

Hull Truck Theatre presents



Little Shop of Horrors

A Co-Production with New Wolsey Theatre, Theatre by the Lake and Octagon Theatre Bolton | Directed by Lotte Wakeham

Show Experience Guide

This show experience guide is designed for anyone who may want to familiarise themselves with the show, Little Shop of Horrors, before their visit.

The guide includes a visual story, images of the cast and information about light/sound effects and show content.

We also have a venue experience guide which includes photos and information about the theatre itself and what to expect when you arrive and during your visit.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW OUR VENUE EXPERIENCE GUIDE.](#)

Show Running Time: Approx. 2 hours 5 mins (including a break)

Act I - 60 mins | Break - 20 mins | Act II - 45 mins

Recommended Age: 11+ (includes some swearing, see content guide section for information on themes / content)

Guide Content

- Little Shop of Horrors at Hull Truck Theatre Social Story
- About the show
- The stage and set
- Cast
- Key characters
- The story
- Light/sound effects & content guide
- Relaxed performances and pre-show visit
- Sensory items

Little Shop of Horrors Social Story

Many people enjoy seeing stories told by actors at the theatre. This is often called a production. The production of Little Shop of Horrors is a kind of production called a musical. The actors will tell a story by talking, singing and dancing.

Little Shop of Horrors is a story about an alien plant. This plant is shown on stage as a puppet. At first the puppet is small, but when the plant grows there is a large puppet with a person inside. This person is an actor. It will sound like the puppet is talking but this is the voice of another actor, over the speakers. There are other actors in the performance. They are all pretending to be different characters, and pretend that the puppet is a real plant.

To make the production more interesting the stage production team use items called props. These are sometimes unusual to have indoors and are sometimes in unusual places. It might be dustbins, a dentist chair, tables, chairs or plants. They are there to help create an interesting stage set.

The music for the show is played live onstage by the actors, who are also musicians. You can see their instruments including guitars and a keyboard on the stage. There is a platform above the stage where you may see more musicians.

The actors often enter and exit through pretend doors on the stage. These lead to the back of the stage where actors can get changed. The stage and these areas are only for the actors use.

Special effects are also used to create an interesting production. These may be smoke, occasional loud noises and changing lights. Many people enjoy these effects. Some people like to bring their ear defenders, sunglasses and a favourite smell sprayed on a tissue, to help them manage these moments and enjoy the production more.

The production team like to sometimes include jokes, words or phrases that are not true or may seem unkind to one of the other actors. This is to create fun and is not real. The actors are pretending.

The people watching the production are called the audience. Because a theatre production is live storytelling, the audience may occasionally join in a little. This may be clapping along. The actors will let the audience know when they would like this to happen.

Many people enjoy the production of Little Shop of Horrors. We hope you do too!

About the Show

Seymour works in a florist where business isn't doing well. When he finds an alien plant called Audrey II the shop begins to do much better.

Seymour is in love with another shop assistant named Audrey, who is in a violent relationship with a dentist named Orin. As the plant grows, Seymour and Audrey get closer.

In return for success Audrey II wants to eat humans. Seymour begins to feed the plant, starting with his own blood, and eventually the bodies of people he knows.

Little Shop of Horrors is a musical. It is funny, and sometimes a little scary, and the actors will sometimes sing instead of talking.

The Stage and Set

When you enter the theatre, you will see the stage and set.

The actors will come out on to the stage to perform.

The back of the stage looks like a building on a city street, with a brick wall and metal grates over a door.

In front of this, there is a raised platform with a wall at the back with two doors and a window. This looks like the inside of a plant shop - there is a desk with a till, and some plants around the platform. To the left of the stage large letters are lit up reading FLORIST.

On the right side of the stage there are instruments including a keyboard and guitars, and a metal staircase, leading up to a platform above the stage where there are more musicians.

Around the stage there are metal dustbins and rubbish.



The Cast



This is Matthew Ganley who plays Orin



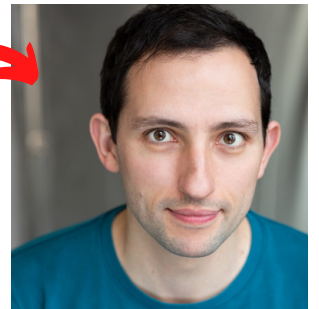
This is Matthew Heywood who is the Audrey II puppeteer and Derelict



This is Laura Jane Matthewson who plays Audrey



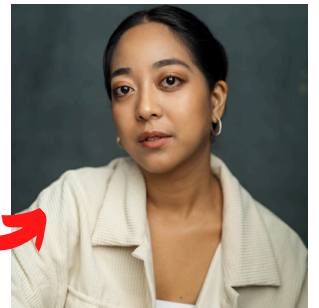
This is Oliver Mawdsley who plays Seymour



This is Zweyla Mitchell Dos Santos who plays Crystal



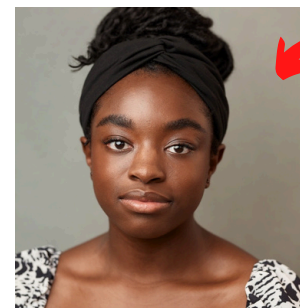
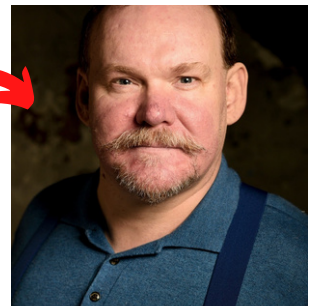
This is Janna May who plays Chiffon



This is Anton Stephans who plays Audrey II



This is Andrew Whitehead who plays Mr Mushnik



This is Chardai Shaw who plays Ronnette



Key Characters

Here are the main characters in the play.

