**TAOS Musical Theatre**

**‘Little Shop of Horrors’ Production and Audition Details**

**Overview, Credits and Background**

***Little Shop of Horrors*** is a [horror comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Horror_comedy) [rock musical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_musical) with music by [Alan (‘Disney’) Menken](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Menken) and lyrics and a book by [Howard Ashman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Howard_Ashman). The story follows a hapless florist shop worker who raises a plant that feeds on human blood and flesh. The musical is based on the low-budget 1960 [black comedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_comedy) film [*The Little Shop of Horrors*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Little_Shop_of_Horrors) and pays homage to (whilst gently making fun of) the low-budget US sci-fi horror film genre of the 1950s and 60s. The music, composed by Menken in the style of early 1960s [rock and roll](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rock_and_roll), [doo-wop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doo-wop) and early [Motown](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Motown_Records), includes several well-known tunes, including the title song, "Skid Row (Downtown)", "Somewhere That's Green", and "Suddenly, Seymour".

The musical premiered [Off-Off-Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Off-Off-Broadway) in 1982 before moving to the [Orpheum Theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orpheum_Theatre_%28Manhattan%29) [Off-Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Off-Broadway), where it had a five-year run. It later received numerous productions in the U.S. and abroad, and a subsequent [Broadway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broadway_theatre) production.

The London [West End](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_End_theatre) production opened on October 12, 1983 at the [Comedy Theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comedy_Theatre), produced by Cameron Mackintosh. It ran for 813 performances, starring [Barry James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barry_James) as Seymour and Ellen Greene (reprising her role from the US version) as Audrey. It received the [Evening Standard Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evening_Standard_Award) for Best Musical and closed on October 5, 1985. The musical was also made into a 1986 [film of the same name](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Little_Shop_of_Horrors_%28film%29), directed by [Frank Oz](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frank_Oz), though beware if using this as your show reference as there are significant cast, song and story ending differences.

Because of its small cast and relatively simple orchestrations, it has become popular with [community theatre](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_theatre), school and other amateur groups. It is unusual as a musical as most of the senior characters do not reach the end of the show alive and there is no happy ending!! There are lots of smaller parts too and we’ll be maximizing opportunities for the chorus.

**The Setting and Time of the Show**

Inside and outside Mushnik’s Florist Shop, Skid Row, New York around 1960 – and one trip to the Dentist!

**Production Team**

* Matt Heaton (Director). Mobile: 0791 717 1019, Email: heatons@btinternet.com
* Lou Knight (Musical Director): Email: louknight@rocketmail.com
* Debi Weaver (Choreographer): Email: debiatmilliecatarts@gmail.com
* Claire Borovac (Show Coordinator): Mobile: 07736 239891 Email: claire.borovac@gmail.com

**How the Production Will Be Set**

* 4 Audrey II Plants (hired) of varying sizes. No.4 fills the shop for the whole of Act 2
* Fold out flower-shop from shop-front street position to inside flower-shop, with 2 side doors (this is a big construction)
* Screen to go across front of shop for Dentist scene to be set in-front of me
* Reversal of rear section during interval to house Audrey II – 4 plant with rear-trap door for those eaten
* Raised platform SR for ‘Ronettes’ and door for Audrey’s house.
* Low Brick-Wall SL for Band coverage and Garbage Bin
* Front Gauze needed for start of Act 1 and Interval.
* Selected Projection onto Gauze and Back screen
* Cuts – none. Some sensible additions to be made to give the chorus more to do.

**Show Dates and Rehearsals**

* Show dates: 5 Performances: Tue 26th November 2019 to Saturday 30th November 2019. Nightly at 7.30pm
* Get-in: Sat 23rd to Sun 24th November.
* Tech Rehearsal: 7pm Sun 24th November,
* Dress Rehearsal: 7.30pm on Mon 25th November.
* Rehearsals start on 3rd July and auditions will be held on 16th July.
* After a break for Summer we restart on Tuesday 3rd September for all cast, with Wednesdays starting off for Principals from 4th September.
* All rehearsals at the Arc Theatre unless otherwise stated

.

