

Dunstable Musical Theatre Company

LITTLE SHOP  
OF  
HORRORS



24th - 27th May 2023  
The Little Theatre, Dunstable

# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Music by  
ALAN MENKEN

Book and Lyrics by  
HOWARD ASHMAN

Director: John O'Leary-Fawcett  
Musical Director: Chris Young  
Choreographer: Katy Elliott

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS was originally  
Directed by Howard Ashman with Musical Staging  
by Edie Cowan

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

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
Music Theatre International (Europe)

All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe  
[www.mtishows.co.uk](http://www.mtishows.co.uk)



# **Dunstable Musical Theatre Company**

***Affiliated to National Operatic and Dramatic Association***

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## **A Message From Fiona Whiteside Chair DMTC**



A very warm welcome to you all! Firstly, I want to thank each and every one of you for coming out today; we really appreciate your support.

I can't quite believe it's been a year since we were last at the Little Theatre staging *Jekyll & Hyde, The Musical*. It was a popular show with our audiences, and I am delighted to say that it won best Technical Production in the NODA District Awards – a fantastic achievement from a dedicated cast and crew, and very much deserved.

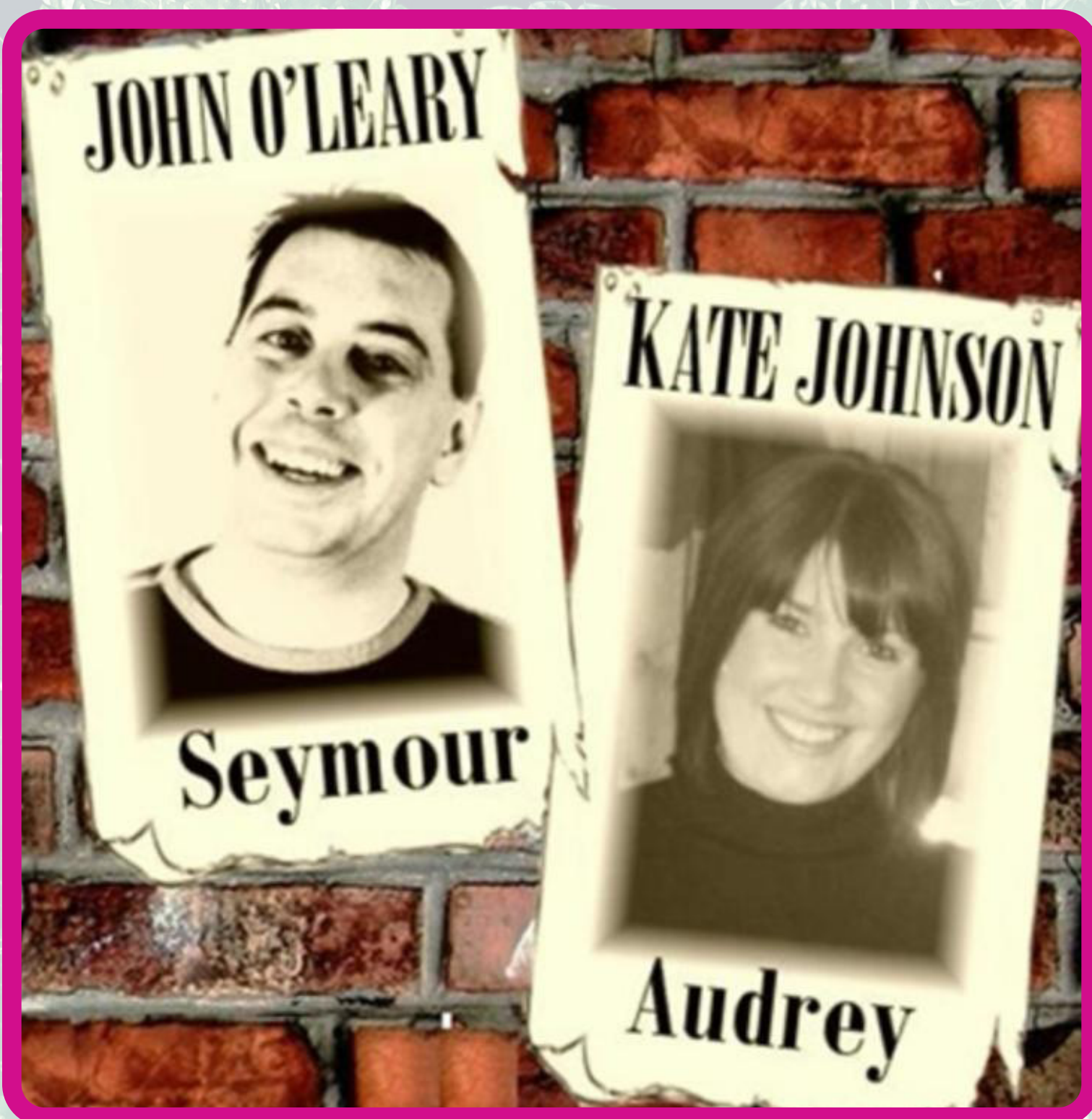
Our Christmas Spectacular that we put on across two weekends at two different venues was also very well received, and is definitely something we are planning to repeat in the future.

