

'Little Shop of Horrors' a success

by Will Byers
Arts & Life Editor

Little Shop of Horrors impressed multiple audiences this weekend in Morrison Playhouse of the Porter Center. Brevard's Theatre Studies and Music Departments combined efforts to create an energetic and hilarious rendition of the 1986 musical film adaptation Little Shop of Horrors.

The well-timed Hallowe'en weekend debut had its roots in past stage and film incarnations of this story of a hapless florist's assistant, the woman he loves, and the freak plant that propels his tragicomic downfall. At its heart, this story contains love, carnage, farce, and a good helping of adventures in experimental botany. The accompanying musicians held it down with deft subtlety, and the doo-wop girls deserve special recognition for their ever-present moxy.

As technically remarkable as it was well-acted, Brevard College's production captured the witty essence of the musical story outlining Seymour Krelborn's,

a poignant and funny Dave Bergman, acquisition of an otherworldly plant, and his subsequent rise to fame and fortune.

Showcasing it in Mushnik's Flower Shop on Skid Row, he dubs his plant Audrey II in honor of his hidden love for co-worker Audrey, played by the outstanding Whitney Gruber, whose voice

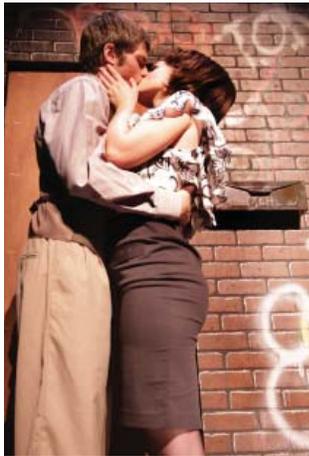


photo courtesy M. Newton

remained impeccable through the very last performance. Her abusive boyfriend, the maniacally sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello, was played by Kyle Jackola, who channeled the wicked glee that Steve Martin once brought to the role. No small task, and to boot, Jackola played a few other characters that ranged from a wino to a flirtatious married woman. Add "Cougar" to your resumé, sir.

Will Hartzog, or shall I say his alter ego, Audrey II, was a revelation of soulful, gritty insatiability. It felt like Tom Waits was in the house and the mood was, in a word, salacious. At first

the plant (puppeteer Katherine Parnell was in the zone) thrives on Seymour's drops of blood, but as it grows it develops a more specific appetite. The plant encourages Seymour to bring it the carcass of the twisted, chauvinistic Orin, and he reluctantly obliges because the poor, hapless chap is tortured by Audrey's



photo courtesy M. Newton

plight. What a guy.

As the plot develops, it becomes unclear if things will end well for Seymour, who gets the girl but is racked by the guilt of nurturing a bloodthirsty plant. He resolves to destroy Audrey II after he is forced to feed to it Mr. Mushnik, his boss, in order to cover up the death of Orin. Mushnik was portrayed by Alex Tompkins, previously seen as Picasso in last year's excellent production of Picasso at the Lapin Agile.

I must not spoil the end, for if you were present you have already witnessed the culmination, and if you weren't then rent the movie and make sure you show up to future productions. Two dollars y'all!? I know you've got that much change lying around somewhere. Show some love for your classmates and we'll keep seeing Brevard Theatre outdo itself more and more with vibrant, brilliant shows like this one.

GRE Prep Workshop

Saturday, November 14

10:00-11:30 am in MG 136

Join Dr. Mel Bringle, Dr. Charles Wallis and Tommasanne Davis to learn how to prepare for graduate school entrance exams.

Send email to davist@brevard.edu to register by Thursday, Nov. 12.

This is also an opportunity to earn ACES and CHAMPS points!

