

CARDIFF OPEN AIR THEATRE FESTIVAL: EVERYMAN 2022

Sophia Gardens
Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9SQ

AUDITION NOTICE



Music by
Alan Menken
Book & Lyrics by
Howard Ashman

Director & Choreographer:
Rich Tunley

Musical Director:
Rob Thorne Jr.

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror comedy rock musical with music by Alan Menken and lyrics and a book by Howard Ashman. The story follows a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human blood and flesh. The musical is loosely based on the low-budget 1960 black comedy film *The Little Shop of Horrors*. The music, composed by Menken in the style of early 1960s rock and roll, doo-wop and early Motown, includes several well-known tunes, including the title song, "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Somewhere That's Green", and "Suddenly, Seymour".

Performance Dates: 21st July – 30th July, 2022 (excluding 24th July), 8pm, with matinees at 3pm on 23rd and 30th July

Technical & Dress Rehearsals: Monday 18th July, Tuesday 19th July & Wednesday 20th July.

Rehearsal dates & times to be confirmed.

A draft rehearsal schedule will be available at auditions but they are likely to be: Monday evenings, Wednesday evenings & Sunday late afternoon/evenings.

Synopsis: (of the original musical)

Please note that there will be some casting changes dependent on auditions.

The action opens on Mushnik's Flower Shop, a failing store on Skid Row. The few plants in stock are, like their surroundings, run down and fading. There we meet Mr. Mushnik and his two employees, Audrey and the nerdish Seymour Krelborn who secretly has a crush on his beautiful but much-abused co-worker.

Audrey, attempting to help Mushnik bring more customers into his failing business, persuades him to look at one of the "exotic plants Seymour has been tinkering around with." Mushnik is intrigued and allows Seymour to display his flytrap-looking plant, which he has named, in honour of his secret love, Audrey II.

Seymour and Crystal, Ronnette, and Chiffon (who provide musical accompaniment and commentary throughout the show) perform an upbeat number explaining that the strange flower was purchased from Chang's Flower Shop. The plant appeared, "mysteriously," after a total eclipse of the sun.

Of course the strange plant draws customers and business is soon booming. In celebration Mushnik invites Seymour and Audrey out on the town, but Audrey has a date with her boyfriend, the sadistic dentist, Orin Scrivello. Seymour also declines and stays behind to tend to the suddenly ailing Audrey II. That night, alone in the shop, he discovers the shocking secret to the plant's health and phenomenal growth: human blood.

Seymour encourages the plant's growth by pricking his fingertips and feeding Audrey II his own blood. This only lasts for a few days, however, and the meagre drops of blood aren't enough for the quickly growing plant. Finally, late one night the plant grows bold and speaks: "feed me." Audrey II has now become a singing, dancing, jive talking, vampire vegetable!

Eventually, the plant demands more and more, and Orin becomes more and more abusive to Audrey; thus Seymour comes up with the natural solution. Murder Orin and feed him to Audrey III! He is spared the ghastly deed, however, when the nitrous-addicted dentist laughs himself to death on his own anaesthetic gas. Seymour is left only with the task of dismembering the dentist and feeding him to Audrey II.

This, of course, also opens up interesting possibilities in Seymour's love life. Following the disappearance of Orin, Seymour builds up the courage to tell Audrey of his true feelings for her. Audrey responds with the touching song, "Suddenly Seymour," and the two are united.

Unfortunately, Mushnik witnessed Seymour's crime and threatens to turn him into the police if he does not leave the country. The plant, however, must stay. Of course the solution for Seymour is once again right in front of him, and he tricks Mushnik into the jaws of the ever-hungry Audrey II. As the plant and the body count grow so does Seymour's fame and fortune.

