

## presents

# Little Shop of Horrors

Book & Lyrics by Howard Ashman
Music by Alan Menken
Based on the film by Roger Corman
Screenplay by Charles Griffith

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

Stage Director / Choreographer ~ Jason Hair-Wynn Music Director ~ Shawn Gelzleichter Stage Manager ~ Katharine Edel Producers ~ Larry Segel & Deirdre A. L. Shaw

October 27-29 and November 3-5, 2023

FRI & SAT at 8:00PM and SUN at 2:00PM
Special Halloween Performance, SAT the 28th at 9:00PM

American Legion Post 210 | 44 Taylor Street | Saugus, MA

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Mark Damon, Sr. \* John MacDonald
Stephen Nedell \* Christina Pitsch \* Nick Raponi
Jason Santerre \* James Wlodyka
Clark School \* Emerald City Theatrical Costumes
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Saugus High School Drama Club
Salem State University & Stacey Horne Harper
Stage 284 \* Stoneham High School Drama Club
Sustainable Horticulture at Essex Tech
Wakefield Shaws \* Wicked Wonder's Shop for
Audrey II Tees \* American Legion Post 210 and
Deb Dion-Faust & Joe Schlicher
TCS Members Past and Present
All Our Front of House Volunteers

#### **WARNINGS!**

This production contains adult themes, adult situations, use of a "gun", and domestic violence.

For your safety, there are flashing lights and a hazer (that's the cotton candy smell—you are not imagining it!) used during the show.

#### **BE AWARE**

Additionally, you will be accosted by fog, thunder, lightning, flashing lights, blood, spit, body parts, and the tendrils of a flesh eating plant.



For the health and safety of the TCS community, we respectfully request audience members to wear a mask while in the building—unless eating or drinking—as there's been a resurgence in cases in recent weeks.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

#### **Director's Note**

First, I want to acknowledge the land we are performing on was the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusett people, whose names have been appropriated by this Commonwealth. I would like to acknowledge that the land this organization sits on is the ancestral homeland of the Pannacook, Patuxet, Massachussett, and Nipmuc tribal nations. It is a privilege for me to honor these communities and the elders of these nations—past, present, and future—whose spiritual practices and beliefs are rooted in the land. Additionally, I am aware of the long-standing relationships between Indigenous communities and the traditional territories occupied by this site, and I believe it is our responsibility to acknowledge the unceded land that has served as a foundation for this institution today. This land is still connected to the many Indigenous people who work, live, and love here, despite the painful history of genocide and forced removal.

Thank you for coming out to The Little Shop of Horrors.

Little Shop has always been a favorite of mine. I feel as though I know many of these characters on an intimate level, especially Seymour having had the opportunity to play the role. The original off-Broadway production was initially inspired by the 1932 film, Green Thoughts about a man-eating plant, and the 1956 short story "The Reluctant Orchid" which was influenced by the H.G. Wells story, "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid". After the 1960 film gained a cult following (namely because the studio used Jack Nicholson's name) the studio began distribution as a B movie and the film's adaptation made it to an Off-Broadway release in 1982 as a musical with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman. The musical is also based on the low budget 1960 dark comedy film by the same name which then inspired the 1986 movie starring Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, and Steve Martin.

What inspired me to direct this piece was taking the challenge of using dark comedy, film noir, and ridiculous humor. I didn't want to portray Little Shop as I have seen it done so many times. This telling has some added laughs but takes a darker approach trying to marry the feel of old-time cinema and musical comedy. While Little Shop by name seems to be a small little musical, it has some big challenges such as getting you, the audience, to suspend your disbelief and settle into a story that centers around a maneating-plant that is a puppet.

In this telling, we meet Seymour the florist clerk who is down on his luck just trying to do the right thing. Enter Audrey, our film noir femme fatale. Audrey is stuck in an abusive relationship which she has a hard time escaping while longing for a better life—to break free from skid row and finally find happiness somewhere else. These moments of violence are accentuated and reflected in this production.

Audrey is supportive of Seymour and sets off a series of events when she first spritzes Audrey II with her perfume. As Audrey II grows larger, the power of persuasion and seduction increases. Audrey II uses her pheromones to hypnotize Seymour into doing heinous acts. (Some think those pheromones are a replication of Audrey's perfume. Take a whiff and determine that for yourself.)

Our Urchins drive the story forward and are your point people for your own voyeurism. You, the audience, are voyeurs into this shop and into this little world that has been created.

