



Hairspray

PG - 2007

Overview

Tracy Turnblad is a girl with big hair, big dreams, and a big body. It's 1962 and this Baltimore high school student wants nothing more than to land a spot on *The Corny Collins Show*, a local *American Bandstand*-styled TV hit. Unfortunately, Tracy also has big problems: Her overprotective, defeatist mom, Edna (John Travolta), doesn't want her to audition, and the show's producer, Velma Von Tussle (Michelle Pfeiffer), is too narrow-minded to cast our chubby heroine and risk stealing any screen time from her spoiled daughter and star cast-member, Amber.

Discussion Guide

- Prejudice
 - Courage
 - Responsibility
1. At one point, Link is torn between getting his big career break and doing the right thing. Have you ever faced a similar choice? What route did you take? What was the result? In retrospect, would you do anything differently?
 2. John's Waters, creator of the original *Hairspray*, likes to focus on society's misfits and nonconformists. Who in the film fits this category, either according to their own perceptions or those of others?
 3. *Hairspray* deals with issues of social status. What was Jesus' view of social status? Discuss examples from the Bible when Jesus broke the accepted social norms and conventions of his time, particularly with respect to those with whom he associated. (For example, see Luke 19: 1-9, Matt. 9: 10-13, Matt. 15: 1-20.)
 4. What characteristics make the Turnblads a loving family? What about Penny's family? Are her mother's Christian values true? How does she exhibit Christian love?
 5. Were you shocked or offended by seeing things like "Negro Day" in the film? Why? Does satirizing injustices help us see them more clearly? How?
 6. How did Jesus teach us to look below the surface and judge only the inner person? (See Luke 11: 37-44.)
 7. The film closed with a song that states, "We've come a long way, but we've still got a long way to go." In what ways is this true in the film? In what ways does it describe a situation in contemporary society or in your personal life?
 8. Do you believe God means for people of all races to live in harmony? Why or why not? How are all persons precious in the eyes of God?