Audrey

A beautiful woman who works at Mushnik's Skid Row Florists. She dreams of a simple life with a nice man like Seymour but is stuck with a man like Orin.



Audrey II

An alien plant from outer space with a strong appetite and a fussy stomach. It only likes to eat people.



Chiffon

A street urchin who always seems to know what is going on. She is always with her friends Crystal and Ronnette.



Crystal

A street urchin who always seems to know what is going on. She is always with her friends Chiffon and Ronnette.



Orin

A bad tempered dentist and Audrey's boyfriend. He wears a leather jacket and likes to ride his motorcycle.



Mr Mushnik

The owner of Mushnik's Skid Row Florists, and old and failing business that only started to see life after Audrey II appeared. He emplys Audrey and Seymour.



Ronnette

A street urchin who somehow always knows what is going on. She is always with her friends Chiffon and Crystal.



Seymour

A meek and clumsy flower shop assistance with a heart of gold, He dreams of a happy life with his crush, Audrey.



Some of the actors also play instruments.

The Story

At Mushnik's Florists on Skid Row in New York, clumsy shop assistant Seymour has a crush on Audrey, another shop assistant, who comes in to work with a bruised eye.

The owner, Mr Mushnik, threatens to close down the Florists because the business is not doing well.



Seymour finds a mysterious plant. He names the plant Audrey II, puts it in the shop window and business picks up.

Audrey II is not a healthy plant. Seymour sings 'Grow for Me' whilst trying to help. He pricks his finger on a rose and feeds Audrey II a few drops of blood.



The street urchins confront Audrey about her boyfriend, Orin. Audrey doesn't think she deserves a nice person like Seymour and sings 'Somewhere That's Green.'

As Audrey II grows, the shop continues to become more successful, and Audrey and Seymour grow closer.



Audrey's boyfriend, Orin, arrives on his motorcycle looking for Audrey. He sings about his cruel nature in 'Dentist'.

Orin tells Seymour he should take Audrey II elsewhere to make more money. Mr Mushnik overhears and is worried that Seymour will leave his job.



Mr Mushnik asks Seymour to be his son, so that he won't leave the Florist. Seymour accepts.

Audrey II speaks and demands Seymour feed it more blood, singing 'Feed Me (Git It)', offering Seymour fame and success in return.

Seymour is unsure, but after hearing Orin abusing Audrey, he agrees.



Seymour meets Orin in his dentist office, with a gun. Orin disarms Seymour, but gets his nitrous oxide mask stuck on his face and dies.

Seymour takes the body back to Skid Row to feed to Audrey II.

Orin's death is labelled a disappearance.

Seymour confesses his love for Audrey in the song 'Suddenly Seymour', and they kiss.

Audrey II sings 'Suppertime', promising Seymour a future with Audrey if he feeds Mr Mushnik to it. Seymour tricks Mr Mushnik into looking in the plants mouth, and Audrey II eats him.



Seymour takes charge of the store, and it's a great success, but he feels guilty. He plans to get rid of the plant.

Audrey II lures Audrey to the shop, hoping to eat her. Seymour stops the plant at the last minute, but Audrey is badly injured.

Seymour confesses everything to Audrey, who asks to be fed to the plant when she dies to keep him successful.

She dies, and Seymour feeds her body to Audrey II.



A man approaches Seymour about selling clippings of Audrey II across the country.

Seymour attacks the plant, and ends up being eaten.

The street urchin help to take clippings from the plant, and sing the finale 'Don't Feed the Plants.'

At the end of the show all of the actors come back on stage to perform a final song, 'Mean Green Mother from Outer Space'.

Lighting, Sound Effects and Other Content

There is water-based haze used throughout the show - this might look like smoke, but it is safe.

The lights are bright and colourful - sometimes the lighting will change suddenly, or parts of the stage will be completely black.

There are lots of songs and loud music throughout.

Throughout the show there are references to violence, domestic violence, blood, death, and drug use. Key moments have been included in the table below.

There is a large puppet of a plant, Audrey II, that is as big as a person and grows bigger. It sits in the middle of the plant shop from approx. 30 mins into Act I and is there until the end of the play. It grows bigger throughout and is about 8 foot tall at the end.