**Challenges**

* The show is technically difficult to do well
* We have a big set, 4 puppets and not a lot of technical time to get this right.
* Keeping it going with some pace, particularly the dialogue

Matt Heaton, Lou Knight, Claire Borovac. 08/06/19 V2

**Characters and Audition Material**

**Female Parts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Character** | **Playing Age** | **Dialogue Lines** | **Vocal Lines** | **Vocal Range** | **Dialogue Audition** | **Vocal / Dance Audition** |
| Audrey | The bleached-blond secret love of Seymour. If you took Judy Holiday, Carl Channing, Marilyn Monroe and Goldie Hawn, removed their education and feelings of self-worth, dressed them in spiked heels and a low-cut black dress, and then shook them up a test tube to extract what's sweet - that's be Audrey. Naive. | Mid 20's | 162 | 163 | G#3 - A5 | p67-68 with Seymour | p69-71 Suddenly Seymour |
| Crystal,Ronette,Chiffon | Three female street urchins who function as participants in the action and a Greek Chorus outside it. They're young, hip, smart, and the only people in the whole cast who really know what’s going on. In their "Greek Chorus" capacity, they occasionally sing to the audience directly. And when they do, it's often with a "secret -smile" that says "we know something you don't know" | 20s | 364436 | 195198195 | Ab3 - F5 | pr 40-41 with Dentist | p17 Skid Row, p13-14 Little Shop of Horrors |
| Other minor characters | Wino, Customer 1 & 2, Mrs Luce, Agent | Various | Various | Various | Various | pg91, Martin | p78, Bernstein |

**Male Parts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Character** | **Playing Age** | **Dialogue Lines** | **Vocal Lines** | **Vocal Range** | **Dialogue Audition** | **Vocal / Dance Audition** |
| Seymour Krelborn | Our insecure, naïve, put-upon florist's clerk hero. Above all, he's a sweet and well-meaning little man. He is not a silly prat-falling nerd. | Mid 20s | 314 | 285 | A2-G4 | p49-50, with Plant, p67-68 with Audrey, p72-73 with Mushnik | p69-71 Suddenly Seymour, p50 Git It |
| Mr Mushnik  | Seymour and Audrey's boss. A failure of an East Side florist. His accent, if he has one, is more of a middle class New York than of Eastern Europe. He seldom smiles but often sweats. | 40+ | 139 | 85 | G2-F4 | p72-73 with Seymour | p46-48 Mushnik & Son |
| Orin Scrivello | A tall, dark, handsome dentist with a black leather jacket and sadistic tendencies. An egotistical pretty-boy - all got up like a greaser but thinking like an insurance salesman and talking like a radio announcer.  | 25+ | 86 | 63 | G2-G4 | p40-41 with Chiffon, Crystal and Ronnette | p41-42 Dentist |
| Other minor characters | Voiceover, Wino, Customer 1 & 2, Chinese man, Interviewer, Bernstein, Snip, Agent, Patrick Martin | Various | Various | Various | Various | pg91, Martin | p78, Bernstein |

**Male or Female Parts**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Character** | **Playing Age** | **Dialogue Lines** | **Vocal Lines** | **Vocal Range** | **Dialogue Audition** | **Vocal / Dance Audition** |
| The Plant (Audrey 2) | An anthropomorphic cross between a venus fly-trap and an avocado. It has a huge, nasty-looking pod which gains a shark-like aspect when open and snapping at food. The creature is played by a series of four increasingly large puppets. Works 1, 3 and 4 | Any | N/A | N/A | N/A | (none) | Puppet audition |
| Voice of the Plant | Provided by an actor on an offstage microphone. It is important that this actor have clear visual access to the puppet onstage, so that he can provide accurate lip-synch. The sound is a cross-between Otis Redding, Barry White and Wolfman Jack. Think of The Voice as that of a street-smart, funky, conniving villain- Rhythm and Blues' answer to Richard the Third. | Any | 55 | 85 | G2-G4 | p49-50 with Seymour | p51-52 Git It |

**Audition Schedule – Tuesday 16th July**

* All to be Tuesday 16th July, 7.30pm to 10pm. Exact schedule will be based on interest levels. .
* It is not essential to audition ‘books down’ but not preparing and knowing the material well will hamper your performance.
* It is recommended that everyone interested in a part should audition.
* There will be the opportunity to state which parts you are interested in during both the audition rehearsal and the audition itself.

