

'Little Shop' charms with music

BY MICHAEL PUCCI
STAFF WRITER

The 1986 film "Little Shop of Horrors," based on the long-running off-Broadway musical, is a genuine classic, easily the most successful adaptation of its kind since 1975's "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

The Company Carolina production of "Little Shop" on Saturday night is every bit as charming as the film.

Many are familiar with the story's premise.

A floundering floral shop in the bad part of town gets an unexpected boost when its owner and stereotypically eternal loser, Seymour (Chris Badawi), purchases a plant directly after a solar eclipse.

He dubs it Audrey II, named for the girl he works with and covets (Kelly McCrann).

THEATER REVIEW

"LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS"
COMPANY CAROLINA
SATURDAY, MARCH 22
★★★★

Audrey II, of course, is no ordinary plant — it survives by drinking blood, grows to mammoth size and aspires to take over the world.

As a stage prop, Company Carolina's version of Audrey II is an absolute riot.

The people responsible for constructing and operating this "mean, green mother from outer space" did a terrific job.

But, as in the film, the human Audrey's boyfriend is ultimately the show-stopper.

Keegan Wilson's portrayal of the egocentric dentist Orin generated the biggest and most genuine laughs of the evening.

Badawi and McCrann are also well cast in the crucial roles of Seymour and Audrey.

McCrann, in particular, perfectly conveys the vulnerable innocence her role demands, from her timid demeanor right down to the squeaky voice.

The only noticeable blemish was the occasionally muddled vocals, due either to poor acoustics or to actors not projecting their voices enough.

It became difficult to make out certain lyrics to songs, detracting somewhat from the songs' brilliance.

Unfortunately for the performers, they had to contend with the 180 festival in Polk Place.

Music from that event threatened to drown "Little Shop of Horrors" out, especially during some of the quieter, nonmusical moments.

By nature, musicals live and die by their songs, and the greatest weapon of "Little Shop" is its killer soundtrack.

Fans of such hilarious tunes as "Skid Row" and "Dentist" will be delighted by the faithful renditions here.

Also worth noting is the musical's ending.

Suffice to say, it's a decidedly different ending than you might be expecting, but it actually fits much better with the dark humor that permeates the entire story.

"Little Shop of Horrors" will have its last performance at 8 p.m. today at Playmakers Theatre.

Make an effort to catch it before it ends — musicals don't come much more enjoyable than this.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

CAA OFFICERS

Sherrell McMillan, Carolina Athletic Association president-elect, announced his officers Thursday.

There are three directorship positions within the organization. Junior Laura Kiernan will serve as director of marketing. Juniors Jeffrey Markman and

Jonathan Peele, will serve as directors of public relations and communications, respectively.

This year's CAA treasurer will be junior Chase Shockland, and the vice president will be junior Lindsay Strunk.

Those selected will take office in April.

CALENDAR

Today

11 a.m. — As part of Women's Week, the Women's Health Fair will be held in the Pit. For a full list of events, go to <http://www.unc.edu/womenscenter/events/ww2003.html>.

6 p.m. — Come to a Masala general body meeting co-sponsored by Alpha Pi Omega in Student Union 3515.

7 p.m. — The Sonja Haynes Stone Center and the Carolina Women's Center present "Unspeakable Acts Spoken" in

Union 2518.

7:30 p.m. — The Campaign to End the Cycle of Violence is hosting an anti-war planning meeting in 203 Alumni Hall.

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Grammy nominee Souza puts on jazz performance tonight

BY ALLISON ROST
STAFF WRITER

A little-known Brazilian jazz artist was nominated for a Grammy this year alongside the likes of Natalie Cole and Diana Krall, and tonight she's making her UNC debut.

Luciana Souza performs at 8 p.m. today in the Union Auditorium accompanied by guitarist Romero Lubambo.

Charles Phaneuf, Carolina

Union Activities Board president, said Souza's album *Brazilian Duos* surprised everyone in the music industry with its nomination for Best Vocal Jazz Album.

"Diana Krall won, but she was backed up by a full orchestra in Paris," he said. "It was just (Souza) and a guitarist. She could have made it in her kitchen."

While Souza's label, Sunny side, might be on the small side, her profile is quickly on the rise.

Phaneuf said that while CUAB was desperate to book Souza on campus, the extra effort will be worth it.

Souza's 2000 release, *The Poems of Elizabeth Bishop and Other Songs*, incorporated Bishop's verse into song. She also has performed in an operatic interpretation of Bach's "St. Mark's Passion" in New York. These extracurricular activities are what bolstered her appeal to CUAB, Phaneuf said.

"She's this really dynamic, important, progressive artist," he said. "She's the kind of artist we need to bring to campus because she's done important things and she's someone people need to know."

Souza's style has evolved over time from purely Brazilian bossa nova to more mainstream jazz with a Latin background.

"This most recent album has a little more mass appeal than other

things she's done," Phaneuf said.

Each track features Souza performing with one of three different guitarists, one of whom is Lubambo, her partner tonight.

Lubambo is an established musician in his own right. He belongs to a trio in New York, and he's played backup on albums for artists such as Regina Carter.

The duo's visit to campus will encompass more than just the concert. Phaneuf will interview Souza

at 4:30 p.m. today on WXYC, and she also will speak to students in the Department of Music in Hill Hall.

Souza and Lubambo perform at 8 p.m. today in the Union Auditorium. General admission is \$10, and students get in free with UNC ONE Cards. For more information, call 962-1449.

Contact the A&E Editor at artsdesk@unc.edu.

TODAY AT CAROLINA

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