

The Flame

JAN 2026

A NEWSLETTER DEDICATED TO GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND FRIENDS

JOIN US FOR HAIRSPRAY - THE BROADWAY MUSICAL! Winner of 8 Tony Awards including Best Musical

THIS SEASON WE ARE REPRISING ONE OF MY ABSOLUTE FAVORITE MUSICALS - HAIRSPRAY.

It's true that HAIRSPRAY opened on Broadway in 2002 and won eight Tony Awards including Best Musical. It's equally true that HAIRSPRAY is one of the funniest Broadway shows with spectacular dancing and one of the best musical scores of this century.

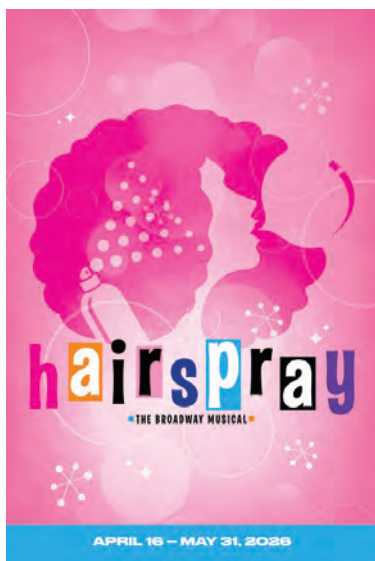
All that is true but that's not the main reason it is one of my favorites. I love HAIRSPRAY because it tells a story about possibilities. It is a story about reaching for dreams and celebrating the worth of every single person.

Set in 1962 in Baltimore it tells the story of Tracy Turnblad, a teenager who dreams of becoming a TV star on a local teen dance program THE CORNY COLLINS SHOW. Tracy is not the stereotypical picture of the perfectly pretty girls on the show. Pleasantly

plump and full of spunk, Tracy believes that her dance ability and her bright personality can break through those stereotypes that tell a girl like Tracy that she is not good enough to be a star. And you know what? She is right!! She is picked to be on the show and becomes an overnight celebrity!

Being famous and adored by the public isn't enough for our girl Tracy. She wants to affect change and try to battle the social inequality of segregation at this local TV station and the city around her. She campaigns to integrate THE CORNY COLLINS SHOW and succeeds affecting social change and changing the minds and hearts of the folks around her.

... CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



“HAIRSPRAY is a fast-paced, laugh-filled musical romp with a heart.”

-- Ed Flesch,
Artistic Director

The
FireSide



CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF KLOPCIC FAMILY HOSPITALITY!

If you think this sounds like a deep, boring social drama, you couldn't be further from the truth. HAIRSPRAY is a show filled with fun and zany antics by a cast of hilarious characters like Tracy's mother Edna who runs a laundry and dreams of becoming a fashion designer for plus sized women; or Tracy's goofy loving father who owns the Har-De-Har Hut joke shop; or the clueless beauty queen who becomes Tracy's rival; or her scheming mother a former Miss Baltimore Crabs; or Motormouth Maybelle the sassy, strong willed owner of the local record shop; and many, many more!

HAIRSPRAY is a fast paced, laugh filled, musical romp with a heart.

And that, my friends, is why HAIRSPRAY is one of my favorites. And I'm quite certain that after you see it is will be one your favorites too. Don't miss it!

Ed Finkel





Kate Yates has joyfully “found her home” at the Fox Cities YMCA!

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER!

The YMCA of the Fox Cities has six associated YMCAs throughout the Fox Valley with a total of 55,000 members, making it the largest group of Ys in Wisconsin. When Kate Yates arrived in the fall of 2021 there was programming for older adults at each one, yet they were detached from each other and not very well attended. She and the team undertook a re-branding as ForeverWell and set out to better serve their clientele.

Open to members age 55 and older they cater to retirees with mostly daytime programs, but are looking to expand that. Overall, the YMCA cares for its clients from birth to end of life – from child care to Medicare.

