

# Off-Broadway production of 'Shop of Horrors' bizarre, full of fun

Leafy green man-eating plants are invading the world. They start off small, in little out-of-the-way florist shops like the one just down the street. But they have the annoying habit of growing to unbelievable sizes and then demanding — loudly and persistently — to be fed. And their goal is world conquest. Our only hope rests in the hands of one man. But here's the bad news. That man is none other than (no, not George Bush) Seymour

## Cara Bonnett Theater

Krelbourne, a nerdy florist's assistant from Skid Row. Such is the premise of "Little Shop of Horrors," the award-winning musical performed Wednesday night in Memorial Hall by the New York-based touring company of Daedalus Productions.

"Little Shop," which opened off-Broadway in 1982, tells Krelbourne's story as he discovers and later becomes nursemaid to a "strange and interesting plant" from outer space. Combining the bizarre humor of Robert Corman's 1960 B-movie with the bouffant hairdos and catchy tunes of the be-bopping '60s, Wednesday night's production was an entertaining and ultraprofessional version of the show.

The tone of the evening was set with the first entrance of Chiffon, Crystal and Ronnette, the Supremes-esque trio who conveniently reappeared throughout the show as a contemporary answer to the Chorus of Greek tragedy. Leslie Denise Alston, Bridget Fogle and Shirell Ferguson were delightful as these ever-present Skid Row ragamuffins, offering hilariously telling comments on the show's action. And not only did they make you laugh, but man, could these girls belt.

Also highlighting the cast were Todd Sherry as Seymour and Mary O'Neill as Audrey, Audrey II's namesake and the light of Seymour's life. Sherry, with his thick glasses and untucked shirt, made a humorously weak-willed and covering hero,

whose aspirations to get out of Skid Row seem to be finally attainable when he makes a somewhat Faustian deal with an oversized vegetable. Especially notable was his duet/tango "Mushnik and Son" with Steve Saydah, who played Mr. Mushnik, the desperate owner of the flower shop where Seymour works.

O'Neill turned in a wonderful performance as Seymour's damsel in distress. In her only solo number, "Somewhere That's Green," O'Neill painted a funny but poignant picture of Audrey as a blonde bombshell who, underneath her spiked heels and breathy falsetto, secretly dreams of matchbox houses in the suburbs.

But the true stars of the show were Michael Leon Wooley and puppeteer Kevin Kiley, the men behind Audrey II. Kiley's impressive stage animation of Audrey II and Wooley's voice, with his soulful "Feed me, Seymour!" succeeded in making an otherwise malevolent and villainous plant halfway endearing. In addition, the show featured several great numbers, including "Skid Row (Downtown)" in the first act and "Suddenly Seymour," the romantic climax of the second act. The only disappointment of the show was the finale. After Audrey II had eaten every character of any significance, the final musical number, "Don't Feed the Plants," featuring only the now-alarmingly humongous plant in the middle of the stage, was weak and unsatisfying. Even the smoke and the psychedelic lighting couldn't make up for the fact that what should have been a bang-up ending to an otherwise terrific production simply wasn't.

# Lab Theatre play 'Candida' to open

By ANDREW LAWLER  
Staff Writer

The Lab takes a stab at Shaw this weekend with their fifth production of the year: "Candida" (that's pronounced Canada with an extra "d," not to be confused with "Candide" by Voltaire.)

"Candida" is set in a prominent Anglican minister's home in 1894 London. The Reverend Morrell and his wife, Candida, seem content until a flamboyant poet invades their home, causing consternation and chaos, all revolving around Candida.

Ruth Fletcher, a senior from Valdese, chose to direct this play because of her love of the theatrical style that she says Bernard Shaw embodies. "I really enjoy Ibsen and Chekov, and Shaw continued that style — he really was the 'Quintessence of Ibsenism' — referring to Shaw's famous essay on Ibsen.

"The language is dated in a sense because it is difficult and wordy. He did write of his age — then people understood him beautifully," said Fletcher. However, in spite of the dated and geographical references Fletcher said the issues raised, feminism and the inapproachability of the Church are still pertinent.

Jennifer Stratman, a junior from Indonesia, plays Candida. She spoke of the complexity of the character: "Candida is so faceted, she's a mass of contradictions — flirt, mother, 'Virgin Mary' and yet she is somewhat wicked and self-centered."

She says students will enjoy the play. "If they get over it's being Shaw, I think they can easily relate to it and enjoy the wit and language."

