

T H E A T R E

Hairspray offers 'sizzling choreography' and 'an infectious score'

The closing number is called *You Can't Stop the Beat*, and you wouldn't want to. This musical, about a plump teenage Baltimore girl who beats down doors to get crowned Miss Teenage Hairspray 1962 while also opening some for her black friends, stops being fun when it stops being fun; but that doesn't happen often. Sizzling choreography; a cleverly cartooned book; an infectious score; delightful performances by Jennifer Stewart and Tom Rooney. (Princess of Wales Theatre, 300 King St. W., 416-872-1212. Open run.)

T H E A T R E

Pygmalion is given 'a panoramic production'

A treat. Shaw's comedy, an effortlessly witty hard-edged romance, is given a panoramic production, splendidly designed, with Jim Mezon and Tara Rosling charting a clear and exhilarating line through the relationship of the professor and the flower-girl, and Simon Bradbury delivering dustman Doolittle's prose arias with superb aplomb. *My Fair Lady* hasn't killed this play off. There's room for both, and one wouldn't want to be without either. (Festival Theatre, Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1-800-511-7429. Runs until November.)

T H E T O P F I V E

Life in plastic, it's fantastic!

NEW YOU CONVENTION

BY CHRIS MACKINNON

It wasn't so long ago that plastic surgery was the recourse of fading movie queens, an indulgence of the very rich or the strange obsession of Michael Jackson. Now Botox is part of the common lexicon, *The Swan* is prime-time TV fare and the price tag for a facelift is dropping. We'll leave it to the sociologists to pinpoint just when the plastic revolution went mainstream, but the idea that our God-given features can be rearranged is now comfortably ingrained in the public consciousness. As a service (or caution) for those contemplating a date with the scalpel, and to mark the New You convention taking place in Toronto this weekend, here are the top five most requested plastic surgeries in Canada, according to Dr. Wayne Carman, a Toronto cosmetic surgeon:

1. Breast augmentation "There's no question it's the most popular procedure. Basically, you're placing an implant behind the breast to increase its size. It's as simple as that. I think the numbers are increasing and it's getting more mainstream. A lot of women are,

you know, 36 years old, live in Don Mills, had two kids and want to look better. It's not like they're in movies or doing anything particularly exotic with their lives."

2. Botox injections "Over the past few years the volume of people doing Botox has just mushroomed. A lot of it is related to ageing. It's not an operation; it's an injection. You've got a wrinkle that's suitable to be flattened out with Botox, why not? Think of getting a flu shot, except it's in your face. It hurts a bit. It's not permanent but it works well. All kinds of normal people who don't like the wrinkles come in, zap zap, and goodbye."

3. Liposuction If you go to California it's on billboards and full-page ads in the paper. It's another world down there. It wasn't so long ago you'd talk about liposuction and people would go, 'What's that?' Now people come in and they know about a lot of the technical issues. It's not for obese people. It's for people who are average weight, maybe a little heavy. You're making an incision and inserting an instrument that has a specialized tip with holes in it for suctioning-out fat. Say someone is pretty fit, but they've got this chunk and it's a bothersome contour thing. You can suction the fat out from those areas and give them a cleaner body shape. Double chin, it's great for that. Suck out the fat from your double chin, it goes away."

4. Tummy tucks "Tummy tucks are becoming increasingly popular. A tummy tuck is where you make a bikini-line incision, loosen up all the skin and the fat that's attached to it, pull it all down and remove it. So you're taking away all the extra skin from the front of the abdomen and creating a very tight, snug shape."

5. Eyelid surgery "I tell my patients: 'Three years later, you're still going to look good.'"

■ The cosmetic-enhancement show *New You* runs today and tomorrow at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. For more information, visit newyou.ca.

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Famous facelifts, clockwise from top left: Madame Tussaud candidate Joan Rivers; New York socialite Jocelyne Wildenstein; TV star Kim Cattrall, who has admitted to having "everything" done; TV host Dick Clark, who looks the same every New Year's Eve.

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