

Ann Arbor Civic Theatre
presents



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

book and lyrics by

**Howard
Ashman**

music by

**Alan
Menken**

based on the film by

Roger Corman

screenplay by

Charles Griffith

directed by

**Wendy
Sielaff**

musical direction by

**Ryan
Talaska**

choreography by

**Stephanie
L. Stephan**

Originally produced by the WPA Theatre
(Kyle Renick, Producing Director).

Originally produced at the Orpheum
Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre,
David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh,
and the Shubert Organization.

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Ann Arbor Civic Theatre

Opening night September 14, 2000 at the Playhouse

Little Shop of Horrors

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Directed by

Wendy Sielaff

Musical Direction by

Ryan Talaska

Choreography by

Stephanie L. Stephan

Assistant Director

Sandy Kirkpatrick

Produced by

Wendy Sielaff

Stage Manager

Martha Montoye

Lighting Design & Light Board Operator

Jen Jakary

Costumes

Cast

Stage Crew

Amanda Diaz

Audrey II Costume

Kathleen LaFlamme

Props

Torie Berneis

Set Design

Mike and Wendy Sielaff

Pod #3 Puppeteer

Mike Sielaff

Set Construction

Mike Sielaff

Craig Sielaff

David Jacobs

Wendy Sielaff

Megan Sielaff

Sandy Kirkpatrick

Karen Kirkpatrick

Allison Soranno

Ryan Talaska

Chad Hendrix

Pod #1 Puppeteer

Megan Sielaff

Set Decoration

Wendy Sielaff

Martha Montoye

Cast and Crew

Sound

Curt Waugh

Publicity Photos

Joy Baker Dennis

Audrey II — The Large Pod #3

Design

Mike and Wendy Sielaff

Lobby Display Photos

Bradly Mexico

Construction

Mike Sielaff

Decoration

Megan Sielaff

Publicity

Cassie Mann

Misty Mills

Angela Hurlbut

Tiff Crutchfield

Little Shop of Horrors was originally directed by Howard Ashman with musical staging by Edie Cowan

Cast

in order of appearance

Voice, Wino #2, Interviewer, Orin Scrivello DDS, Customer, Skip Snip	Michael A. LaFlamme
Chiffon	Tawna M. Dabney
Crystal	Allison Soranno
Ronnette	Stephanie L. Stephan
Mr. Mushnik	Kevin Lee Branshaw
Wino #1, Chang, Customer, Bernstein	Jason Matley
Audrey	Pamela Vachon
Seymour	Ryan Talaska
Baglady, Customer #1, Renovationist, Customer #2, Patrice Martin	Chrisy Klavitter
Street Person, Renovationist, Dentist Patient, Customer, Mrs. Luce	Kodie Skaggs
Audrey II	Jennifer White

Musicians

Keyboard/Rehearsal Pianist	Eric Walton
Bass	Brennan Andes
Drums	Kevin Winder

Musical Numbers

Act I

Prologue (Little Shoppa Horrors)	Crystal, Ronnette, Chiffon
Skid Row (Downtown)	Company
Da Doo	Seymour, Crystal, Ronnette, Chiffon
Grow For Me	Seymour
Ya Never Know	Mr. Mushnik, Crystal, Ronnette, Chiffon, Seymour
Somewhere That's Green	Audrey
Dentist!	Orin, Crystal, Ronnette, Chiffon
Mushnik and Son	Mr. Mushnik, Seymour
Feed Me (Git It)	Audrey II, Seymour
Now (It's Just the Gas)	Seymour, Orin

Act II

Call Back in the Morning	Audrey, Seymour
Suddenly, Seymour	Seymour, Audrey
Suppertime	Audrey II, Crystal, Ronnette, Chiffon
The Meek Shall Inherit	Company
Somewhere That's Green (Reprise)	Audrey, Seymour
Finale	Company

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission between acts.

Please silence cell phones and pagers during the performance.

About the Cast and Crew

Brennan Andes (Bass) This is Brennan's second musical, but he has been playing for five years. "This show was and is quite intense!" If you would like to contact him, look him up and find him at Community High School. One more quote— "Always find a balance because it's easy to lose your head in any situation." Love and peace. May the force be with you.

Kevin Lee Branshaw (Mr. Mushnik) This is Kevin's fifth production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. He has played every male role in the show as well as Mrs. Luce. Also, with AACT, Kevin has played Bill Starbuck in *The Rainmaker*, Henry in *The Fantasticks*, and Michael in *Dancing at Lughnasa* for which he received an AACT award. Kevin, much to his chagrin, is best known for his portrayal of Tackaberry (the guy with toilet paper on his shoe) in *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*.

Tawna M. Dabney (Chiffon) DooWop Dabney is Damon's Mom! (He just studied saxophone at Interlochen this summer... woohoo!) Tawna is a jazz dance instructor and ham! She is very excited to be "sangin" the alto line in *Little Shop*. Love to her family, friends and this fantastic cast! Peace, joy, song, dance and blessings to all.