Now, on to *Little Shop Of Horrors*. This is a fantastic horror comedy rock musical, with music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman. The story follows a florist worker, Seymour who raises a plant that likes to feed on human flesh and blood!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our friends at Dunstable Rep for their continued support and allowing us to perform at the Little Theatre again.

So, let's head to Skid Row and find out from Chiffon, Crystal and Ronnette who's been naughty and feeding the plants!

## From our Director John O'Leary-Fawcett

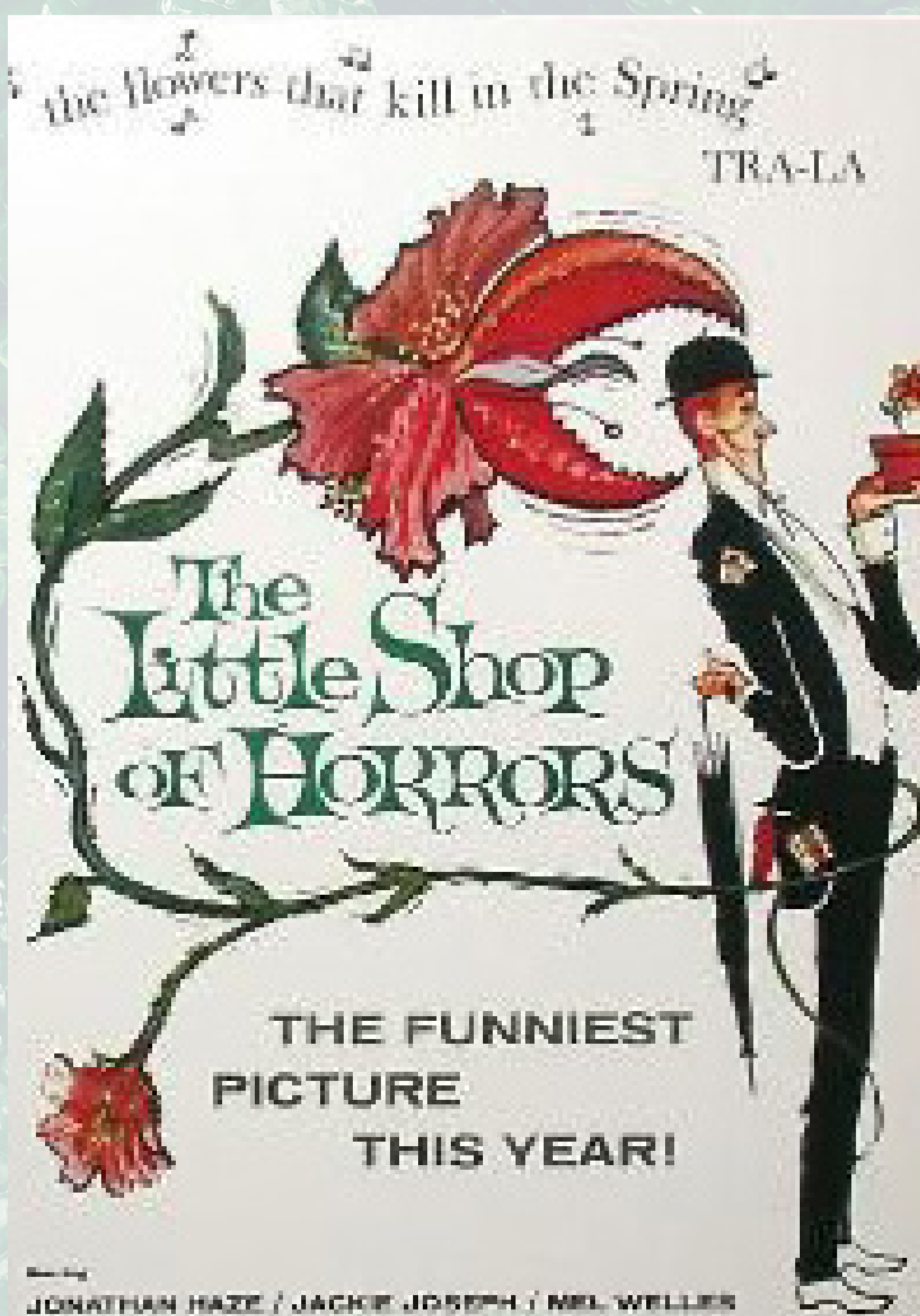


I was first introduced to Little Shop of Horrors by Amy Hansford whilst attending the University of Bedfordshire. Knowing how keen I was on musicals she told me that there was one that had Rick Moranis in, with Steve Martin as a dentist who reminds you a bit of Elvis... "and it's all about this man-eating plant who starts talking and drinking