Ultimately, however, Seymour's natural goodness begins to make him think about his lifestyle and what he must do to maintain it. At last, he decides to flee with Audrey to be married and plots to destroy Audrey II. Before Seymour can complete his plan, however, the plant mortally wounds Audrey. Dying, she requests that she be fed to the plant, so she can become a part of it and always be near Seymour. As the music swells, Seymour feeds her to Audrey II, which at last reveals its ultimate plans--nothing less than world domination. Seymour makes one last attempt to kill the plant but fails. In the end, he too is devoured. The singers, joined now by the faces of the dead characters, warn that Audrey II and other alien plants have begun to devour the world one city at a time--and we are left to scream with laughter!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

It is wonderful to see the musical production back as part of the festival and what a show for its return! Please take some time to look at the expectations of the auditions and rehearsal process.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS is a modern musical theatre classic. Great tunes, a cracking lib and lovely array of characters. We will endeavour to give the production the necessary focus for 2022 audiences whilst maintaining its charm and wonderful quality.

Those of you that have worked with us before will know that the ENSEMBLE is central to our shows. Therefore we have added a small ensemble to the show to enhance the Greek Chorus feel and to support the story-telling much more.

This is a musical that will appeal to many. Those who love the show (of course) and those who just love to be part of the OPEN AIR musical experience!

Rich Tunley & Rob Thorne Jnr.

Character Breakdown

The musical is set in 1950s America.

SEYMOUR (Tenor)

Gender: Male

Playing age: Mid 20-30 – to match Audrey.

Our insecure, naïve, put-upon, florists' clerk hero. Above all, he's a sweet and well-meaning little man. He is not a silly nerd, and therefore, should not be played as the hero of a Jerry Lewis film. **Strong acting and singing.**

AUDREY (Mezzo-soprano)

Gender: Female

Playing age: similar to Seymour.

The bleached-blond, Billie-Dawn-like secret love of his live. **Strong acting/comedy and singing.**

MR(Baritone)/**MRS**(Mezzo-Soprano) **MUSHNIK**

Gender: Male or female

Playing age: Middle aged? Old enough to 'adopt' Seymour as his/her son.

A failure of an East Side florist. His/Her accent, if he/she has one, is more that of middle class New York than of Eastern Europe. S/He seldom smiles but often sweats. **Strong character actor (some singing).**

ORIN (Baritone)

Gender: Male

Playing age: 30s- early 40s) A tall, dark, handsome dentist with a black leather jacket and cruel tendencies. He is not, however, a leftover from the movie version of Grease. Think instead of an egotistical pretty-boy – all got up like a greaser but thinking alike and insurance salesman and talking like a radio announcer. Makes a couple of brief, but high impact, appearances.

Strong character actor and singer.

May also play MR BERNSETIN, MRS LUCE, SKIP SNIP and PATRICK MARTIN.

THE PLANT (AUDREY II) Puppeteer - An anthropomorphic cross between a giant Venus flytrap and an avocado. It has a huge, nasty-looking pod which gains a shark-like aspect when open and snapping at food. The creature is played by a series of four increasing large puppets, manipulated by one nonspeaking Puppeteer hidden invisibly inside. The plant grows from a few inches tall, to almost filling the stage. The role requires someone with physical acting skills

to portray character and emotion purely through movement, and stamina to operate the large, heavy puppet.

VOICE OF THE PLANT (Baritone) – Provided by an actor on an offstage microphone, lip-syncing to the movements of the puppets. His voice is a cross between Otis Redding, Barry White, and Wolfman Jack. Think of the voice as that of a street-smart, funky, conniving villain – Rhythm and Blues’ answer to Richard the Third. **Strong character singer.**

CRYSTAL, RONNETTE and CHIFFON – (Mezzo-sopranos)

Gender: Female

Playing age: late 20s+

The embodiment of the 50s singing girls trio groups. They act as a Greek Chorus. Hip, smart and incredible cool these women are the only ones who have a grip on reality. **Strong harmony singers** with good movement skills to perform tightly drilled choreographed movement. Significant presence in the show.

CRISSIE, RONNIE and VON - (Mezzo-sopranos)

Gender: Female (or male or non-binary if singing voice reflects range at pitch).

Age: 20s+

Three ‘street urchins’ who function as participants in the action (when they have dialogue) and a Greek Chorus commenting and narrating the action (when they sing together in close harmony). They’re young, hip, smart, and know exactly what’s going on. **Strong harmony singers** with excellent movement skills to perform tightly drilled choreographed movement. Significant presence in the show.