**Attendance at Rehearsals**

We appreciate that 100% attendance at rehearsals is often impossible, please can all members inform a member of the Production Team in advance if they are unable to attend a rehearsal. Leaving a message on Facebook/social media is not acceptable, please email the person taking the rehearsal directly, eg Matt – heatons@btinternet.com or Claire or Lou. We appreciate that there are often last minute issues that do crop up but an email/text to the appropriate person does not take very long.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**Musical numbers**

**Act I**

* Prologue ("Little Shop of Horrors") – Chiffon, Crystal, and Ronette
* "Skid Row (Downtown)" – Company
* "Da-Doo" – Chiffon, Crystal, and Ronette (with Seymour speaking)
* "Grow for Me" – Seymour
* "Ya Never Know" – Mushnik, Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, and Seymour
* "Somewhere That's Green" – Audrey
* "Closed for Renovation" – Seymour, Audrey, and Mushnik
* "Dentist!" – Orin, Chiffon, Crystal, and Ronette
* "Mushnik and Son" – Mushnik and Seymour
* "Sudden Changes" – Seymour
* "Feed Me (Git It)" – Audrey II and Seymour
* "Now (It's Just the Gas)" – Orin and Seymour
* Coda – Chiffon, Crystal, Ronette, and Audrey II

**Act II**

* "Call Back in the Morning" – Seymour and Audrey
* "Suddenly, Seymour" – Seymour, Audrey, Chiffon, Crystal, and Ronette
* "Suppertime" – Audrey II (with Seymour and Mushnik speaking)
* "The Meek Shall Inherit" – Company
* "Sominex/Suppertime" (reprise) – Audrey and Audrey II
* "Somewhere That's Green" (reprise) – Audrey (with Seymour speaking)
* "Finale Ultimo ("Don’t Feed The Plants)

**Synopsis**

### Act I

An offstage voice recalls a time when the human race "suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence". A trio of 1960s street urchins named Crystal, Ronette, and Chiffon set the scene ("Little Shop of Horrors") and comment on the action throughout the show. Seymour Krelborn is a poor young man, an orphan living in an urban [skid row](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Skid_row). Audrey is a pretty blonde with a fashion sense that leans towards the tacky. They lament their stations in life and the urban blight in their neighborhood ("Skid Row (Downtown)"). They are co-workers at Mushnik's Skid Row Florists, a run-down flower shop owned and operated by the cranky Mr. Mushnik. Seymour has recently obtained a mysterious plant that looks like a large [venus flytrap](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venus_flytrap). While he was browsing the wholesale flower district, a sudden eclipse of the sun occurred, and when the light returned, the weird plant had appeared ("Da-Doo"). Seymour, who is secretly in love with Audrey, names the plant Audrey II in her honor.

The plant does not thrive in its new environment and appears to be dying. Seymour questions why it should be doing poorly, since he takes such good care of it. He accidentally pricks his finger on a rose thorn, which draws blood, and Audrey II's pod opens thirstily. Seymour realizes that Audrey II requires blood to survive and allows the plant to suckle from his finger ("Grow For Me"). As Audrey II grows, it becomes an attraction and starts generating brisk business for Mushnik. As the caretaker of the plant, the timid Seymour is suddenly regarded as a hero ("Ya Never Know"), while Audrey secretly longs to leave her abusive boyfriend. Her dream is to lead an ideal suburban life with Seymour, complete with a tract home, frozen dinners, and plastic on the furniture ("Somewhere That's Green").

Meanwhile, the employees at Mushnik's are sprucing up the flower shop because of the popularity of the rapidly growing Audrey II and the revenue that it is bringing in ("Closed for Renovation"). Orin Scrivello, a [sadistic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sadistic_personality_disorder) [dentist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dentistry), is Audrey's abusive boyfriend. Modeled after the "Leader of the pack" characters of the 1950s, Orin drives a motorcycle, wears leather, and enjoys bringing other people pain ("Dentist!"). Orin encourages Seymour to take the plant and get out of Skid Row. Realizing that his store's sudden profitability is completely dependent on the plant (and therefore on Seymour), Mushnik takes advantage of Seymour's innocence by offering to adopt him and make him a full partner in the business. Having always wanted a family, Seymour accepts, even though Mushnik has always yelled at him and treated him poorly ("Mushnik and Son"). However, Seymour is having difficulty providing enough blood to keep Audrey II healthy. When Seymour stops feeding the plant, Audrey II reveals that it can speak. It demands blood and promises that, if fed, it will make sure that all of Seymour's dreams come true. Seymour initially refuses, but he then witnesses Orin abusing Audrey. The plant presents this as a justification for killing Orin. Not realizing that he is being manipulated again, Seymour gives in to his baser instincts and agrees ("Feed Me (Git It)").