In addition to in-house programs, they’re doing more bus tours such as Fireside trips and “adult field trips” closer to home including biking, hiking, and rafting. Julie Swiecichowski is their Adult Bus Trip Coordinator who works closely with our group sales team. Overnight trips are run in partnership with travel companies Kate carefully vets to make sure their members will have a great experience. They park at the Y, take a bus to the Appleton airport, and an expert travel guide meets them on the other end. Upcoming longer tours include Costa Rica, Alaska, and Tuscany.

Just speaking with Kate, it was obvious she came into her position with some experience. It turned out she had worked in Therapeutic Recreation – recreation with a purpose – with a goal of increasing a person’s quality of life. She had always wanted to be a teacher, just not one with a planned curriculum, something more that helped people get back to their best self. Early on she tried licensed child care where she learned that she was better suited to working with adults!

Kate also served an internship in outdoor adventure in Denver. This centered around adaptive recreation for adults with chronic illness, traumatic brain injury, developmental delays, and autism. She took them skiing, crafting, biking, dancing, and more. That experience was followed by eight years with a full service senior center/recreation facility, fully equipping her to do it all.

As a child in the Chicago area, Kate’s family had a cottage in northern Wisconsin and a lot of extended family they would visit throughout the summer. She used to swim at the Neenah-Menasha YMCA when visiting her aunt and uncle and now she has her office there. “Wisconsin,” she said, “has always felt more like home.” When the opportunity came for her and

“Don’t lose sight of the goal, which is serving the community!”

her husband to relocate from Colorado they were happy to do so!

Kate’s passion for her job is evident. What she likes most about it is the members. “They’re not coming to the Y so much for product itself,” she said, “the gym, the classes, the trips. They’re coming for the community, for the sense of belonging. I love to hear the stories about how the Y has positively impacted their lives. It gives us all the momentum to keep going for them every day.” Kate also credited the leadership team, many of whom have been there for 20 to 30 years. Working with them is a joy and she knows she’s found the right place to be.

We like to ask our featured group leaders about the advice they’d have for others, especially those just starting out. Kate shared that many things in a job can carry a weight, thinking about the day to day needs or what new things you should be trying. She recommends you don’t lose sight of the goal, which is serving the community. Your member relationships are key, so trouble yourself less about the daily tasks and think more about the people you’re there to serve. Those are wise words from an amazing leader!

**KNOW
WHAT'S
NEW!**

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 CHRISTIAN CONCERT SERIES

LEGACY FIVE

Wednesday, March 25

When the Cathedral Quartet retired in 1999, Scott Fowler and Roger Bennett formed Legacy Five to continue their rich Southern Gospel Quartet tradition. Since then they have been nominated for over 100 Singing News Fan and Gospel Music Association Dove awards, winning such prestigious awards as Southern Gospel Album of the Year, Recording of the Year, and Favorite Male Quartet. Their rich four and five part harmony comes from Matt Fouch on bass, Bryan Walker on baritone, Scott Fowler on lead, and Lee Black on tenor with Josh Townsend at the piano.



THE SOUND

Wednesday, May 6

The Sound, comprised of Rob Mills and his two sons, Levi and Jacob join us on May 6th. Formed in 2017, they have captured the attention and affection of fans around the world, having performed live for thousands and entertained millions through television, social media, and radio. Their latest album, *God Is Real*, is a trailblazing record that incorporates elements of Nashville country-pop and worship. It was released in 2022 and won a Dove Award for Country Album of the Year.



The INSPIRATIONS

Wednesday, June 17

Every July for 60 years the Southern Gospel group, The Inspirations, hosts Singing in the Smokies, a festival that draws thousands to their native Bryson City. The quartet itself formed two years before the first gathering. Today, The Inspirations are considered one of the most important groups ever to sing and record Southern gospel music. They recently won 2025 Singing News Fan Awards for Song of the Year and Favorite Quartet, Artist, Musician, and Album. Their sound is known in the world of Christian music as the Smoky Mountain style of Southern gospel quartet singing. They have sold more than one million copies of their sixty albums.

