

**NK THEATRE ARTS**  
**THE FORUM THEATRE**  
**Romiley, Stockport**  
**SK6 4EA**



Music by  
**Alan Menken**  
Book & Lyrics by  
**Howard Ashman**

Director & Producer:  
**Gareth Cole**

Musical Director:  
**Scott Mitchell**

*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: Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September – Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2025 at 2pm & 7:30pm,**

**Band Call: Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**Technical & Dress Rehearsals: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September & Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025**

**(Rehearsals June - September- dates & times to be confirmed)**

**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 honor of his secret love, Audrey II.*

*Seymour, along with 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 anesthetic 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:**

This show has been a long time coming, with delays due to the Theatre's closure, however 2025 is the year, and I am very excited to bring this show to NKTheatreArts. 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 endeavor to give the production the necessary focus for 2025 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 very small but vital ensemble to the show to enhance the Chorus and to support the story-telling much more. They are also pivotal in operating the mechanics of the show.

This is a musical that will appeal to many. Those who love the show (of course) and those who just love to watch shows here at the Forum Theatre, Romiley.

We are in the capable hands of Scott Mitchell as our MD who will head up the LIVE BAND for this production, working with us all to create this perfect blend of 90s Pop, Rock and a hint of Rhythm and Blues!

This show is going to be a LOT of fun, and cannot wait to have you join us for the journey!

Gareth

A note from the Author:

**LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS** satirizes many things: science fiction, 'B' movies, musical comedy itself, and even the Faust legend. There will, therefore, be a temptation to play it for camp and low-comedy. This is a great and potentially fatal mistake. The script keeps its tongue firmly in cheek, so the actors should not. Instead, they should play with simplicity, honesty, and sweetness—even when events are at their most outlandish. The show's individual "style" will evolve naturally from the words themselves and an approach to acting and singing them that is almost child-like in its sincerity and intensity. By way of example, AUDREY poses like Fay Wray from time to time. But she does this because she's in genuine fear and happens to see the world as her private 'B' movie—not because she's "commenting" to the audience on the silliness of her situation. Having directed the original New York production of **LITTLE SHOP** myself, and subsequently having seen it in many versions and even many languages, I can vouch for the fact that when **LITTLE SHOP** is at its most honest, it is also at its funniest and most enjoyable.

Howard Ashman

## Character Breakdown

**The musical is set in 1950s America – Accents must reflect this**

**SEYMOUR** (Tenor)

*Gender: Male*

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

Our insecure, naive, 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 show depth, sweetness and versatility throughout. **Strong acting and singing.**

**AUDREY** (Mezzo-soprano)

*Gender: Female*

*Playing age: similar to Seymour.*

The bleached-blond, secret love Seymour's life. **Strong acting/comedy and singing.**

**MR(Baritone) MUSHNIK**

*Gender: Male*

*Playing age: Old enough to 'adopt' Seymour as his son.*

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

**ORIN** (Baritone) – \*see below

*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. Thinks highly of himself, but treats Audrey very badly. Makes a couple of brief, but high impact, appearances.

**Strong character actor and singer.**

\*Also plays MR BERNSETIN, MRS LUCE, SKIP SNIP and PATRICK MARTIN.

**THE PLANT** (AUDREY II) Puppeteer of the various stages of "The Plant" - a series of four increasingly large puppets, manipulated by one non-speaking 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 puppets.

**VOICE OF THE PLANT**– Provided by an actor on an offstage microphone, lip- syncing to the movements of the puppets. This could equally be a male or female voice but with seductive Blues tones. Script wise is very demanding and sarcastic. **Strong character singer.**

**CRYSTAL, RONNETTE and CHIFFON** – (Mezzo-sopranos)

*Gender: Female*

*Playing age: 20s to mid 30's*

The embodiment of the 50s singing girls trio groups. These three 'street urchins' function as participants in the action (when they have dialogue) and a Greek Chorus (think Hercules) 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** (Range of vocals)

*Gender: male, female, non-binary.*

A constant Chorus to appear in various scenes and numbers, providing supporting vocals to a number of songs throughout the show.

**Strong singers and movers.**

**WINO #1** Ensemble

**WINO #2** Ensemble

**BAG LADY** Ensemble

All ensemble cast will be required to assist with setting props, moving sets and helping with costume changes and transitions. This is vital to the operation of this show, as there will be very little space for additional crew. Therefore ensemble cast will be required throughout the show in a variety of backstage roles, in order to bring this show to life.



## 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 THE FORUM THEATRE, ROMILEY on the following dates:

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:**

**Re-calls only**

**Tuesday:**

- **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. A photo of you will be taken at your audition. Spare audition forms will be available on the day.
- **When booking an audition slot**, please refer to the character breakdown.
- **Prepare a song** from *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* as per the list below:
  - **Seymour – Grow For Me**
  - **Audrey – Somewhere that's Green**
  - **Mushnik – Mushnik and Son**
  - **CRYSTAL, RONNETTE and CHIFFON – Skid Row (Downtown)**
  - **The Plant (voice) – Feed Me**
  - **Orin - Dentist**
  - **Ensemble – Skid Row (Downtown)**
- A backing track will be sent out to you ahead of your audition which will be used on the day. Any questions or issues, please contact [scottmitchellguitar@gmail.com](mailto:scottmitchellguitar@gmail.com)
- **Not being recalled** does not necessarily mean you are not being considered for a role.
- **Please Note:** By accepting a role in the show 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 [gareth@nktheatrearts.org.uk](mailto:gareth@nktheatrearts.org.uk)

To reserve your place at the audition, please email: [gareth@nktheatrearts.org.uk](mailto:gareth@nktheatrearts.org.uk)

**We look forward to seeing you!**