ENSEMBLE x8 (Range of vocals)

Gender: male, female, non-binary.

A constant Greek Chorus to appear in various scenes and numbers. The minor roles will stem from the ENSEMBLE. **Strong singers and movers.**

WINO #1 Ensemble

WINO #2 Ensemble

BAG LADY Ensemble

***ANNOUNCER** (cameo) The opening narrator to the show.

***PATRICK MARTIN** (cameo) Offers Seymour money to take cuttings and produce Audrey II's all around the world, saying that it will be "Bigger Than Hula-Hoops!"

***MR BERNSTEIN** (cameo) An uptown bigshot from NBC, Bernstein offers Seymour his own gardening show.

***MRS. LUCE** (cameo) The wife of the editor of Life magazine

***SKIP SNIP** (cameo) A character who shows vested interest in Audrey II.

ANNOUNCER, MR BERNSETIN, MRS LUCE, SKIP SNIP and PATRICK MARTIN will either be played by the actor who plays ORIN or from members of the ENSEMBLE.

The Auditions

Before auditioning, please take a moment to consider the necessary level of commitment.

Take careful note of the rehearsal period and be honest about your availability within it. Although the rehearsal process takes place over a number of weeks, consistent and punctual attendance is essential

as we will be operating within a very tight schedule.

A high level of unavailability, persistent lateness and/or no-show will regrettably result in you being asked to leave the production.

The auditions will be held at CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE, Cardiff on the following dates:

Tuesday 22nd February 19:00-21:30

Wednesday 23rd February 18:30 -21:30

Thursday 24th February 18:30-21:30

Re-calls only:

Wednesday 2nd March 18:30 -21:30

- **If you would like to audition but cannot attend on any of these days, please let us know as soon as possible.**
- Please arrive **15mins before** your audition slot and bring with you your completed audition form with photograph attached. Spare audition forms will be available on the day.
- **When booking an audition slot**, please refer to the character breakdown.
- **Prepare a song** from any musical play of your choice. **Please bring sheet music with you.** You may, of course, choose a song from *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* but you should still bring sheet music in case there is a difference in the key you have selected and the score. You will be discouraged from singing unaccompanied. If you wish to use a backing track – please let us know beforehand.
- **Not being recalled** does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.
- **Attendance at the Festival Company Meeting during May is strongly urged.**
- **Please Note:** By accepting a role in the Festival you acknowledge that your photograph will be taken during rehearsals and performances and permit these to be used for any marketing (including on our website, social media, and printed material). Consent can be withdrawn at any time by emailing festivalmarketing@everymantheatre.co.uk This will not apply to material already published.

To reserve your place at the audition, please email:

amyelizabethbrooks@hotmail.com

We look forward to seeing you!

Everyman Theatre Cardiff Ltd.

Audition Form for

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS [2022]

To book your audition time please contact:
amyelizabethbrooks@hotmail.com

Please write clearly and don't forget to bring this form, complete with photograph, to your audition!

Please put a [current] photo of yourself here!

Name.....

Date of audition Time.....

Address.....

Postcode..... Email address

Tel.no [home]..... [work/mobile]

Age..... Height.....

ROLE(S) YOU ARE TO AUDITIONING FOR

SONG SELECTED FOR AUDITION

Would you be prepared to accept other roles including ENSEMBLE? YES / NO

ANY SPECIAL SKILLS – eg, dancing, singing, juggling, musical instrument playing, etc

Don't keep secrets! Please state **any and all commitments** [family/work/holidays/other shows etc] that **may** clash with the rehearsal period! Continue overleaf if necessary.

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE [continue overleaf if necessary]

Are you auditioning for the other Festival shows? Yes / No (if yes, please state which ones)

Are you already a member of Everyman Theatre? Yes / No (please note that everyone cast must become an Everyman member)

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE BELOW THIS LINE

NOTES:

Not cast / recalled / castacceptance rec'd **YES / NO**