HIGH ROAD

Wednesday,
September 30

After selling out in 2024 and 2025 we are thrilled to welcome back Sarah Davison, a gifted pianist, vocalist, and songwriter joined by Nicole

Croteau, Rachel Crick, and Kristen Bearfield. High Road has earned a Grammy Nomination for the album, "Gonna Sing, Gonna Shout," Singing News New Artist of the Year, a Dove Award nomination for Bluegrass/Roots Album of the Year, and 2022 Singing News Band of the Year. With a repertoire including country, bluegrass, Gospel, contemporary Christian they combine lush harmonies, grassy instrumentation, and nostalgia-laden melodies you're sure to love!



On Sale Now at \$41.95 including Our Fish & Chicken Buffet!



Happy New Year! We're so excited to bring back HAIRSPRAY and have a selection of favorite entrees for you to choose from, starting with our delicious Spring Salad and finishing with our refreshing Key Lime Pie.

In between, you'll have the choice of our Pretzel Crusted Chicken on a creamy Havarti and Cheddar Beer Cheese Sauce; Baby Back Ribs so flavorful and tender the meat just falls from the bone; and our Baked Almond Crusted Cod. The cod loins are crusted with a blend of fresh breadcrumbs, Dijon mustard, roasted almonds and fresh herbs. This dish really showcases the contrast between the juicy and flaky fish, and the crunchy and savory topping.

Among the favorite new vegetarian items is our Flatbread Pizza. It's topped with our homemade Italian Pizza Sauce and a variety of Olives, Artichokes, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Onions, and Mozzarella Cheese. Whichever you choose, know they're all made with great care to ensure your dinner is filled with memorable flavors!

Joey Scott, Sous Chef



SEE
WHAT'S
COOKING

FEATURED MENU

*For Thursday, Friday, and Saturday Matinees,
Saturday Evenings,* and Sunday MIDDAY.*

Spring Salad

Harvest Blend of Lettuces topped with Strawberries, Candied Walnuts, Feta Cheese, and a Raspberry Vinaigrette.

Freshly Baked Breads from our Artisan Bakery

Pretzel Crusted Chicken

A Chicken Breast rolled in our Seasoned Breadcrumbs and Pretzel Pieces, served on top of a Creamy Havarti and Cheddar Beer Cheese Sauce.

Baked Almond Crusted Cod

An 8 oz. Northern Atlantic Cod Filet coated with Dijon Mustard and crusted with Toasted Almonds, Panko Breadcrumbs, and Fresh Herbs.

Barbecued Baby Back Ribs

A Half Rack of our Signature Lean Pork Baby Back Ribs, glazed with our special Barbecue Sauce, slowly roasted until the tender meat falls from the bone.

Above entrées served with Scalloped Potatoes and a Green Bean Medley.

Vegetarian Flatbread Pizza

Flatbread topped with our homemade Italian Pizza Sauce, topped with a variety of Olives, Artichokes, Sun-Dried Tomatoes, Onions, and Mozzarella Cheese.

Key Lime Pie

A refreshing Tart Custard made with genuine Florida Key Lime Juice, presented on a Graham Cracker Crust and garnished with Fresh Whipped Cream.

Coffee, Tea and Milk

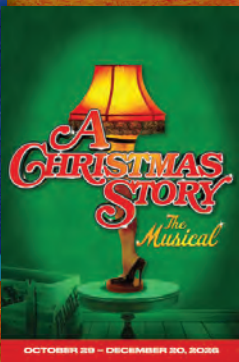
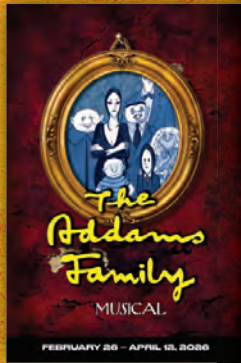
The Thursday Evening Signature Buffet begins with our Signature Salad topped with Papaya Chutney Dressing and served with Freshly Baked Breads. Enjoy two special entrée selections in addition to Beef Tenderloin and Roast Turkey from the Carving Station, Barbecued Pork Back Ribs, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Beer Batter Fried Cod, Shrimp and Scallops Fusilli with Tomato Butter Sauce, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Sweet Potato Soufflé, Whipped Idaho Potatoes and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Key Lime Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

The Sunday Matinee Brunch begins with Pastries from our Bakery and a Fresh Fruit Smoothie. Enjoy Roast Turkey and Jones Ham from the carving station with a buffet of Eggs Benedict on Jones Canadian Bacon, Scrambled Eggs, Jones Bacon and Sausage Links, Chicken Tenderloin Tempura with Brandied Apricot Sauce, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, Fresh Atlantic Salmon, Bread Pudding, Breakfast Potatoes, a featured Beef Tenderloin dish, and Steamed Farm Fresh Vegetables. Key Lime Pie for dessert plus coffee, tea and milk.