Kelly Johnston, a junior from Durham who plays Candida's husband, agreed. "It's a pleasant play, as Shaw said. And it does address serious issues." The play led to a lot of political discussions according to junior Rhetta Whaley, who plays the reverend's secretary. She added that feminist issues are inherent in the play — that women are not just mothers or wives but complete and multifaceted people.

Candida will be performed at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Sunday and Monday and at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. The Lab is located in the basement of Graham Memorial. Reservations are strongly encouraged and are available in Graham Memorial and the Union.

# BSM choir to perform gospel selections

From staff reports

There is at least one occasion when it won't be sacrilegious for a Tar Heel to sport royal blue: this Sunday at the Black Student Movement Gospel Choir's 18th Annual Fall Concert. More than 80 talented, enthusiastic singers will spread some of that Tar Heel spirit, even while clad in royal blue.

The performance include "The Power That Makes Us Sing," a song from the choir's 1982 album, "I'm Excited; Put Your Trust in Jesus;" "Oh Magnify the Lord with Me;" and "Old Time Way." There will be 16 songs altogether, an increase over the 10 done last year.

This year's choir boasts almost double the members it had last year, due to the enthusiastic freshman turnout at auditions. This fall over 50 people were inducted into the choir. Says Emily Watkins, BSM Gospel Choir Secretary, "The freshman keep the rest of us pumped up; they add a lot of spirit to the choir." In 17 years as a club meant to

perpetuate black cultural heritage through gospel, the group has acquired a laudable history, filled with awards, television appearances and performance trips to numerous North Carolina cities, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Atlanta.

The BSM Gospel Choir will perform in the Great Hall of the Student Union at 3 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free.

## Campus Calendar

The DTH Campus Calendar is a daily listing of University-related activities sponsored by academic departments, student services and student organizations officially recognized by the Division of Student Affairs. To appear in Campus Calendar, announcements must be submitted on the Campus Calendar form by NOON one business day before the announcement is to run. Forms and a drop box are located outside the DTH office, 104 Union. Items of interest lists ongoing events from the same campus organizations and follows the same deadline schedule as Campus Calendar. Please use the same form.

**Association of International Students** will meet in 208-209 Union. The discussion will be about Zimbabwe. Everyone is welcome.

**UNC Clef Hangers** will have their fall concert in Memorial Hall. Tickets are \$3 in the Pit, Union box office, and at the door.

**Senior Week** will join the Clef Hangers in concert in Memorial Hall. Come join the fun.

**Union Cabaret** will present the David Rose Band. This MTV artist performs Winwood and Gabriel covers. Free.

**Union Cabaret** will have talent night. Free.

**Sunday**

**1:30 p.m. Alpha Phi Omega** will have registration for Big Buddy/Lit Buddy Field Day. Games start at 2 p.m. Refreshments and prizes are provided. All Big Buddies and Lit Buddies are invited.

**5 p.m. WXVC** will air 30/30, a sports call-in talk show. This week's guest is Steve Hale, former UNC basketball star.

**6 p.m. WXVC** will have Northern Hemispheres Live, a call-in talk show. The format will be open; talk to hosts Tom and John about anything.

**8 p.m. Student Environ-**

**mental Action Coalition** will meet to hear Human Rights Week speaker Charles Hall on "American Culture and the Destruction of the Tropics," in Gerrard Hall. An informal discussion will follow in Campus Y Lounge.

### Items of Interest

**Human Relations Committee** is sponsoring "Abortion Forum: Defining Your Views" on Tuesday, Nov. 15, at 5 p.m. in 212 Union. The program includes a presentation from panelists focusing on the legal, religious, medical and personal aspects of the topic. **Graduate and Professional Student Federation** has information on obtaining in-state tuition status on the bulletin board outside Suite D, Union.

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**Dennis Quaid/Jessica Lange**  
**Everybody's All American**  
Nightly 7:00 • 9:30

**Kelly McGillis/Jodie Foster**  
**THE ACCUSED** (R)  
Nightly 7:00 • 9:20

**Ernest Saves Christmas** (PG)  
Nightly 7:15 • 9:15

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- NEWSWEEK, David Ansen

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**THE GOOD MOTHER**

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7:10 • 9:15

"...A TERRIFIC NEW COMEDY... TAKES ON A MARX BROTHERS MANIA THAT'LL HAVE YOU HOWLING. 'Without a Clue' is without a doubt, one of the most lovable comedies of the year."  
- Lisa Kartin, WABC RADIO

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