

Hairspray Actor on the Road

Everyone who saw **Hairspray** wanted to run and tell their friends that the guy who plays Seaweed steals the show with the song "Run and Tell That!" in the first act. The song, in traditional '60's genre, showcases the ultra-talented Alan Mingo, Jr. and his ultra-smooth dance moves. We think he's the best male dancer we've seen on stage in a long time.

"That's funny because I think of myself as an actor and singer first," Alan said. "I don't really think of myself as a dancer." His idols growing up were Ben Vereen and Sammy Davis Jr., who have clearly influenced his smooth style.

His cat-like motion probably helped him get the starring role of Simba in the first national tour of **The Lion King**. He also starred as Tom Collins in **Rent** on Broadway, as well as in the first and second national tours.

"I learned to sing in Italian for the tour of **Rent** in Italy," Alan said. One of the producers for that version was the famous opera star Luciano Pavarotti. "What an experience!" he said. "I was just supposed to choreograph the show and ended up directing and acting in it. They couldn't find a black Italian person to play Tom Collins!"

Alan is a native of the Washington, D.C. area and he attended the University of Maryland on a full scholarship, earning a B.A. in theatre. He went on to receive his M.F.A. from the University of California-Irvine.

The road is Alan's home, and he usually drives his Lincoln Navigator from city to city where the show is playing. He owns a home in Westwood, California and also has a new classic brownstone house in Harlem, New York, that he says he's yet to live in.



We predict his star will rise and he'll have more roles on Broadway and finally get to live in that house. Alan Mingo, Jr. has the "it" factor. Run and tell that!

Lauren Stanton of WZZM TV 13 and Alan Mingo, Jr., who starred as Seaweed J. Stubbs in HAIRSPRAY (November 22-27). He was a featured guest on the noon news program.

Broadway Theatre Guild Receives \$150,000 Gainey Challenge Grant



Harvey and Annie Gainey are presenting theatre lovers a challenge: make a donation to Broadway Theatre Guild between now and December 31 during its Annual Fund Campaign and the Gainey's will match it.

Mr. Gainey, Broadway Theatre Guild Chairman of the Board and President of Gainey Corporation, reported that last year, the Guild's campaign raised over \$100,000. "I'm hoping that with this Challenge Grant incentive, we can increase individual and corporate donations to \$150,000. I have pledged to match all donations dollar for dollar."

Broadway Theatre Guild, now in its eighteenth season, is the region's major presenter of the official, authentic national Broadway touring productions. The multi-million dollar productions presented in Grand Rapids' DeVos Performance Hall feature the same cast, costumes and sets that one would see in such cities as Dallas, Chicago, Detroit and Los Angeles.

Since 1988, BTG has presented 137 shows totaling 1,096 performances. 1.3 million people have attended

cont'd. on next page

Gainey Challenge Grant, cont'd.

Broadway Theatre Guild presentations, with an average of 75,000 people, representing 16 counties, attending each year.

"Presenting Broadway shows is a very expensive venture," said Gainey. "BTG accomplishes a lot with little, and I have been very impressed as a businessman how lean they operate," he noted. "Few businesses and organizations can say that 95% of all revenue goes toward programming. At Broadway Theatre Guild, only 5% of revenue goes toward administrative expense."

"Take me up on my challenge," encourages Gainey. "This is metropolitan entertainment that raises the cultural bar of West Michigan, and we want to keep it going."

To make a tax-deductible gift to Broadway Theatre Guild's Annual Fund Campaign that will be matched by the Gainey Challenge Grant, send a check by December 31, 2005 to Broadway Theatre Guild Annual Fund Campaign, 122 Lyon NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503.

For questions and additional information, call the Guild at 616-235-6285. For more information about the Broadway Theatre Guild and its season, visit the website at www.broadwaytheatreguild.org

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of live theatre
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**To order your Mini Season
call 616-235-6285
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Broadway Bound in 2006!

Mini Season - Your Ticket to Holiday Giving As Low as \$92 for Three Shows!

Just in time for the holidays, Broadway Theatre Guild is offering theatre lovers the chance to buy a three-show Mini Season package, with substantial savings over single-ticket prices.



See Broadway star Patrick Cassidy as Joseph and American Idol's Amy Adams in a show that paints a picture of betrayal and hardship, prophecy and forgiveness.