Saturday Evening's menu also includes an Appetizer course.

Coming Shows!

We look forward to helping you promote your trips to The Fireside. Promotional materials can be ordered for any of our upcoming shows through Group Sales or on our website.



GROUP SALES CORNER



HAIRSPRAY is a family friendly musical set in 1962 Baltimore. The story is a celebration of diversity, acceptance and the power of standing up for what's right, all set to a vibrant 1960's soundtrack. The musical addresses serious social issues such as racial segregation and "size-ism" (prejudice based on body size) through its upbeat and humorous story. It champions the themes of acceptance, equality, and the idea that you don't have to conform to societal standards to be a star. Loved both as a movie and a Broadway Musical, HAIRSPRAY is just as relevant and wonderful now as when it first debuted. Plus, it's overwhelmingly joyful.

For personal help with any of your bookings, call us at 920-563-9505 or email groupsales@firesidetheatre.com.



I remember watching the movie version of HAIRSPRAY with my daughter when it was released in 2007. We loved the singing and dancing and the way they tackled a tough social issue in a comedic and entertaining way. Now I can hardly wait to see it live on our stage!

On another note - in case you haven't seen it yet, our fall TBA show has been announced - just look to the left! You're going to need to see this one, so if you aren't already booked, call us Monday through Friday from 10 - 5 at 920-563-9505 and ask for Group Sales, or email your request to groupsales@firesidetheatre.com. It's going to be a fabulous year at The Fireside - Happy Traveling!

Frankie Elmore

Frankie Elmore, Group Sales Lead

GIFT SHOP SPOTLIGHT

Shop online anytime at
firesidetheatre.com



These ducks and geese are a ray of sunshine!

What's the latest thing you need for your porch or front stoop? A porch duck - complete with interchangeable outfits. Isn't this the cutest thing! Whimsical is the term that comes to mind. Fun, fanciful, and just plain happy - and we all need more of that in our lives! From salt and pepper shakers to dishes and figurines, to a friendly greeter at your front door, let's dedicate this year to having fun!



CONTACT US TODAY AND SAVE!

CALL 920-563-9505

EMAIL groupsales@firesidetheatre.com

ONLINE FiresideTheatre.com

GROUPS ARE OUR SPECIALTY - SO SPECIAL DISCOUNTS APPLY!

WHAT IS A GROUP?

At The Fireside, there are many benefits for any group of 13 or more people (18 for the Sunday Midday). Our prices include both dinner and the show, however gratuity is not included.

Hold seating with a small deposit while you finalize your count, due four weeks before your visit. For weekday matinees, 18 paid tickets earns a complimentary package. For all other shows every 20 paid tickets earns a comp. There is plenty of safe, free parking on-site for coaches and cars. The Fireside is accessible to guests with disabilities. Please let us know what special needs you have when making reservations.

- Save up to \$17.00 per person over individual ticket prices when you book a group of 13 or more. Please see our menu page for the menu choices for HAIRSPRAY.
- The three-course dinner and show for groups of 13 or more is \$84.93 (\$80.50 tax exempt) per person.
- The Premier Group Rate offers an additional discount of \$3.00 per person when your group attends a performance HAIRSPRAY from April 16 - May 10, 2026.
- 2026 Premier Group Rate is \$81.76 (\$77.50 tax exempt) per person.
- The four-course Saturday Night Group rate is the same price as the other shows!
- 2026 Youth Group Rates for ages 14 and under with the youth meals are offered at \$61.72 (\$58.50 tax exempt) per youth.
- 2026 School Group Rates are available for Thursday and Friday matinees as low as \$74.50 tax exempt rate per student. Chaperones qualify for the Group Rate.