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HITS THEATRE BRINGS HOUSTONIANS "HAIRSPRAY"
AS IT CELEBRATES 25TH PRODUCTION AT MILLER OUTDOOR THEATRE

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(HOUSTON, TX) HITS Theatre will bring the Tony award-winning Broadway musical *Hairspray* to life on April 7-9 and April 14-16 at 8 p.m. at Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park. The show is HITS' 25th production at Miller and has become one of Houston's most anticipated springtime events.

Based on the 1988 film by John Waters, *Hairspray* tells the story of Baltimore girl Tracy Turnblad, who becomes an overnight celebrity after winning a role on the popular teenage dance program "The Corny Collins Show." She's never been part of the "in" crowd until she wins a coveted spot on the local TV dance program and overnight Tracy becomes a teen idol. Tracy quickly becomes a trend setter and uses her popularity to help change the show's segregation policy. HITS will tell this story about dreams, do-whops and convictions in this wonderfully fun musical production.

HITS students Hattie Marks, who plays Tracy, and Austin Arizpe, who plays Link, join a talented cast of 45 teens and 7 adult actors led by HITS executive artistic director JoAnne Woodard, who directs the show. The adult cast includes Marion Arthur Kirby, who plays Tracy's mother Edna, and Marc Shellum, who plays Tracy's father Wilbur. This will be Shellum's 18th appearance in a HITS production at Miller.

HITS' production team includes Assistant Director and Stage Manager Eva De La Cruz, Music Director Miriam Daly and Choreographer Dana Lewis, with scenic and properties design by Claire A. "Jac" Jones, costume design by Macy Perrone, wig and makeup design by Jessica Woodard, lighting design by Jeremy Choate and sound design by Andrew Harper.

Free tickets are available the day of the show through the Miller Theatre box office. For more details call the Miller box office at 281.FREE.FUN. For more information about HITS, visit the website, www.hitstheatre.org, or call 713.861.7408.

About HITS Theatre

HITS Theatre, a non-profit organization, is one of the leading performing arts education centers for young people in the Houston metropolitan area. It is dedicated to teaching musical theater with a performance-based curriculum in a nurturing and enriching environment. HITS programs serve more than 800 students annually.

HITS is supported in part by the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board; the City of Houston through the Houston Arts Alliance; the Texas Commission on the Arts; Houston Endowment Inc.; The Brown Foundation Inc.; The Wortham Foundation Inc.; The Ray C. Fish Foundation; The George and Mary Josephine Hamman Foundation; The Cullen Trust for the Performing Arts; The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation; The Lionstone Group; Stavis & Cohen Financial; King & Spalding LLP; PricewaterhouseCoopers; ExxonMobil Corp.; and generous contributions from individuals and families.