

Review: 'Hairspray' in South Fallsburg

By **MARCUS KALIPOLITES**

For the Times Herald-Record

Published: 2:00 AM - 08/09/11

SOUTH FALLSBURG — The Rivoli Theatre was rocking Sunday afternoon as the Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop with a company of more than 30 players staged a rip-roaring presentation of "Hairspray."

Hairspray is the product for which the same-named company sponsors the "Corny Collins Show" on television. Teenager Tracy Turnblad (Gabrielle Dworkin) not only is a regular fan but also dreams about performing on the show.

But being short and overweight, the likelihood of her getting picked for the Baltimore-originating program is slim. With conviction, drive and encouragement from her dad, however, the unlikely candidate ultimately does win a top spot.

In the meantime, the plot traces her ups and downs with a series of blockbusting song-and- dance numbers.

Setting the stage for a glorious beginning is "Good Morning, Baltimore," followed by "The Nicest Kids in Town," a spunky and "live-on-TV" dance revue led by a spritely Scott M. Eckers in his role of Corny Collins.

Facing objections back home, Tracy and best friend Penny (Heather Stevens) appeal to mothers Edna Turnblad (Joseph Jervais) and Prudy Pingleton (Carol Scannell MacAdam) with an engaging "Mama, I'm a Big Girl Now" as other women of the company help push the argument.

The Dynamites trio of Cici Patterson DaCosta, Ebony Isaac and Crystal Tweed also get involved by telling Mama to "take a chance" in the full-throated singing by the entire company in "Welcome to the '60s."

Following their daughter's development, Edna and Wilbur (Sal Polichetti) savor their own togetherness with a heartwarming duet of song and dance in "You're Timeless to Me."

Timeless, too, is the spiritual singing of Motormouth (Rebecca "Tina" Patterson DaCosta) in "I Know Where I've Been," a soulful song about the troubled road traveled and hopes for a dream in the future.

In rounding out the robust show, the entire company, onstage and in the aisles, reassured an engaged audience that "You Can't Stop the Beat."

In her directing, Lori Schneider-Wendt has molded a topflight production. The instrumental support led by Kevin Scott, also, could not have been better.

This show is not to be missed.

If you go ...

What: "Hairspray" staged by Sullivan County Dramatic Workshop

Where: Rivoli Theatre, 437 Route 42, South Fallsburg

When: 8 p.m. Aug. 12-13, 2 p.m. Aug. 14

Admission: \$18, \$15 senior citizens, \$10 students with ID, "pay what you can" Fri. nights, minimum \$5

Call: 436-5336, 434-7232

Visit: www.scdw.net