



LOREN RETURNS IN FILM ROLE

Actress Sophia Loren will star in her first movie in 10 years. The Italian star, shown, is featured in *The Life Before Us*, based on a novel by Romain Gary and directed by her son, Édouardo Gatt. Her character uses a wheelchair and cares for the children of pacifists. New images of the 84-year-old filming in Bari, Italy, have been posted online. The photos show Loren wearing a short



and her hair unkempt, with her makeup far from glamorous. Filming is expected to wrap up in August. The last time Loren acted on screen in a full-length film was for the 2007 TV movie *My House is Full of Mirrors*. She voiced a character in 2013 *Clash 2* for non-English-speaking countries and starred in a short film also by Pousti, *Human Voice* (Vice Cinema) in 2014.

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SECTION C



Nathan Spazzotti (left) as Link Larkin and Kaylene Dipple as Tracy Turnblad rehearse Hairspray at the Regina Performing Arts Centre. PHOTOS: AARON D. HAZZAN

BIG CAST, BIGGER IDEAS

Regina Summer Stage presents a big cast and even bigger ideas in production of Hairspray

AHLEV MARTIN

Wearing a bouffant wig, Regina Summer Stage's own Tracy Turnblad professor her love of Hairspray — the renowned musical, and the upcoming production. "I'm thrilled," Kaylene Dipple said. "And not only is the musical about equality, but you just feel the connection with each and every person that is in the musical... It's like a little family."

Sierra Hayes' mistress Dipple's enthusiasm. Hairspray has been her "favourite musical ever" since she first saw the 2007 movie musical in theatres that year.

"I remember going to Hairspray with my family at the movie theatre and watching this mind-blowing show happen on the big screen in front of me," Hayes said.

Regina Summer Stage's production of Hairspray: The Broadway Musical runs next week.

Hairspray blends comedy with heavy themes. Set in 1962 Baltimore, it centres on a TV dance show. The Corby Collins Show. Racism and prejudice are two main themes. The show is a comedy, registered, and high-school student Tracy Turnblad is rejected for her size. "It's a show basically about being different in a time period when different wasn't OK," director James Clark said.

Hayes' character is one who looks the change for change. Motormouth Keyhole is the disc jockey on the once-a-month "Negro Day."

"When I first got the part, I was freaking out a little bit," said Hayes, a student of Studio 54 (Gangster Collage) in Vancouver. "Freaking out excited, but also sweating bullets, because that's a really big, important part. And I'm very small and young."

"With a very big amazing voice,"



Kaitlin Kasha (left) as Penny Pingleton and Omar Wilson as Seward J. Blalock during a rehearsal for the Regina Summer Stage production.

said Clark. "Motormouth is the one who really leads the protest that says, 'They recognize where we're coming from and why we're fighting for equality.'"

Hairspray combines humour with "great" music — including three-, four- and five-part harmonies — and "a really important message," Clark said. "It's not just fluff."

Nathan Spazzotti joked that his character is "the fluff."

Hayes' song says, her parents almost the silent majority of people who are just going along with the way things are; they assume this is always how it's been, this is always how it will be," said Spazzotti.

"And he's very pushed out of his element and pushed out of what he knows and he understands,



Joel Kuntz (left) as Edna Turnblad and Lyndon Roy as White Turnblad rehearse a scene. The show runs from July 10 to 14.

by such strong empowered women as Tracy and Motormouth."

Rehearsing since May, the Regina Summer Stage crew took care in casting the show's almost 50 actors.

With Hairspray's script specifically highlighting the characters' ethnicities, "It becomes a sensitive issue," Clark said. "How do you make theatre inclusive, and still meet the needs of the story?"

Further, "How do you make these issues — these issues of respect, and an imbalance of power in Baltimore in the 1960s — how can we make that connection to what's happening here in Regina, in 2019? Because... we have those issues of privilege and inequality and oppression."

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