



News Release

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The Sheboygan Theatre Company announces that open auditions for the first production of their 2011/2012 Season. The main audition for the musical comedy, *Little Shop of Horrors*, will take place on Monday, August 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Little Shop of Horrors was written by Howard Ashman with music by Alan Menken, who is responsible for the well known scores for *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*. The show is about a down on his luck guy who finds a mysterious plant. It brings him fame, fortune and even the girl, but at a price. The plant will only feed on blood. Who would have thought that a musical based off of the 1960 Roger Corman B-movie would become one of the longest running Off-Broadway shows ever.

Jason Summers returns as the Artistic Director and Choreographer for this production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Summers, is a graduate of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts and directed last year's production of *Nunsense*. Coming off his summer productions with Victorian Village in Elkhart Lake, Musical Director for the show will be Paul Sucherman.

Roles are available for both men and women. The male lead is Seymour, who finds the plant. He is a naive, well-meaning, unsuspecting hero. His paramour is Audrey. Audrey is not very bright but is incredibly sweet and vulnerable.

Other male roles are for Orin, Mr. Mushnik and the voice of Audrey II, the plant. Orin, is a tall, dark and handsome dentist, with sadistic tendencies, who will also play a variety of other small comic roles. Mr. Mushnik is the owner of plant store where Seymour works. He is a demanding boss that seldom smiles but often sweats. Finally, Audrey II is the name Seymour gives the ever growing plant. This role is only voice work but requires a great actor and vocalist. They will need to have a strong bass voice, with a larger than life and commanding personality. They must be able to authentically belt gospel, soul, and funk.

Other female roles, include, Crystal, Ronnette, and Chiffon. These female performers will need to be a triple threat, singing, dancing and acting. The trio often acts as narrators and storytellers. They are sophisticated, street-smart and cunning.

There is also a need for a small ensemble, both male and female. The ensemble is in the big production numbers and may play small roles throughout the production. Finally there is a need for a non-speaking puppeteer to work with the small and large Audrey II plants. No training is needed but there will be physical requirements required.

Open auditions will take place on Monday August 22 at the Leslie W. Johnson Theatre at Horace Mann Middle School, 2820 Union Avenue, Sheboygan, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Those auditioning should prepare a one minute song in the style of the show. Please bring sheet music in the correct key. If people want to be considered for Crystal, Ronnette or Chiffon they should be prepared to dance. At the initial audition, performers may be asked to read from the script. Though the selection process does imply some competition, it is made as pleasant as possible. Direction is given along the way and people need not fear that they will in any way be embarrassed. If needed, callback auditions will be held August 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Scripts and chorus books are available for a forty-eight hour loan at the Theatre Company's office in the Community Recreation Department. *Little Shop of Horrors* will run from September 30 to October 8, 2011, with rehearsals beginning Wednesday, August 24. The rehearsals will be Monday through Friday, 6:30 to 10:00 p.m.

For further information contact Michelle Bestul at 459-3779.