He sets up a late-night appointment with Orin, intending to kill him. However, Seymour loses his nerve and decides not to commit the crime. Unfortunately for Orin, who is getting high on [nitrous oxide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nitrous_oxide), the gas device is stuck in the "on" position, and he overdoses while asking Seymour to save him. Seymour cannot bring himself to shoot Orin but lets him die of asphyxiation ("Now (It's Just The Gas)"). Seymour feeds Orin's body to the now huge Audrey II, and the plant consumes it with ravenous glee ("Act I Finale").

### Act II

The flower shop is much busier, and Seymour and Audrey have trouble keeping up with the onslaught of orders ("Call Back in the Morning"). Audrey confides to Seymour that she feels guilty about Orin's disappearance, because she secretly wished it. The two admit their feelings for one another, and Seymour promises that he will protect and care for Audrey from now on ("Suddenly, Seymour"). The two plan to leave together and start a new life, although Seymour mistakenly attributes Audrey's feelings to his newfound fame, not realizing that she loved him even before he found the plant.

Before they can go, Mushnik confronts Seymour about Orin's death. Mushnik has put two and two together: the bloody dentist's uniform, the drops of blood on the floor, and he has seen Seymour and Audrey kissing. Seymour denies killing Orin, but Mushnik wants him to give a statement to the police, who have begun investigating. Audrey II tells Seymour that he has to be rid of Mushnik or he will lose everything, including Audrey ("Suppertime"). Seymour tells Mushnik that he put the days' receipts inside Audrey II for safekeeping. Mushnik climbs inside the plant's gaping maw to search for the money, realizing the deception too late, and screams as he is devoured. Seymour now runs the flower shop, and reporters, salesmen, lawyers and agents approach him, promising him fame and fortune. Although tempted by the trappings of his success, Seymour realizes that it is only a matter of time before Audrey II will kill again and that he is morally responsible. He considers destroying the plant but believing that his fame is the only thing that is earning him Audrey's love, he is unable to do so ("The Meek Shall Inherit").

As Seymour works on his speech for a lecture tour, Audrey II again squalls for blood. Seymour threatens to kill it just as Audrey walks in asking when Mushnik will return from visiting his "sick sister". Seymour learns that Audrey would still love him without the fame and decides that Audrey II must die after the scheduled [*LIFE* magazine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LIFE_magazine) interview at the shop. Audrey is confused and frightened by Seymour's ramblings, but she runs home by his order. That night, unable to sleep and distressed by Seymour's strange behavior, Audrey goes to the flower shop to talk with him. He is not there, and Audrey II begs her to water him. Not sensing the mortal danger, she approaches to water it, and a vine wraps around her and pulls her into the plant's gaping maw ("[Sominex](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sominex%22%20%5Co%20%22Sominex)/Suppertime II"). Seymour arrives and attacks the plant in an attempt to save Audrey. He pulls her out, but Audrey is mortally wounded. Her dying wish is for Seymour to feed her to the plant after she dies so that they can always be together. She dies in his arms, and he reluctantly honors her request ("Somewhere That's Green" (reprise)). Seymour falls asleep as Audrey II grows small red flower buds.

The next day, Patrick Martin from the World Botanical Enterprises tells Seymour that his company wishes to take leaf [cuttings](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cutting_%28plant%29) of Audrey II and sell them across America. Seymour realizes the plant's evil plan: during the [solar eclipse](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_eclipse), Audrey II came from an unknown planet to conquer Earth. He tries shooting, cutting, and poisoning the plant, but it has grown too hardy to kill. Seymour, in desperation, runs into its open jaws with a [machete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Machete) planning to kill it from the inside, but he is quickly eaten. Patrick, Crystal, Ronette, and Chiffon search for Seymour. Not finding him, Patrick tells the girls to take the cuttings.

Crystal, Ronette, and Chiffon relate that, following these events, other plants appeared across America, tricking innocent people into feeding them blood in exchange for fame and fortune. Out of the fog, Audrey II, bigger than ever, appears with opened new flowers revealing the faces of Seymour, Audrey, Mushnik and Orin, who beg that, no matter how persuasive the plants may be, they must not be fed ("Finale Ultimo: Don't Feed the Plants"). Audrey II slithers towards the audience threateningly (In the original Off-Broadway production, plant tendrils fell all over the audience, as if each audience member were to be pulled into the plant, while in the Broadway production, a monstrously huge Audrey II was projected out over the fifth row and the balcony seats, as if it would eat the audience members).