I hope you enjoy this grungy, dark, funny, touching, intense, and satirical piece of theater. I have put my heart into this production, along with the cast and I hope you enjoy it.

Thank you for coming and supporting local theater.

~ Jason

### **Production Staff**

ProducersLarry Segel and Deirdre A. L. Shaw DirectorJason Hair-Wynn Music DirectorShawn Gelzeichter ChoreographerJason Hair-Wynn
Dance CaptainDana Murray
Fight CoordinatorJason Hair-Wynn
Stage ManagerKatharine Edel
Set DesignerCrystal VanArtsdalen
Scenic Design & PaintingCrystal VanArtsdalen, Jason Hair-Wynn
Set ConstructionLarry Segel, Crystal VanArtsdalen
& Transportation Assistance Jeff Bliss, Dylan Bushe,
Mark Damon, Mark Damon, Sr., Evan Dilisio,
Jason Hair-Wynn, Billy Jenkins, Dana Murray,
Stephan Nedell, Tessa Newell, Layo Ojo, Sean Perry, Lauren Thompson, Jason Santerre, and Michael Silvia
Additional Set PaintingThe Cast
Backstage ManagerRyan Morrissey
Stage CrewSamantha Dawson,
Cambria DiCecca, Billy Jenkins
Technical & Venue SupervisorLarry Segel
Light DesignJason Hair-Wynn and Larry Segel
Lighting Set-UpLarry Segel and Aleks Wierzbicki
Light Board OperatorKatharine Edel
Sound DesignTyler Bliss and Jason Hair-Wynn
Sound Board OperatorTyler Bliss
Costume DesignAmanda Allen and Vanessa Phelon
Assistant CostumersHannah Clifford and Jason Hair-Wynn
Extra Special Effects (Blood)Vanessa Phelon
WigsCara Guappone
PropertiesAmanda Allen, Hannah Clifford, Mark Damon,
Deirdre A. L. Shaw, Lauren Thompson,
Jason Hair-Wynn, and Cast
Set DressingHannah Clifford and Jason Hair-Wynn
Puppet Wranglers / CoachesBilly Jenkins, Lauren Thompson,
Mark Damon and Jason Hair-Wynn Ticket PrintingSusan Roberts
Advanced & Day of Ticket SalesLarry Segel
Raffle OrganizerAmanda Allen
Social Media PublicityAmanda Allen, Mark Damon,
and Madeleine Mellen
Rehearsal PhotographyMadeleine Mellen
Program Layout/EditingDeirdre A. L. Shaw

Audrey II Puppets #2 & #3 owned by Theatre at the Bell in partnership with The Clark School.

Please contact theatreatthebell@clarkschool.com with any rental inquiries.

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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

Little Shop of Horrors was originally Directed by Howard Ashman with Musical Staging by Edie Cowan

Vocal Arrangements by Robert Billig Orchestrations by Robert Merkin

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Little Shop pf Horrors is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).

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www.mtishows.com

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

Please silence your cell phones before the performance begins.

Please return all beverage containers (cans and bottles) to the recycling boxes at the bar.

Do not put them in the trash.

Thank you!

# The Cast in Order of Appearance

Voice Over	Jason Hair-Wynn
Urchins	Melissa Reda
	Hannah Clifford
	Layo Ojo
	Dana Murray
	Arthur Comer
	Tessa Newell
Seymour Krelborn	Michael Silvia
Orin Scrivello, DDS	Mark Damon
Audrey II (The Plant)	Lauren Donahue
Audrey II (The Voice)	Lauren Thompson
Skid Row Residents	Mark Damon and Lauren Thompson
Media Big Wigs	Mark Damon

#### **Musical Numbers**

#### <u>ACT I</u>

Little Shop Prologue (Little Shop of Horre	ors)Urchins
Skid Row (Downtown)	The Cast
Da-Doo	Seymour and Urchins
Grow for Me	Seymour
You Never Know	Mushnik, Urchins, Seymour
Somewhere That's Green	Audrey and Urchins
Closed for Renovation	Audrey, Mushnik, Seymour
Be a Dentist (Dentist!)	Orin and Urchins
Mushnik & Son	Mushnik and Seymour
Sudden Changes	Seymour
Git It (Feed Me)	Audrey II and Seymour
Now (It's Just the Gas)	Orin and Seymour

