staff for their continued support.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

MICHELE WEATHERS (Producing Artistic Director) (she/her) has built her career bringing people and communities together through the performing arts. Before joining Raleigh Little Theatre, she served in leadership roles at Carolina Ballet, PlayMakers Repertory Company, Barrington Stage Company, and North Carolina Theatre. Her New York credits include *In the Heights*, *High Fidelity*, *Orson's Shadow*, and *Red Light Winter*. In 2025, she served as a consulting producer for La Vie Productions on the multi-city national tour of *Austen's Pride*, a new musical inspired by Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The tour launched at STAGES St. Louis before traveling to cities across the eastern United States. A Meredith College graduate, Michele has participated in artEquity and Emerging Equity workshops and is a member of the League of Professional Theatre Women. She received Triangle Business Journal's Women in Business Leadership Award in 2019 and was named to Raleigh Magazine's inaugural Impact 50 in 2024. She is the proud mother of Peyton Rose, a Michigan State University sophomore. Go Green! Michele is especially proud of RLT's 90 years of extraordinary history and the vital place it continues to hold in our community.

DENNIS R. BERFIELD (Production Manager/Technical Director) is from South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He received degrees in Theater and Communication Studies at the Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, and a Masters of Fine Arts in Scenic Design and Technology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dennis has worked at various regional and off-Broadway theaters as a Scenic Artist, Carpenter, Master Carpenter, Scenic Designer, Assistant Technical Director, and Scenic Coordinator. After working professionally for a number of years, Dennis became an adjunct professor at Millikin University in Decatur, IL, and went on to become the Technical Director at the University of Scranton in Pennsylvania.

JENNY MITCHELL (Costume Shop Manager) brings all her experience to Raleigh Little Theatre to work with volunteers to create the costumes for each production. Past work includes designs for *Kinky Boots*, *Something Rotten*, *Hadestown: Teen Edition*, and *Witch*, among so many others. She is thrilled to contribute to this production and help bring its visual world to life.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

TERRA HODGE (Director of Education) is the Director of Education at Raleigh Little Theatre. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Theatre Education from North Carolina Central University and her Master of Arts degree in Media Arts from Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus. Prior to joining RLT, Terra was the Theatre Arts teacher at Culbreth Middle School in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. She was named the 2017-2018 Culbreth Teacher of the Year and was named an Honor Teacher for Chapel Hill – Carrboro City Schools. Terra has worked as a teaching artist, actor, and director with many local theatre companies. She is the director of Agape Theatre Project's production of *Crowns* that was featured at the 2024 International Black Theatre Festival in Winston Salem, NC.

HELEN NOWLAN-WALLS (Development Manager) spent most of her life in the UK and Canada and moved to NC in 2023. She has been working in non-profit development for more than 20 years and has spent her career focussed on diversity, equity, and inclusion. She has a BA in English & Theatre and is thrilled to be returning to her theatre education and performance roots at RLT. Outside of work, Helen can be found driving her kids to their various rehearsals, wrangling her basset hound Daphne Honeybutt, watching murder mysteries, and playing video games whenever time allows it. Helen has been struck by lightning twice and hit by a double decker bus - all while riding a bicycle. Helen is no longer allowed to ride a bicycle.

DENISE SCHUMAKER (Associate Costume Shop Manager) has designed costumes, props and sets for theatre, dance, opera, and tours, plus film, television, and MrBeast, for over 35 years. She was honored with an Emmy® nomination in 2010. Recent work includes *Polyfamy* on TLC, the horror film *Bloodspawn* (2024), *Pippin* for Theatre in the Park, *The Marriage of Figaro* for NC Opera, *The Magic Flute* for Elon Opera Workshop, and RLT's Theatre For the Very Young production of *All Smiles*.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE STAFF BIOGRAPHIES

CANDACE SPENCER (Education Programs Specialist) is an accomplished African American theatre professional passionate about nurturing young artists. She holds a BA in Theatre from Greensboro College and an MFA in Theatre Performance from the University of Louisville. Candace has expanded her artistic perspective through a six-month study abroad program in London, where she explored theatre and dance. While pursuing her MFA, Candace gained four years of experience teaching introductory acting classes to undergraduates, and she developed on-camera acting skills during her undergraduate studies. She is skilled in drama instruction, on-stage and on-camera acting, and stage directing. Her dedication to youth development is not only evident in her teaching experience, but also in her work with young artists at a summer camp in Los Angeles, California.

MORGAN HARRIS (Box Office & Front of House Supervisor) is a Raleigh, NC native who has been involved in theatre in one capacity or another since elementary school. In 2017, she started volunteering at Raleigh Little Theatre and quickly began asking what else she could do. In 2019, she became the Special Events Intern and a Box Office Associate. During her time at RLT, she has been recognized with two Al D. Wolfheimer Volunteer Awards and a Special Recognition Award. In 2026, Morgan stepped into the role of Box Office & Front of House Supervisor and looks forward to many more years with RLT!