blood and then...well you have to watch it!". Naturally I replied with trepidation..."Ok!?!"

Of course she was right - you do have to watch it, because the explanation of the show sounds crazy. Its concept is thought to have drawn inspiration from John Colliers story 'Green Thoughts' from over 90 years ago about a man-eating plant, and Arthur C. Clarke's 1956 science fiction short story "The Reluctant Orchid". From there, Audrey Junior was born and came to life in the 1960 film 'The Little Shop of Horrors', written by Charles B. Griffith and Roger Gorman (who also directed the film).

In this monochrome version, to which we pay homage in our grey opening to the show, Griffith also provided the voice of Audrey junior; a very different interpretation of the booming voice that commands us in the stage musical today. The film also gave a young Jack Nicholson his first role in a horror movie. Shot over two days (as part of a bet with the director) the film takes us on a slightly different journey, but still grounded its roots in the quirky, comedic style that made the story so popular with audiences. (cont.)



The musical by Howard Ashman and Alan Menken was loosely based on the film but gave a new energy to the story through the doo-wop, rock and roll and early Motown influences used in the musical score. It premiered off-off-broadway before moving to the Orpheum in 1982, while Cameron Macintosh brought the show to London's West End in 1983. It spawned a 1986 movie by Frank Oz which, whilst mostly remaining true to the story, omitted many numbers and also generated a 'happy' ending for Audrey and Seymour after audiences reacted poorly to...well, you'll see what happens!

Since then the musical has spawned productions all over the world, and continues to delight audiences through both professional and community productions. Our talented cast and production team share a love for this musical that we hope will be infectious through our performance. Whether we are doing this show for the first time, or reminiscing over a previous production we were part of, the energy and the enthusiasm is just as great thanks to the wonderful storyline, incredible toe-tapping songs and joy of acting with a man-eating plant on stage.

I would like to say a huge thanks to the dedicated team who have given their time and energy to making this production possible. We hope you go away humming your favourite songs, and having enjoyed a night escaping to skid-row! And remember... ***don't feed the plants!***

## About the show

A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, Little Shop Of Horrors has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (Disney's The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, and Aladdin) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, BLOOD. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination!

One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows, Little Shop Of Horrors, the charmingly tongue-in-cheek comedy has been produced worldwide to incredible success.

Dunstable Rep Theatre  
proudly present

# A bunch of AMATEUR

The HILARIOUS Comedy  
Written by Nick Newman and Ian Hislop  
Directed by John O'Leary-Fawcett

At the Little Theatre Dunstable  
7<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2023  
Box Office opens 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Book tickets online at [littletheatre.org.uk](http://littletheatre.org.uk)

THEY WISHED FOR A STAR...  
THEY WISHED THEY HADN'T!

This production is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals Ltd.  
on behalf of Samuel French Ltd. [www.concordtheatricals.co.uk](http://www.concordtheatricals.co.uk)



## Productions coming to this theatre very soon!

# THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

A play in two acts, adapted from  
the original Gaston Leroux novel

25-29 July '23

7:45 pm - The Little Theatre



# Production Team

## *John O'Leary-Fawcett*



After studying drama at college, John O' didn't tread the boards again until 2006 with the Griffin Players in Luton. It only took a few years for him to be lucky enough to be cast in the role of Seymour in the society's production of *Little Shop* at the Library Theatre in 2009.

Since then John O' has had great opportunities onstage and in more recent years as director with the Griffin Players, St Andrews Players, The Dunstable Rep and more. He is thrilled to be back working with DMTC following his appearance in their production of *Hairspray* at the Grove!

## *Chris Young - Music Director*

As well as being MD for this show Chris has also directed many shows for us including; *My Fair Lady*, *Sister Act*, both *Forbidden Broadways* and *Avenue Q*. He has also been our MD for *Grease*, *Return to the Forbidden Plant*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Legally Blonde* and *Slice of Saturday Night*. He is married to fellow DMTC member Susan and together they have two sons. Chris is a member of Dunstable Rep and is music director for Cantata, a ladies choir based in Luton which performs concerts for charities and local churches. *Little Shop of Horrors* has long been on Chris' bucket list of shows to work on and working with such a talented team has been a dream!