#### Intermission

### <u>ACT II</u>

Call Back in the Morning	Audrey and Seymour
Suddenly Seymour	
Suppertime	Audrey II and Seymour
The Meek Shall Inherit	Urchins and Media Big Wigs
Sominex/Suppertime II (Reprise)	Audrey and Audrey II
Death of Audrey	Audrey and Seymour
Finale	The Cast

#### Setting

Location: Skid Row—USA

Time Period: 1960s

#### The Band

Keyboards 2	Kimberly Piper
Guitar	
Bass	Killian Duarte
Drum	Tom Holmes
Keyboard and Music Director	Shawn Gelzleichter

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# Who's Who Cast

In alphabetical order



Hannah Clifford ~she/her~ (Urchin) is in her second production with TCS (her first was as Barbara in Night of the Living Dead), and she's so happy to be back on stage with them! Hannah graduated from Westfield State University, where she studied Acting and Costume Design. She's been a part of various shows around the area, including Olivia in Things My Mother

Taught Me, Juliet in Romeo and Juliet, and Vicki/Brooke in Noises Off. She is very thankful to Jason for everything he has done for this show and beyond, to the cast and the whole production team for all the long hours and hard work they've put into this show! A big shoutout to her fellow Urchins, some of the best people to share a stage with, and she feels so lucky to do so each night! Lastly, she would like to thank her family and friends for all the support they've given her over the years.



Arthur Comer ~he/him~ (Mr. Mushnik) is beyond thrilled to be performing with TCS again! Having last appeared in the 2019 production of Nevermore: The Imaginary Life and Mysterious Death of Egdar Allan Poe as Jock Allen. This cast is incredibly talented, and fun to work with! Hope you enjoy it!!!



Mark Damon ~he/him~ (Orin) is delighted to be making his acting debut with TCS, although he is no stranger to this theater. He has previously been in the orchestra pit for their productions of Spring Awakening, Cabaret, and The Wizard of Oz. Most recently, he could be seen as Charlie in MBTA: The Musical at the Rockwell in Somerville.

Other roles include Brad in *The Rocky Horror Show*, Action in West Side Story, Romeo in Romeo and Juliet, and Krzyzhtoff in Hedwig & The Angry Inch. Mark is also the guitarist of the Boston based rock band Talk Chalk. Please check all music streaming sites on Halloween for their newest single "Disco Queen".



Lauren Donahue ~she/her~ (Audrey II—The Plant) is excited for her first performance with TCS and first time as a puppeteer! She was the dialogue voice of Audrey II for the Quincy High School production of Little Shop of Horrors last year. Lauren is a theater arts major at Salem State University, where she will be performing as Jazmin in Hearts Like Fists next month. Many

thanks to the cast members who got Lauren back and forth to Saugus so she could be part of this show.



Dana Murray ~she/her~ (Urchin/Dance Capt.) is thrilled to be back with TCS after her debut last fall as Candy in Zombie Prom! Prior she had been in a theater hiatus since high school, and bringing the stage back into her life has been a truly wonderful experience. She would like to thank her parents for always encouraging her to do what she loves, and

the cast and crew for creating such a welcoming environment while bringing this spooky show to life! She hopes you enjoy the show as much as she has!



Tessa Newell ~she/her~ (Audrey) is thrilled to be joining her first production with TCS! Past credits include Beauty and the Beast (Silly Girls: DASH Award winner), All Shook Up (Natalie: DASH Award nominee), Pride and Prejudice (Jane), First Date (Casey), Urinetown (Hope Cladwell). Love to her family and friends for their endless support, and to Dan for being both

her sweet little guy and toaster.



Layo Ojo ~she/her~ (Urchin) is a theatre kid with a weird complex about being a theatre kid. Nevertheless, she is super ecstatic to be part of her first ever community theatre production with TCS. Most of her recent theatre involvement has been backstage, so it has been a fun experience cramming the lyrics to her songs in her head and trying to remember block-

ing. Before you all are dropped in Skid Row, she just wants to share a few big thanks. First, to Jason and Shawn for casting her in this show and being so supportive and patient throughout the entire process. Second, to her cast and stage manager, for being incredible people and a delight to spend all her free time with. And lastly to all her friends and family, who when she nervously told them she got cast in a show responded with so much joy, love, and support! Hope everyone enjoys the show!



Melissa Reda ~she/her~ (Urchin) is excited to be reuniting with TCS! Melissa has worked with various North Shore community theaters including Colonial Chorus Players (Into the Woods), Theatre To Go (All My Sons), and Nashoba Players (Falsettos). Thank you to Dan for supporting me, Christina Kent for being the best vocal coach, and the cast and crew for

making this a memorable experience!