Amanda Diaz (Stage Crew). She has been with AACT for a few months and enjoys lighting. She hopes to end up in Stratford or Broadway some

day. She has done *Angels in America*, *The Fantasticks*, *The Crucible*, *A Chorus Line*, and *The Heidi Chronicles*. She is very happy to be doing this show as well.

Jen Jakary (Lighting Designer, Light Board Operator) has been involved in theater for many years, designing and running lights for *The Wizard of Oz*, *Archie and Mehitabel* and *A Chorus Line*. Most recently she was involved in the production design of Adjective Arts' *Little by Little*. She would like to thank Wendy for seeking her out, and for being patient. And to her favorite diva she says, "Who says rotting cougars belong in African streams anyway?!"

Sandy Kirkpatrick (Assistant Director, Assistant Stage Manager) This is Sandy's first show with AACT. She wishes to thank her good friend, Wendy Sielaff, for inviting her to join in the fun. She has been in/worked on shows for the Saline Area Players, Plymouth Theater Guild, Dexter Players, North Rosedale Park Players, Camelot Productions, and Washtenaw Community College.

Chrisy Klavitter (Baglady, Customer #1, Renovationist, Customer #2, Patrice Martin) Chrisy has been seen previously in the AACT production of *Bye Bye Birdie* as "Nancy." She has also performed in a different arena, spanning over 15 years worth of thrills, chills and spills, in ice shows for Trenton's Park & Recreation's Jamboree on Ice. Her talents cover a wide range

of bases including dance, vocals and acting, as well as various sports such as volleyball, softball, tennis, ice skating and a recently acquired interest in golf. Chrysy wishes to thank her family and friends; Little Shop Folks— you are an outstanding cast of people, it has been a true honor; Ryan Talaska— thanks for the push, the support, and for believing she could do it; And most of all, her partner in crime, and love of her life, Bradley (M.O.Y.D.). "Love you!" **"Dolphinatively speaking, there is a higher porpoise for me in life!"**

Kathleen LaFlamme (Audrey II Costume Designer) Kathleen's work for Civic Theatre has included *Angels in America* and *The Crucible*, but it was her Gothic design experience that prepared her to dress a walking, talking Venus flytrap. She also does prom dresses, wedding gowns, Halloween costumes and Renaissance festival attire. Email her at KCLaFlamme@aol.com

Michael A. LaFlamme (Voice, Wino #2, Interviewer, Orin Scrivello DDS, Customer, Skip Snip) Mike continues his tradition of trying yet another medical profession here at AACT after playing Dr. Peter Petrone in *The Heidi Chronicles*. Previously seen as Putnam in *The Crucible*, he enjoys playing the bad guy! "The hero may get the girl, but the villain gets the headlines." As chief of maintenance at a local hotel, Mike is glad to use his skills with tools.

Jason Matley (Wino #1, Chang, Customer, Bernstein) In real life Jason might be a millionaire, driving a Porche 911 Turbo, be dating Denise Richards, be the creator of Napster, sit rinkside at every Red Wings game, teach Emeril everything he knows, win Ben Stein's money each and every week and been the one to suggest to Regis, "solid colored ties are key." But he's here in his AACT debut to be the best drunken wino that he can be. Thank you one and all!

Mike Sielaff (Set Design and Construction) Mike's favorite words are "I never volunteered for this." We know, but when you are married to the director and you have some carpentry skills, it's a given. Mike has constructed some of the most complex and beautiful sets, which include, *God's Favorite*, *Smoke on the Mountain*, *A Christmas Carol* and *Cheaper by the Dozen*. Of course his favorite project was Audrey II, the large pod. Rest up, Mike, because you know Wendy will direct another show. Just not in the summer, right?

Wendy Sielaff (Director, Producer) Wendy is a veteran on and off stage. She has worked with Plymouth Theater Guild, Camelot Productions, AACT, Saline Area Players, and Oakland University where she studied theater. Her favorite show is the one currently running. She is also one of the best cast party givers! Special note to Megan... "See, I can do a show without getting grouchy!"

Wendy wants to thank her family and friends for giving her the room to follow her passion.

Kodie Skaggs (Street Person, Renovationist, Dentist Patient, Customer, Mrs. Luce) This marks Kodie's Michigan debut on the stage. She has been involved in music performance since age 13. She is delighted to be working with such a talented cast and crew, and looks forward to many more performances on the stage.

Allison Soranno (Crystal) Although a newcomer to Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, Allison is no stranger to the stage. Her favorite roles of the past include Diane in *Hair*, Eve in *The Apple Tree*, Martha in *The Secret Garden* and Poppy in *Noises Off*. As her list of performance credits continues to grow, Allison's long-term interest is on the other side of a production. She is currently a theater performance major at the University of Michigan, pursuing a BFA in directing. She would like to thank Leslie, Justin, Paul and especially her parents for being the greatest family in the whole world.