# Production Team

## *Katy Elliott - Choreographer*



Katy has enjoyed many a moment on stage with DMTC over the years and some her favourites have included Forbidden Broadway and Avenue Q. She also loves life off stage and can always be found stage managing or as a member of the creative production team for shows with DMTC, the Rep or with the Griffins.

Katy has loved being involved in Little Shop, especially the genuine collaboration between the whole production team.

## *Veronica Yates - Creative Director*

As a member of the society for over 40 years I have tried my hand at most things theatrically related and I love being on stage, but for this show I have loved being off stage! I have performed in approximately 75 shows and loads of concerts, I have flown in scenery, stage managed, done costumes and props and have really enjoyed my role as creative director in this fabulous show – although I still don't really know what creative director means! All I know is the rehearsals have been amazing and I know you will appreciate all the hard work that has gone into it.





Dunstable Rep Theatre presents:

# Brontë by Polly Teale

Directed by Christine Rayment

Auditions 29th June

Performances Sept 22 - 30th 2023

**Productions coming to  
this theatre very soon!**



The Griffin Players

Presents

In association with Dunstable Rep

**The  
Addams  
Family**  
A NEW MUSICAL  
COMEDY



4th - 7th October 2023

The Little Theatre, Dunstable

Tickets from £12

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"THE ADDAMS FAMILY" is presented through special arrangement with and all authorised performance materials are supplied by Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW), [www.theatricalrights.co.uk](http://www.theatricalrights.co.uk)

## *Seymour Krelbourn / James Allen*

James is incredibly excited to be taking on the role of Seymour.

He first got the Theatre bug after appearing in Thoroughly Modern Millie. His other theatre credits include Barnaby Tucker in Hello Dolly, Benny Southstreet in Guys and Dolls, Hugh in Acorn Antiques the Musical, Gremio in Kiss Me Kate, Little Jake in Annie Get Your Gun and as member of the chorus in The Sound of Music, Calamity Jane, Anything Goes, Fiddler on the Roof and Chicago.

James hopes the audiences enjoy the show but remember.....  
***DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!***

## *Audrey / Kirsty Young*

Kirsty has been away from performing in the theatre for five years and is thrilled to be back working on a DMTC show again after such a long break. She is excited to be playing the role of Audrey in one of her favourite shows.

She has previously played Frenchy (Grease), Penny (Hairspray), Sister Mary Robert (Sister Act) and was last seen with us as Sharon in a Slice of Saturday Night, here at The Little Theatre. Outside of the world of performing, Kirsty is a primary school teacher in her 10th year of teaching.



## *Mushnik / Paul Blackwell*

Paul will be making his first appearance with DMTC in this production of *Little Shop of Horrors*, coming in as a super-sub after the original Mushnik had to pull out. When considering the opportunity to play the part, Paul was aware that he knew and loved the show as he had directed the CompanyMK version in 2003. He would, however, quite like to know who has stolen the subsequent 20 years of his life?

He has now accepted, with the help of therapy and a support group, that

he is indeed the right age to play the part of a old, beaten down, flower shop owner.

## *Orin Srcivello D.D.S. & others / Joshua Thompson*

Joshua has performed in several shows with DMTC under the banner of DAOS, including *Avenue Q*, *Slice of Saturday Night* and both *Forbidden Broadway* productions at the Little Theatre, and then more recently in *Spamalot* at The Grove. He will be a familiar face to theatre goers in the local area having also performed in *Our House*, *Footloose* and *The Wedding Singer*.

Joshua is very excited to be joining DMTC again and thanks everyone involved for their support.



### **Crystal / Rachel Maloy**

Rachel is delighted to be performing at The Little Theatre for the very first time. Working as a singer, singing teacher/vocal coach and choir director for over 18 years (yikes!) she now lives in Leighton Buzzard. She is overjoyed to be performing once again with DMTC in one of her all time favourite shows, her love of which started aged fourteen when she was cast in the school show at Manshead. Rachel thanks all her friends and family who have supported her, particularly over the past year, but most especially to Toby, Ted and Heidi who have been extra encouraging, tolerant and understanding.



### **Chiffon / Clare Watson**

After performing with local theatre companies such as the Griffins and St Andrew's Players, recently starring as Prince Charming in the adult panto 'Cinder's Fella', Clare is delighted to be making her DMTC debut. Working as a Drama and Music teacher in Dunstable, Clare also enjoys singing Alto II in the 8-part harmony ensemble Peculi8 in her spare time.