Michael Silvia ~he/him~ (Seymour) is honored that "Lady Luck came and found me" to give him the chance to be a part of this amazing cast and work with TCS. Little Shop of Horrors has been one of his all time favorite shows and the part of Seymour has always been a dream role. Previous credits include Bud, Daisy, and Pan in Bat Boy: the Musical (The Burlington

Players) and Paolo/Ensemble in *The Bridges of Madison County* (The Burlington Players). He also has a B.A. in Theater Arts from

Salem State University and works as the Theater Teacher at Rumney Marsh Academy. Michael would like to thank Jason, Shawn, and Katharine for the opportunity to bring this character and world of this show to life. Michael would also like to thank his friends and family who have always supported him. Lastly, he has truly enjoyed working with this amazing cast and crew, and hopes that you are inspired to find your stage door and open it.



Lauren Thompson ~she/her~ (Audrey II—The Voice) is excited to be back performing after a six-year hiatus and now as Mrs. Thompson! It is a dream come true to be a part of this production of LSOH! Past favorite roles include Electra in Gypsy, Reverend Mother in Nunsense, and Magenta in The Rocky Horror Show (WPM); Nancy in Oliver! and most recently Mitch

(Meesh) Mahoney in *The 25th Annual...Spelling Bee* (TCS). She would like to take a moment to thank Jason, Shawn, and Katherine for making this a fun, friendly and overall welcoming place to work, play and GROW (wink). To the cast, you are AMAZING- she loves you all and is so happy she found her spooky crew! To the crew behind the scenes, we couldn't do ANY of this without you!! One final thank you, to her friends and family, especially her Husband Billy and to her mother Jeanette. "Thank you for everything, I hope I make you proud." Xoxoxo

Cast Photo Credit:
Madeleine Mellen Photography
For cast photos with a brick background.

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Interested in being REALLY behind the scenes? We have open positions to fill for the TCS Board. Elections forthcoming. Please email us if interested!

#### **Production Staff**

In alphabetical order



**Katharine Edel ~she/her~ (Stage Manager)** has a passion for many areas of musical theatre, especially stage management. She is currently also working on the *T:* An MBTA Musical in Somerville, and looks forward to working with Cue Zero next spring. Katharine would like to thank the cast and crew for all their hard work, her friends for putting up with her busy rehearsal schedule, and Connor for his constant love and support. Enjoy the show!



Shawn Gelzleichter ~he/him~ (Music Director) is an active musician and director throughout the greater Boston theatre community. Recent music direction credits include Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief with Firehouse Center for the Arts, Jesus Christ Superstar at Broken Leg Productions, Mean Girls with both Melrose and Boston Collegiate Charter High Schools, Beauty and the Beast Jr. with MVMMS, and Nevermore and Zombie Prom with Theatre Company of Saugus. He is thrilled to be returning to TCS and working with this talented

cast and production team. Thanks always for the constant support from Jen and the fur-fam at home.



Jason Hair-Wynn ~he/him~ (Stage Director / Choreographer) has worked with TCS as the director of The Laramie Project and the director / choreographer for Nevermore which garnered 13 DASH awards in 2019. Jason is a Human Rights advocate and an award-winning actor, choreographer, and director who has been extensively training in Intimacy Direction with T.I.E. He is on the nominating committee for the Elliot Norton Awards with Boston Theater Critic's Association. Jason has worked in professional, regional, and community

theater and has been on syndicated commercials both as an actor and voice over artist. Jason currently serves on the EMACT board as Director of Diversity where he also serves as a DASH consultant. He has worked part of the Mass Governor's Task Force on Hate Crimes & GLSEN Speakers Bureau running workshop trainings on DEI, Suicide Prevention, and School Violence throughout the

country and various nationally televised diversity forums. Jason would like to thank the cast for their incredible hard work and talent. Thank you to Katharine for her commitment and dedication, to Lauren and Mark for their passion and ever willingness to help wherever help is needed as well as the entire cast. Thank you for trusting me and trusting the process. Thank you to Larry for all the work you do on a consistent basis. Thank you to Amanda Allen for her support and chats. We all need a little laughter in this challenging time. Thank you to my friends and loved ones for their support and love, it's what keeps me going. Life is uncertain, make each day count and tell everyone you love them.