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Approx Timing</u>
Drug use: Orin inhales laughing gas.	While talking to the girls. Approx. 34 mins into Act I
Dentistry / violence: Orin sings about being a dentist, and how he enjoys being violent and inflicting pain.	After Orin talks to the girls about picking up Audrey for a date - throughout the song 'Dentist'. Approx. 34 to 37 mins into Act I
Domestic violence: Orin slaps Audrey.	After Audrey leaves the shop to meet Orin. Approx. 50mins into Act I
Violence / weapons: Seymour points a gun at Orin (no sound)	When Seymour enters Orin's surgery. Approx. 51 mins into Act I
Dentistry / violence: Orin talks about cavities, and threatens to drill into Seymour's mouth with a rusty drill.	Throughout the scene with Seymour at Orin's dental surgery. Approx. 51 to 53 mins into Act I

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Approx Timing</u>
<p>Violence: Seymour picks up the a gun again, then places it back down (no sound)</p>	<p>When Orin leaves, at the start of the song 'Now (It's Just The Gas)'. Approx. 53 mins into Act I</p>
<p>Drug use: Orin uses laughing gas - wearing a special mask.</p>	<p>After Seymour puts the gun down. Beginning at approx. 54 mins into Act I</p>
<p>Death: Orin is stuck in his gas mask and slowly suffocates to death. After lying down seemingly dead he jumps up to sing a few last lines.</p>	<p>Beginning approx. 55 mins into Act I During the song 'Now (It's Just The Gas)', slowly, after Orin bursts out laughing. He dies at approx. 57 mins into Act I.</p>
<p>Fake body parts: Seymour feeds fake body parts, including arms and guts to Audrey II (no fake blood).</p>	<p>After Orin's death, in the plant shop. Approx. 57-58 mins into Act I</p>
<p>Lighting: Blackout - the whole stage goes completely dark for a few seconds.</p>	<p>At the end of Act I - after Seymour throws Orin's coat in the bin. Approx. 58 mins into Act I</p>
<p>Death: Mr Mushnik is eaten by Audrey II.</p>	<p>After the song 'Suppertime', when Seymour tells Mr Mushnik to 'knock' on the plant. Approx. 18 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Lighting & sound: The stage goes completely dark, there are flashing lights and a thunder sound effect.</p>	<p>After the song 'The Meek Shall Inherit', when the spotlight on Seymour fades out. Starts approx. 20 mins into Act II Lasts approx. 20 secs.</p>
<p>Violence: Audrey is attacked by Audrey II, who attempts to eat her.</p>	<p>After the song 'Sominex / Suppertime (Reprise)', Audrey goes to water Audrey II. Approx. 32 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Death / fake blood: Audrey dies. Seymour feeds Audrey's body to Audrey II. The plant spits out red fabric to look like blood.</p>	<p>During the song 'Somewhere That's Green (Reprise)', after Audrey finishes singing. Approx. 35 to 36 mins into Act II</p>

<u>Effect</u>	<u>Approx Timing</u>
<p>Violence / weapons / sound effect: Seymour gets out the gun, shooting Audrey II six times (six gun shot sound effects).</p>	<p>After music starts playing, when Seymour says Audrey II “ate the only thing I ever loved”. Approx. 37 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Violence / weapons / death: Seymour gets out a large knife and attacks Audrey II. The plant bites Seymour’s arm and then eats him.</p>	<p>As the music builds, when Seymour says “I’ll hack you to bits”. Approx. 38 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Lighting: The bright lights pulse and flash.</p>	<p>Throughout the song ‘Don’t Feed The Plants’. Approx. 39 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Lighting: Blackout - the whole stage goes completely dark for a few seconds.</p>	<p>At the end of the song ‘Don’t feed the plants’. Approx. 40 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Lighting: The bright lights pulse and flash.</p>	<p>Throughout the song ‘Mean Green Mother From Outer Space’. Approx. 41 mins into Act II</p>
<p>Lighting: Bright lights shine out into the audience.</p>	<p>At the end of the song ‘Mean Green Mother From Outer Space’. Approx. 43 mins into Act II</p>

Relaxed Performances

There is a relaxed performance of Little Shop of Horrors on Wednesday 5 June, 2pm.

During the relaxed performance the lights inside the theatre will be a bit brighter than usual and we don't mind if you need to get up, move around a little bit or leave the theatre for a break.

If you need a bit more room, around your seats, please let us know and we will do our best to to arrange that for you.

There will be a quiet space on the First Floor should you need it.

There will be a resource table on the Ground Floor before each relaxed performance and a pre-show introduction at the advertised show start time. This will allow customers to familiarise themselves with the actors, characters and some of the effects within the show.

If you would like to arrange a pre-show visit to the theatre, to familiarise yourself with the space, please contact paul.bennett@hulltruck.co.uk or call 01482 488208.

Sensory Items

We have a small number of ear defenders available to loan (suitable for baby, toddler and adult) which can be useful for patrons with auditory sensitivities.

We also have a small number of wobble cushions and weighted lap blankets available for loan, along with a range of sensory toys.

Please feel free to bring with you any items that usually assist in coping with busy or noisy environments.

We hope that you enjoy the show and your visit to Hull Truck Theatre.