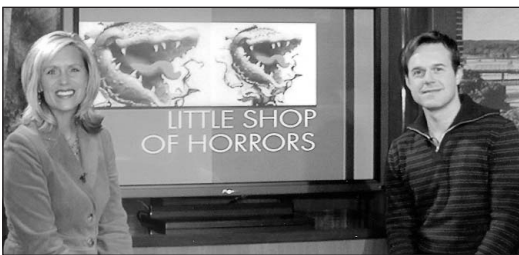


Grammy-winning pop composer Billy Joel and legendary choreographer Twyla Tharp are the creators of *Movin' Out*. The story is told through extraordinary dancing and the large on-stage band that performs everyone's Billy Joel favorites. www.movinoutonbroadway.com



You'll journey to the far corners of the world with the incredible Dr. Dolittle - and a host of amazing animals - in this big, boisterous family musical. Nine-time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune stages and stars as the beloved veterinarian who talks to the animals. Delightful music, amazing puppetry and impressive special effects. www.doctordolittlethemusical.com

This year's Mini Season includes three of the year's most outstanding musicals:
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (March 7 - 12)
Movin' Out (April 11-16)
Dr. Dolittle (June 6-11)



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS star Jonathan Rayson (Seymour) appeared on the WZZM TV 13 Noon News with anchor Lauren Stanton.

Blast - An Explosive Musical Celebration Back by Popular Demand! Two Performances Only! January 31 and February 1, 2006, DeVos Performance Hall

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Hairspray Stars Entertain Woodland Shoppers



Hairspray stars Aaron Tviet (Link Larkin) and Christine Danelson (Tracy Turnblad) autograph CDs for shoppers, including Taylor Mackey.



Woodland Mall shoppers got a real treat the day after Thanksgiving, when five performers from **Hairspray** sang at Center Court. In addition to hearing three fabulous show songs, shoppers also received a free sample **Hairspray** CD!



"The Dynamites," Amanda DeFreitas, Anastacia McCleskey and Karen Burthwright singing "Welcome To The '60's."



Aaron Tviet (Link Larkin) and Christine Danelson (Tracy Turnblad) sing the duet "It Takes Two."

It's a Hairspray "Battle of the Bouffant Hairdos!"

Design I Salon & Day Spa, WZZM TV 13 and Broadway Theatre Guild teamed up for a "Battle of the Bouffant Hairdos." Five TV 13 employees got very big hair, compliments of Design I Salons. The event was featured on the station's **Take Five** show the same day, and viewers were invited to vote in an online contest for their favorite 'do. The contest ran through the opening night of **Hairspray**, and Lauren Stanton with her beehive, was voted the winner.

BEFORE....



Lauren Stanton



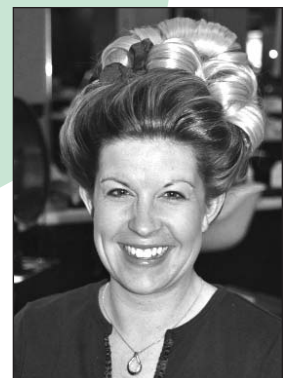
Carrie Manders



Catherine Behrendt



Denise Pritchard



AFTER!

Backstage Whispers

Where is that music coming from?

Little Shop audience members may have noticed that there was no orchestra in the pit and wondered if the show's music was live or taped. It was totally live. Because of Audrey II's far-reaching tentacle-like branches on the fourth and largest puppet, the orchestra plays off location in an adjoining theatre room. Amazingly, they play by a video that monitors the activity on stage.

Pro's

Almost every single person in the touring company of **Little Shop** originated the same roles in the original Broadway production.

Hairspray Fun Facts:

- There were eight trucks of equipment, props and costumes that took 13 hours to unload in two days.
- Up to 67 wigs are used in the show and have to be cleaned and restyled after every show.
- Eighteen year-old **Christine Danelson**, who played the role of Tracy Turnblad for 7 of the 8 performances, appears in every single scene, save Act Two, Scene 2. "She truly carries the show," said Company Manager Steve Quinn, "no easy feat for anyone, let alone someone who's as young as eighteen!"

Anastacia McCleskey, one of **Hairspray's** "The Dynamites", is off to Broadway to play a starring role in Disney's **Tarzan** – as a singing ape. **Susan Henley**, who played Velma Von Tussle, said the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel is one of the best hotels she has ever stayed in anywhere in the world! She also said the hotel's Thanksgiving feast for the **Hairspray** company was fantastic!

Jonathan Rayson, who played Seymour in **Little Shop**, has a new solo CD of standards.

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