Stephanie L. Stephan (Choreographer, Ronnette) This is Stephanie's debut with Ann Arbor Civic Theatre, but she is no stranger to the stage. She has directed and choreographed *A Chorus Line* at the Scottish Rites Theater in the Masonic. Her favorite roles include Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*, Billy Dawn in *Born Yesterday*

and Sheila in *A Chorus Line*. She would like to thank her Dynamic DooWop Girls for being an inspiration as well as incredibly wonderful to work with. I luv you girls!

Ryan Talaska (Musical Director, Seymour). Ryan's past AACT credits include *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and this year's Evening of Cabaret. He music directed last season's *A Chorus Line*, and is thrilled to be 'at it again.' This performance is dedicated to his mother, who heard, when he was ten, "I will play this role someday." Well... someday is **FINALLY** here. Thanks for everything! Ryan will also be appearing as Charlie Brown in Stage Presence's production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* at the Riverside Arts Center starting October 19.

Pamela Vachon (Audrey) Pamela is pleased to be part of the last Civic show to take place at the playhouse. She was recently seen in *A Chorus Line* at AACT as Bebe... and Lois... and Maggie. Pamela is also pleased to be memorizing only one set of lines this time around. Thanks to Bob Villa for his ability to fix almost anything. "Get that off of my screen!"

Eric Walton (Keyboard, Rehearsal Pianist) Eric is a freshman music major at the University of Michigan. He has played classical, jazz and rock for a long time. He's deeply indebted to his parents, friends, Ben Cohen, Michelle Cooker, and all the musi-

From the Director

cians he's ever played with. "You guys rock"!

Kevin Winder (Drums) This is Kevin's third year of serious drumming, and this is his first musical. He is a senior at Community High School and is planning to major in music in college

Jennifer White (Audrey II) Jennifer has worked as a director, choreographer and actress for Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. She is proud to be part of this fantastic cast and says, "Work it out!" to all involved. To Wendy, thanks for trying something new and for the leeway in re-creating Audrey II. To Stef (5-8-6-12!) thanks for pushing, and Ryan (do I even have to say it?) thanks for making me work. She also thanks her family (XXXOOO) and friends (what would I do without you) and Milik (you're the best) for their unerring support, love, and encouragement. She dedicates this performance to the newest members of her family, Lawrence, Henry and Brenet (DIT).

Stand back or you will get splashed with talent! From the minute we cast this show, we knew we had something special. Maybe the magic is because we are the last show to perform on this AACT stage, or maybe it's because every person associated with this show is extremely talented. This is a bittersweet moment for me.

I am pleased to direct this classic, but sad this is the last production on this stage. It may be a good thing AACT is moving, because we are going to "Rock This House" with *Little Shop of Horrors*. Thanks to Mike for Audrey II (the large pod). I'm sure the neighbors will miss the sparks flying. She was conceived in my head and born in the garage. Mike, you gave up a lot— thanks! Leave any pre-conceived notions about *Little Shop of Horrors* at the door because this production will be different. This show is dedicated to the doctors, nurses and physical therapists at the University of Michigan. Without their gifts and talents, I would never have been able to direct this show. Sit back and enjoy this history making moment.

—WS

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CIVIC UPDATE

Little Shop of Horrors

From the President... Greetings and welcome to *Little Shop of Horrors*, the final AACT production at the Platt Road Playhouse. Though it is with sadness that we prepare to leave our home of eight years, we want to keep our hearts and minds focused squarely on the future. The challenges posed by our changing circumstances bring opportunities as well. With vision, flexibility, strength and courage, we can seize these opportunities and ensure that AACT continues to serve the community far into the twenty-first century and beyond. Your continued involvement and patronage is important to us and we will work as hard as we can to keep you informed as we move forward.

On a personal note, I want to thank Wendy Sielaff and the cast and crew of *Little Shop* for putting together a great show under difficult circumstances. The show you'll see today is the result of tremendous talent, effort and spirit and continues the AACT traditions of excellence and innovation. It is both a fitting finale to our time at the Playhouse and a clear sign that AACT is alive and kicking and ready to move on without missing a beat. —Tiff Crutchfield

AACT is on the move... At the end of September, Ann Arbor Civic Theatre will move into its temporary new headquarters downtown at 408 W. Washington, a space well-known to theater-goers as the longtime home of Performance Network, which is moving to its new space at the corner of Huron and Fourth Avenue.

Season brochure coming soon... Within the next few weeks, we will publish our brochure for the 2000-01 season, featuring three plays at our new home at 408 W. Washington and the musical *Evita*, playing next summer at Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. If you're on our new mailing list, you will receive the season brochure by mail. Otherwise, see the next item...

New mailing list info... We are revamping our mailing list. If you received the gold Civic Update postcard earlier this month, you're on our new list. If not, take a moment to fill out an information card in the lobby and leave it in the box provided. If you know someone who isn't on the list but should be, ask them to call us at (734) 971-2228 or visit www.a2ct.org to sign up.

Keeping up with AACT... We'll do our best to keep you informed by mail, but the best way to keep up is to visit us online: www.a2ct.org