

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

# O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL

### The Story

Little Shop of Horrors is a gleefully gruesome musical adaptation of a 1960's dark comedy/ horror film. In this story we meet Seymour Krelbourn, a young and naive florist's assistant employed at Mushnik's Florists, an unsuccessful flower shop located on Skid Row. Seymour's pathetic existence takes a turn for the better after he happens upon a strangely unique plant. He takes the plant in, names it Audrey II after his secret love interest, and nurtures it.

The plant begins to grow and brings success to Mushnik's shop increasing Seymour's worth to his employer and making him an instant celebrity. We soon learn, however, that Audrey II is not just any old plant but one with a mind and evil plan of its own.

Seymour allows his desire for fame, fortune and romance to seduce him into fulfilling Audrey II's peculiar need....a need to be fed human blood. Seymour begins by innocently feeding his own blood to the plant but eventually can't keep up to the plant's demands for "more, more...". He is then encouraged to secretly kill people who "deserve to die" (for various reasons) and feed them to Audrey II. In exchange, the plant promises to grant Seymour his every desire.

Audrey II lures Audrey into the shop, entangles her in its vines and begins to eat her. Seymour enters and tries desperately to save her but by the time he gets to her, Audrey is already dying. Seymour holds her closely and tells her about Audrey II's appetite for human blood. He also confesses to having sacrificed Orin (Audrey's abusive boyfriend) and Mushnik to appease the plant. Audrey insists that Seymour feed her to the plant. She believes that in caring for the plant, Seymour will also be caring for her, thereby allowing their love to bloom forever.

Audrey's death is the final straw for Seymour. Everything he has done has been for her. He decides to take care of the plant once and for all. Unfortunately for Seymour, in his attempt to destroy the plant he too is devoured. Audrey II's plan for world domination advances as representatives of World Botanical Enterprises visit the flower shop and take cuttings in order to propagate Audrey II. The story ends with all of Audrey II's victims warning the audience: "Look out, Here Comes Audrey II".

Little Shop of Horrors is an eclectic piece of theatre as it combines various dramatic genres and themes. The developing relationship between Audrey and Seymour proves to be a true love story. Through this modern morality play, we see the effect of temptation as Seymour transforms from being innocent to evil, allowing himself to be coerced into murder by Audrey II. In the style of black comedy the audience is left unsettled by the success of Audrey II's twisted plan. We also see some stylistic devices used in Greek Tragedy as the "doo-wop" girls function as a sort of Greek chorus helping to re-cap and advance the story. Despite the dark story line, the various upbeat musical styles used throughout the show help to keep the spirit of the story light and even humorous.

## **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

Coming up with just the right production for highschool students is always a challenge. This year, our first priority was to come up with a story very different from our last production in order to show our versatility. There is no doubt that we have achieved that goal. We also wanted to choose a piece of work that allows us to showcase the many different talents that are possessed by both students and staff at O'Gorman High School. This too is a goal we have been successful at achieving. Little Shop has provided opportunities for students in the areas of marketing, woodworking, puppet making, visual arts, drama, and music. Everything being used on stage has been "homegrown", including all stages of the Audrey II plant.

In any production there is a team of people who work behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. In the last few months, I have been completely blown away by the involvement of so many people who have been unbelievably generous with their talents and time. Staff members and students, from every department in the school, have been involved in the various aspects of this production. In my first attempt at writing this message I tried to include everyone's name and contribution but then realized there are far too many names to list. Although I simply can't list everyone, there are a few names that must be mentioned. I am forever indebted to:

**Our custodial staff, Dion Leclair, Ron Fortier, and Gino Pandolfi**, who worked relentlessly, after hours and on weekends, building the frames for Audrey II then came up with plans to modify them whenever I asked: "could the pod possibly do just one more thing". What amazing work you have done!

**Birgit Finnigan:** What would I do without you? Once again, you brought the musicians together and worked wonders, despite the challenging nature of the musical score. Thank you for your commitment and wit, especially during the "tough times".

**Nancy Zabirka:** I am so glad you didn't really retire! You run an incredibly tight ship but you have the respect of everyone involved in this show. You make everything run like a well oiled machine. We are so grateful for your involvement.

**Lisa Morrison**, who, by the way, can't be here tonight because she is giving birth to her first child!!!! The endless hours put into everything seen on stage demonstrates talent and commitment like I have never seen before....and at 8 and 3/4 months pregnant!!!! I don't even know where to begin to express my appreciation. We hope your new little one enjoys his or her new cradle (Audrey II). Thanks also to **Jen Gutcher** and **Allison Forrest** for all the work they did with Mrs. Morrison on Audrey II.

**J.P. Gauvin:** Welcome to O.H.S!!!! This is how both Lisa and I were initiated into the O'Gorman family our first year. You've made a great addition to our production team. The work that you and your team of students has done building the set is a huge part of the success of this show.

**Chandra Ciccone:** Another Newby!!! With you onboard we are ready to take on the "musical" world. Thank you for your creativity and vision in bringing the musical numbers to life.

**Chris MacBride:** We are so glad to have you on speed-dial! If only you lived closer.....It is always a comfort knowing that you are up in the booth. Your professionalism and creative lighting/ sound designs help make everything come together so smoothly. Thanks again for taking the trip North.

**Lea Luxton:** Oh, the confusion these productions add to your job.....I promise I will not ask for another "favour" for the rest of the school year. Thank you for the daily cups of tea and the so many things you have done, on your own time, for this production. You have saved me an incredible amount of leg-work.

**To my family**, especially my mother, **Irene Loreto**, and sister and brother-in-law, **Maria and Glenn**. Thank you for your endless support and assistance. Without you I would not have been able to be here, doing what I love.

Most important, is the entire cast of Little Shop of Horrors. Working with these students has been a complete joy. From the day they first gathered as a cast, the group was cohesive and the bond continued to strengthen. Their respectfulness, commitment, drive, and positive attitude has made this an experience I will always remember fondly. To the cast, thank you for taking direction so well, for working so hard and for simply being you.

To our audience members, thank you for your support and we hope you enjoy Little Shop of Horrors. **Look out.....Here Comes Audrey II!!!!**

**Lauri-Ann Loreto Neal**

