



Friday, April 20, 2001

Offbeat musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' to play at MBT

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

Meadow Brook Theatre's latest production, the award winning sci-fi musical "Little Shop of Horrors," features a nerdy florist, his lovely assistant, a demented dentist and a bloodthirsty plant from outer space.

The musical, which runs Wednesday, April 25, through Sunday, May 20, tells the tale of Seymour, a geek working at Mushnik's Skid Row Florist. Seymour discovers a flesh-eating plant from outer space and names it Audrey II, after his floral assistant and secret love. Audrey II turns the shop into a huge success. But the 170-pound carnivorous plant has a large appetite - and it keeps craving more and more bodies. The power of true love is enveloped throughout by doo-wop, hot Latin and rock 'n roll musical numbers.

"Little Shop of Horrors" holds many theatrical distinctions, including the 1982 New York Drama Critics Circle Best Musical Award and six Drama Desk Nominations. Marty Robinson, noted Sesame Street puppeteer, received the 1982 Village Theatre Award for his design of Audrey II.

The musical is based upon the 1960 film of the same title by low-budget, science-fiction director Roger Corman. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken transformed the cult film into a highly successful Off-Broadway musical in 1982. A 1986 movie remake starred Rick Moranis, Steve Martin, Bill Murray and Ellen Greene.

Guest Director for the Meadow Brook Theatre production is Bill Castellino, producing director at the Cherry County Playhouse in Muskegon, Mich. Assisting Castellino is Musical Director Christopher McGovern, the season music supervisor at the Cherry County Playhouse. Both are making their MBT debuts.

Eric Collins, a veteran of the professional stages in New York, Pennsylvania and Michigan, plays Seymour. Danica Connors, an alumna of the Boston Conservatory of Music, plays Audrey. John DeMerell plays Orin Scrivello, D.D.S. DeMerell graduated from Western Michigan University and has appeared at the Kalamazoo Civic Theatre and Detroit's Gem Theatre. Audrey II's voice is performed by James Alexander, who trained at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy.

Two OU alumnae also are part of the cast. Stacy White plays one of the female musical street urchins and Rick Carver will manipulate Audrey II. White is an OU School of Music graduate and previously appeared in regional and Off-Off-Broadway theatres. She also appeared at MBT in "Tintypes." Carver is making his MBT debut after appearing at the Michigan Renaissance Festival and other venues as a puppeteer, magician and mime.

Preview performances April 25-27 and the first three Sunday matinees will be followed by talkback sessions, where audience members will be invited to discuss the musical with the performers.

Tickets for "Little Shop of Horrors" are available at the MBT box office or by calling (248) 377-3300. Discounted group tickets are available by calling (248) 370-3316.

SUMMARY

Meadow Brook Theatre's latest production, the award winning sci-fi musical 'Little Shop of horrors,' features a nerdy florist, his lovely assistant, a demented dentist and a blood thirsty plant from outer space.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, April 20, 2001
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Friday, April 20, 2001
Article Start Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2003