



# News Release

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The Sheboygan Theatre Company announces the cast and crew for “Little Shop of Horrors,” the organization’s opening production of their Seventy-Eighth Season, which is sponsored by The Stefanie H. Weill Charitable Fund and Acuity for the Arts.

“Little Shop of Horrors” started off as a Roger Corman, ‘B’-movie with the screenplay written by Charles Griffith. The original 1960 movie, not a musical, was made extremely fast and its biggest credit is a young, then unknown, Jack Nicholson in a small bit role. Eventually it would be adapted into the musical version it is today. Books and lyrics were written by Howard Ashman, while the music was done by Alan Menken, who is responsible for “Beauty and the Beast” and “Aladdin.”

The cast is lead by a newcomer to the Sheboygan Theatre Company stage, **Larry Marcus**, an Associate Director of IT Operations at Lakeland College. He plays Seymour, the naive, well-meaning unsuspecting hero of the show. He is in love with the sweet, vulnerable but not very bright Audrey, portrayed by **Laurie Dillman**, last seen as Adelaide in “Guys and Dolls.”

Seymour must contend with Audrey’s current boyfriend, the not so nice, rather sadistic dentist, Orin. Orin is played by **Zachary J. Pledl**, who was also seen alongside Dillman in “Guys and Dolls.” Pledl also gets to portray some smaller roles throughout the show.

Mr. Mushnik, Seymour’s critical and demanding boss, is played by **Glenn Schultz**. Schultz was last seen in “Escanaba in da Moonlight.” Mushnik owns a struggling plant shop which is why, when Seymour discovers a unique plant and names it Audrey II, Mushnik gets some well needed publicity.

Audrey II, while a plant, is a character too. While offstage, the voice of Audrey II will be of **Ty Wesley**. Wesley has done the role previously with UW-Sheboygan. The plant, onstage, is portrayed by a number of puppets, small, medium and large, which will be controlled by **Mike Roehl**.

The show also has a trio of street urchins who often act as narrators, commentators and characters in the story. Ronette, Crystal, and Chiffon, are played by **Katy Ries** (“Nonsense”), **Sarah Klauck** (“Guys and Dolls”), and **Marielle Schuchardt** (UW-Manitowoc’s “Rent”).

Rounding out the cast is a small but important ensemble. The ensemble includes **Kyle Schwanke** (“Guys and Dolls”), **Danielle Rammer** (“Guys and Dolls”), **Connor Giles** (“Brigadoon”), and a Sheboygan Theatre Company newcomer, **Anna Kuether** (seen in Manitowoc Masquer’s, “Chicago”).

Staged, directed and choreographed by Artistic Director from New York, **Jason Summers**, “Little Shop of Horrors” features musical direction by **Paul Sucherman**. Leading the cast as the stage manager is **Shari Roehl**, who is also the Company Stage Manager. Assistant stage manager is **Stephanie M. Gibson**. The Theatre Company’s resident Production Manager/Designer, **Dustin L. Uhl**, has created the set. Puppet designer is **John Schommer**. Newcomer, **Loren**

**Watson** has taken the position of Technical Supervisor-Sound and sound designer for this production. Resident Technical Supervisor, **Lisa Stewart**, has been supervising all the volunteers behind the scenes. **Blake Henderson** is the lighting designer for the show and will also be the sound board operator. Master electrician for the production is **Austin Weber**. **Ben Gartmann** is heading up the costumes for the production, while make-up designer for the show is **Cathy Perronne**. **Nan Gibson** and **Mandy Radloff** are handling the properties for the production and **Melissa O'Connell** is the paint master.

The production will take place at the Leslie W. Johnson Theatre, 2820 Union Avenue, Sheboygan. "Little Shop of Horrors" will open Friday, September 30, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. Subsequent performances at 7:30 p.m. will be October 1 and 5 thru 8. There is also a 2:00 p.m. matinee on Sunday, October 2. The production will be presented at the Leslie W. Johnson Theatre, 2820 Union Avenue, Sheboygan. Wilson Mutual Insurance Company sponsors the production on "Little Shop of Horrors." It is produced by special arrangement with Music Theatre International., New York, NY.

Admission, before tax, is \$20.00 for adults, \$16.00 for seniors sixty and over and \$10.00 for children to college students. Tickets are available for purchase online at [www.sheboygantheatercompany.com](http://www.sheboygantheatercompany.com), at the Theatre Company office in the Community Recreation Department, 607 S. Water Street, or at the theatre box office 45 minutes before curtain of each performance. To learn more visit the website or call 920/459-3779.