

## Rep brings "Little Shop" to festival

### Dangerous vegetation thrives at Temple Theatre

By Scott Harrah  
Senior Editor

"Little Shop of Horrors," the Tony Award-winning musical that was made into a smash Hollywood film last winter, will be performed by the Nebraska Repertory Theatre during the Flatwater Festival.

Omaha radio personality Dave Wingert stars as Seymour, a milquetoast who works in a seedy urban flower shop. While trying to win the heart of buxom cashier Audrey (Krista Scott), Seymour stumbles upon a rare flytrap plant and cuts off a piece of it. He becomes amused by the plant and names it Audrey II after his dumb but sexy coworker. The plant fares poorly until Seymour cuts his finger and the botanical beauty licks its verdant chops in anticipation of a sanguine supper. "Feed me!" Audrey II whines in *basso profundo* tones. Conse-

quently, the plant flourishes while Seymour succumbs to anemia.

Mushnik (Lee Schoonover), the owner of the shop, is veering towards bankruptcy until Seymour places the blood-sucking little freak in the store window and attracts phenomenal attention, then national star status. Chaos and new-found fortune ensues as Audrey II becomes a cult icon and Musnik cashes in.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is loosely based on schlock king Roger Corman's early '60s B movie, but thanks to a chorus of bubbly black chorus girls *a la* The Supremes, Audrey's kinky relationship with her sadomasochistic dentist beaufriend and some hilarious songs lampooning suburban dreams ("I'll cook like Betty Crocker and look like Donna REEED!" Audrey sings in one tune), it manages to maintain a premise all its own. Filtered through a camp

sensibility, "Little Shop" shoves the satirical needle into numerous subjects, giving it some provoking metaphorical maxims that remain long after the show is over. Howard Ashman's stage version contains enough pulp and comic-strip characters to make its stereotypes transcend the often maligned ashes of pop cultural low-brow.

The UNL version of the musical was directed by Jack Parkhurst of Ralston. UNL dance professor Jerry Bevington choreographed the show, which will run Friday at 8 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. "Little Shop" will continue its performances on June 23 through the 27th. Shows will then resume on June 30 and end on July 3rd. All performances will be held at Howell Theatre at 8 p.m. Tickets are now available at the Temple box office, located on 12th and R streets, from 12 to 5 p.m. For reservations call 472-2073.

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