“HAIRSPRAY”
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The artistic director for the 2006 season, Nordgren has overseen a summer season with multiple productions and this year, producing the annual holiday production of "Plaid Tidings," Cabrillo Stage is presenting its most ambitious slate of productions ever, even in the face of looming budget cuts to higher education mandatory by the state.

In the meantime, the company is presenting "Hairspray," the fanciful, music filled play based on John Waters' nostalgic movie from 1988. The setting is Baltimore in the days of teen idols and sock hops.

The heroine in the play is the feisty Tracy Turnblad, a local teen whose ambitions include dancing on the locally based TV show "The Corny Collins Show." After she does and becomes a celebrity because of it, she embarks on a campaign to racially integrate the show in the days before the Civil Rights Act.

"There’s really an ‘American Bandstand’ kind of feel to it," said director choreographer Scott. “It evokes the girl groups of the time, the young crooners.”

"This is a show that really "ticks,"” said Cruse, who will take his accustomed seat leading the orchestra for the first time in the pit of the new Crocker [and who will also direct his successor Nordgren who is part of the band]. "The music really never stops throughout the play, which is the kind of show we like."