A vibrant, geometric-style illustration of the Raleigh Little Theatre building, featuring a large entrance with columns and a colorful, abstract background. The poster is for the 26th Season, running from July 24 to November 8, 2026. It lists several productions: Clue (High School Edition), Hairspray, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, Cinderella, Finding Nemo, Charlotte's Web, and Come From Away. It also includes contact information for the box office and a call to subscribe today.

RALEIGH LITTLE THEATRE

26th SEASON

CLUE (HIGH SCHOOL EDITION)
July 24 - August 9, 2026

HAIRSPRAY
August 28 - September 20, 2026

ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD
October 23 - November 8, 2026

CINDERELLA
December 4 - 20, 2026

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February 19 - March 7, 2027

CHARLOTTE'S WEB
April 9 - 25, 2027

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June 4 - 27, 2027

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AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

THOMAS MEEHAN (Book) received the Tony Award for co-writing the book for *The Producers* in 2001 and in 2003 for co-writing the book for *Hairspray*. He received his first Tony Award in 1977 for writing the book of *Annie*, which was his first Broadway show, and has written the books for the musicals *Rocky*, *Elf the Musical*, *Cry-Baby*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Chaplin*, *Bombay Dreams*, *I Remember Mama*, *Ain't Broadway Grand* and *Annie Warbucks*. In addition, he was a long-time contributor of humor to *The New Yorker*, an Emmy-Award winning writer of television comedy, and a collaborator on a number of screenplays, including Mel Brooks' *Spaceballs* and *To Be Or Not To Be*. Mr. Meehan was also a member of the Council of the Dramatists Guild. He and his wife, Carolyn, divided their time between a home in Nantucket and an apartment in Greenwich Village, near which, on Hudson Street, she owned and presided over the long-running and near-legendary children's store Peanut Butter & Jane.

MARK O'DONNELL (Book) Mark O'Donnell's plays include *That's It, Folks!*, *Fables for Friends*, and *The Nice and the Nasty* (all produced at Playwrights Horizons), and *Strangers on Earth* and *Vertigo Park* (both produced by Zena Group Theatre). He wrote the book and lyrics for the musical Tots in *Tinseltown*. Mr. O'Donnell collaborated with Bill Irwin on an adaptation of Moliere's *Scapin*. and he co-authored a translation of Feydeau's *A Flea in Her Ear*, both for the Roundabout. For Manhattan Theatre Club he translated Jean Claude Carriere's *La Terrasse*. He has published two collections of comic stories *Elementary Education* and *Vertigo Park* and *Other Tall Tales* (both Knopf) as well as two recent novels *Getting Over Homer* and *Let Nothing You Dismay* (both now in Vintage paperback). His humor, cartoons, and poetry have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Spy*, *The New Republic*, and , among many others. He has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lecomte du Nuoy Prize, and the George S. Kaufman Award.

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES

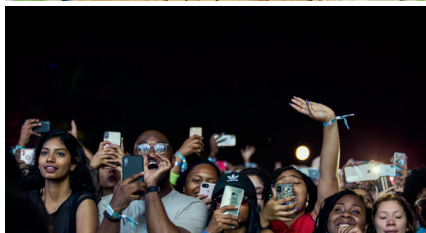
MARC SHAIMAN (Music and Lyrics) is an award-winning lyricist, composer, orchestrator and performer, who has successfully created music and lyrics for TV, films, recordings, and theater since entering show business at the age of 16 in 1976. Shaiman has been OSCAR® nominated seven times. He has received three TONY® Award nominations (winning one for co-writing the score to *Hairspray* with co-lyricist Scott Wittman), eight GRAMMY® Award nominations (winning two for The Original Cast Recordings of *Hairspray* and *Some Like It Hot*), thirteen EMMY® Award nominations (winning two, for his work on Billy Crystal's Academy Award hosting and for co-writing - with Wittman and Pasek & Paul - "Which Of The Pickwick Triplets Did It?" for *Only Murders In The Building*), two Golden Globe nominations (for the song "The Star" (co-written with Mariah Carey) and his score for *Mary Poppins Returns*), and two BAFTA nominations (for *Sleepless In Seattle* and *Mary Poppins Returns*).

SCOTT WITTMAN (Lyrics) Tony, Emmy, two time Grammy, and Olivier Award winning lyricist, director, writer, and conceiver, Scott Wittman co-wrote the lyrics for the hit musical *Hairspray* (Tony, Grammy, Olivier Award winner) with creative partner Marc Shaiman. Wittman also served as an executive producer on the hit film starring John Travolta. Scott's Broadway credits include *Martin Short: Fame Becomes Me*, which he also directed, *Catch Me If You Can* (Tony nom. for Best Musical), *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* on Broadway and the West End, *Some Like it Hot* (13 Tony nominations) and *Smash on Broadway*.



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