

NICOLE BLONSKY

HAIRSPRAY marks the professional debut of seventeen-year-old **NIKKI BLONSKY** (Tracy Turnblad).

Nikki was born and raised in Great Neck, Long Island, New York. Although she graduated from the Great Neck Village School in January, 2006, she received all her dramatic and musical training at Great Neck South High School, which is a four-time Grammy Foundation Signature School, with its most recent honor bestowed in 2005.

Nikki's high school performing credits include 'Madame Tanardeau' in *Les Miserables*, 'Mrs. Lovett' in *Sweeney Todd*, 'Kate' in *Kiss Me, Kate*, 'Rebecca Hillicker' in *The Laramie Project* and the title role in Bizet's *Carmen*, which was performed entirely in French.

She has sung for many organizations and events in and around the Long Island, New York area, including an original song for 2002 Olympic gold medalist figure skater Sarah Hughes' homecoming parade in Great Neck.

Nikki is a regular volunteer and supporter of the Special Olympics. At last year's New York state games, which were held at Hofstra University and presided over by New York Senator Charles Schumer, Nikki had the honor of singing the National Anthem at the opening ceremonies. It was an especially moving experience for her, as the 3,000 Olympians in attendance began to sing along with her.

She is also a published poet, having written an original piece in honor of Jonathan Lee Ielpi, a member of the Fire Department of New York and a volunteer firefighter at Great Neck's "Vigilant" Fire Department, who was killed in the September 11th World Trade Center tragedy. Nikki used to baby-sit for Jonathan's family.

Nikki quit her day job scooping ice cream at the local Cold Stone Creamery in Great Neck in June when she found out she had won the role of Tracy Turnblad. She still lives in Great Neck with her parents, Karen and Carl, her twelve-year-old brother, Joey, her Uncle Steve and her pug, Rocky.