Larry Segel ~he/him~ (Co-Producer / Technical & Venue Supervisor) has been with TCS since the mid -1990s, as an actor, director, lighting designer, treasurer, and is currently the Board President. He has appeared in several in TCS plays including The Comedy of Errors, Laramie Project, Charlotte's Web, Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, and The Good Doctor; and in musicals including, Spring Awakening, Children of Eden, Urinetown, Cabaret, and The Mystery of Edwin Drood. Larry has directed shows for TCS and Winthrop Playmakers. In the past few

years he has been working with a professional group, The Psych Drama Company, for which he directed Edward Albee's At Home at the Zoo, and streaming radio-play versions of The Lion in Winter and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. In June 2022, Psych Drama brought its immersive, live version of The Lion in Winter to the TCS stage.



**Deirdre A. L. Shaw ~she/her~ (Co-Producer / Props)** currently serves on the TCS Board as corresponding secretary and is excited to produce another show as well as work as props and set dressing. Other producing credits include TCS Youth Theatre Workshop production of Shrek: The Musical, JR. and mainstage productions of Night of the Living Dead, James and the Giant Peach, Nevermore, Steel Magnolias, Children of Eden, and Lizzie (TCS), The Rocky Horror Show and Nunsense (WPM) and The Katrina Roadhouse (Crystal Cove Productions). To the Cast and

Crew—Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. Your amazing voices, character work, and everyone's fascination with a carnivorous plant has made Mushnik's Skid Row Florist, neighborhood, and residents come to life. Enjoy a amazing run!

# How Can You Get Involved? TCS isn't only about performing on stage.

- Do you have a hidden or not-so hidden talent?
- Do you like to plan events?
- Do you like researching details from varying time periods — for example: furniture, household goods, accessories, clothing, and/or hairstyles?
- Would you be interested in finding out the background of an author and a play and sharing it with the artistic team and cast?
- Are you great with hair and make-up design?
- Or maybe, you love teaching other people how to do their own make-up and/or hair once there's a plan in place?
- Can't commit too much time, but want to help out with a show? You can volunteer to usher, sell raffle tickets, or sell concessions + you'll get a seat to the performance you volunteer for.
- Maybe you want to help for more than one night. What about being backstage crew? They usually volunteer for Tech Week Sun-Thu leading up to opening night and then being able to assist with all performances. They may help move props on or off stage, reset items for the cast, hold doors or curtains for people going on or off stage.

The possibilities are truly endless—for being backstage crew or for helping in other ways to help us provide great community theater to Saugus and the surrounding areas.

If you are interested in finding out how to volunteer your time and skills—please contact us at **tcsaugus@gmail.com** and let us know the best time and way to contact you.

Thank you for your support!

## The Theatre Company of Saugus

The Theatre Company of Saugus (TCS) was founded in 1968. Through volunteer work, this company has been running strong for 50 wonderful seasons! TCS produces at least four shows per season, and has been very successful in running summer workshops, fundraisers, and special events to promote education in theatre for adults and children of all ages. The Theatre Company of Saugus always welcomes new members. You do not need to be an actor or actress to become a member! In addition to being onstage, members can help behind the scenes, either with lights and sound or ticket sales. If you have questions, comments, or want more information, please speak to any of our staff during the intermission or after the show or ...

Visit us at TCSaugus.org Email us at TCSaugus@gmail.com Call us at (781) 816-7019 and be sure to like us on Facebook!

#### **Board of Directorss**

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If you are interested in being an Associate Member of the Board, serving on any of our committees, or would like to advertise your business in our next program, please contact us at TCSaugus@amail.com for further information.

#### Theatre Company of Saugus salutes

Our Lifetime Members: Rosemary DeGregorio



# Madeleine Mellen Photography

For more information and to book an appointment please email madeleinemellenphotography@gmail.com

You can view Madeleine's work on Facebook by searching the business name above AND on Instagram—

@mmellenphotography

Best of Luck to the Cast & Crew of Little Shop of Horrors

Michael Giusti

#### RAFFLES

We are looking for a new RAFFLE COORDINATOR.

The Raffle Coordinator does exactly that—making sure we have raffles for each performance of our mainstage and our summer workshop performances throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more, please email us at tcsaugus@gmail.com.

Even if you cannot make a commitment to coordinating raffles throughout the year, but you have items to donate for our raffles: gift cards, restaurant gift certificates, tickets for area attractions or events, or other goodies you think patrons might enjoy, please email us at tcsaugus@gmail.com