She is excited to be performing as a sarcastic, contemptuous and sadistic blonde. Life, art, art, life...



### **Ronnette / Amy Hansford**

This is Amy's first outing with DMTC, having last been spotted on the Little Theatre's stage in *One Man Two Guvnors*. She's normally found in the *Dreams 'n' Wishes* pantomime in Milton Keynes as the resident idiot and MD, but is delighted to have been given the opportunity to give her vocal chords a jolly good thrashing with the role of Ronnette. She doesn't know how she'll cope come June when she's no longer being flanked by her best girls! Amy's previous musical credits include Jan in *Grease*, Cinderella's Stepmother in *Into The Woods* and Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes*.

Amy can also be seen performing improv with MKTOC, as well as testing local stoops for comfiness.



## *Audrey II / Russell Stratton*



Welcome to my baby bio. After playing a cat and tonight's appearance as a plant, Russell now only needs to play a mineral to complete the set for DMTC. Answers on a postcard with suggestions. When he isn't hanging around these wonderful actors he shines as a double threat (maximum !!) musical theatre chap and has played everything from Jekyll to Judas and Shrek to Old Deuteronomy, with a soupçon of G&S and Sondheim. He is very happy to play a part where costume

is not required and he can drink lemsip and eat biscuits - and hopes to come back to this lovely society very soon.

## *Puppeteer / Gavin Fowler*

After animating the plant in a production of Little Shop in the early 2000s, Gavin couldn't wait to do it all again. Well, it only took 20 years! He doesn't generally 'do' musicals, after an incident in which his singing voice was mistaken for the cries of a dentist's patient, but he loves the idea of having someone else do the singing for him, so here he is.

Those eagle-eyed amongst you will recognise Gavin from his previous outing with DMTC where he played the role of The Bishop of Basingstoke in our production at the Little Theatre last year of Jekyll & Hyde.



*The action takes place in and around Skid Row, a down at heel street in New York in a time gone by.*

## ***Cast - in order of appearance***

Chiffon .....	<b><i>Clare Watson</i></b>
Ronnette .....	<b><i>Amy Hansford</i></b>
Crystal .....	<b><i>Rachel Maloy</i></b>
Mushnik .....	<b><i>Paul Blackwell</i></b>
Audrey .....	<b><i>Kirsty Young</i></b>
Seymour .....	<b><i>James Allen</i></b>
Orin Scrivello & Everyone Else.....	<b><i>Joshua Thompson</i></b>
Audrey II - Voice .....	<b><i>Russell Stratton</i></b>
Audrey II - Puppeteer .....	<b><i>Gavin Fowler</i></b>

## ***Musical Numbers***

### ***Act 1***

1. Prologue - Little Shop of Horrors
2. Skid Row (Downtown)
3. Da-Doo
4. Grow For Me
5. You Never Know
6. Somewhere That's Green
7. Closed For Renovation
8. Dentist
9. Mushnik & Son
10. Sudden Changes
11. Git It
12. Now (It's Just The Gas)

### ***Act 2***

1. Call Back In The Morning
2. Suddenly Seymour
3. Suppertime
4. The Meek Shall Inherit
5. Suppertime Reprise
6. Green Reprise
7. Finale

## ***Band***

Keyboards 1 .....	<b><i>Chris Young</i></b>
Drums .....	<b><i>Tom Young</i></b>

## ***Orchestrations***

Vocal Arrangements  
by  
Robert Billig

Orchestrations  
by  
Robert Merkin

The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

# *The Creative Team*

*As ever Dunstable MTC would like to thank all our hard-working and talented backstage and production crew for their tireless work during the set-up and production which includes:*

Production Manager	Liam Whiteside
Set Designer	John O'Leary-Fawcett
Stage Manager	Sarah Wilkinson
Stage Crew	Pauline Knowles, Katherine Yates
Lighting Designer	David Houghton
Lighting Technicians	Zackary Pugh, Andrew Maxted
Sound Designers & Technicians	Graham Elliott, Aidan Brown
Programme Compilation	Chris Young
Props	Manda Isiekwe, Zoe Foster

We would also like to extend our thanks and appreciation to:

- Dunstable Rep Theatre Club who have, as ever, gone out of their way to make this production as smooth as possible
- Everyone at the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, especially Katharine Brown & Simon Patterson
- NODA, which is the main representative body for amateur theatre in the UK
- All those people who have given generously of their time to help out front of house





**Coming to The  
Grove Theatre  
October 20 - 21  
2023**