

HORROR IN BLOOM

Audiences Are In For A Bloody Good Time As Yankton High School Presents Hit Rock Musical

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Take one hungry alien plant, a clueless florist shop worker and a day-dream of love, mix it together with 1960s rock and roll and early Motown music, and you come up with "Little Shop of Horrors."

The Yankton High School Theatre Department will be presenting "Little Shop of Horrors" as its spring musical, running Thursday, April 14-Monday, April 18 at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre, with a 7 p.m. curtain time for each show.

"Little Shop of Horrors" tells the story of Seymour, a clumsy flower shop employee on skid row where he daydreams of his co-worker Audrey," said director Keith Goeden. "People enjoy this show because they can identify with Seymour, who tries to do the right thing, but in the end, does everything wrong."

But the real star of the show is from out of this world. With the flower shop on the brink of closing, Seymour discovers an alien plant he names Audrey II to attract business. The plant brings Seymour fame, fortune and love. Unfortunately, Audrey II feeds on human blood. After making a deal to feed the plant human bodies in return for beloved attention, Seymour believes all is well, but the plant has other ideas, which leads to a fun, campy horror show.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is a rock musical by composer Alan Menken and writer Howard Ashman that is based on the low-budget 1960 cult movie classic. The music, composed by Menken, includes several well-known tunes, including "Feed Me," "Suddenly, Seymour" and "Skid Row."

"This is a show that people recognize and enjoy," Goeden said. "I don't think it has been done here in Yankton before, so it is a new, fresh show for the area. I am not the biggest fan of the old-school musical, so this hits a little closer to home for me."

Goeden said that with the conflicts for stage use this year, he knew that the spring musical would have to be smaller than in years past, which was one reason he chose this play. "Originally when this play was first produced off-Broadway, it had a cast of six people," he said. "I

have increased that to about 30, but that is significantly less than the 100 or so we usually cast for this production."

Because the musical features the plant, Audrey II, so significantly during the show, Goeden said that he made the decision to spend a large portion of the budget on renting a plant costume.

"Typically we use the majority of our budget for renting backdrops, but because this show is set pretty much in one scene, we chose to use the black stage drop and rent the plant," Goeden said. "It is a pretty simple set, what you see is what you get, so the plant costume adds a lot to the production."

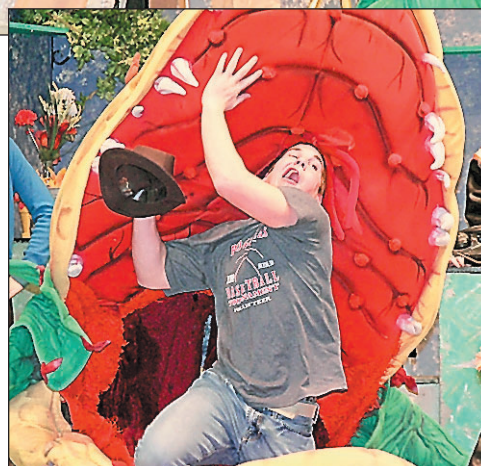
The plant is a puppet, so there will actually be a student inside maneuvering the parts of the plant. They are also using two different voices for the part of Audrey II.

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ABOVE: Seymour Krelborn (played by Joseph Boudreau) contemplates what to do with his murderous plant Audrey II in a scene from the musical comedy "Little Shop of Horrors," the spring production of Yankton High School's theater department. The play will be presented next week at the YHS/Summit Activities Center theatre. LEFT: Mr. Mushnik (Powers Shurrer) has an unfortunate encounter with Audrey II in a scene from the YHS play. "Little Shop of Horrors" is a hit rock musical based on Roger Corman's low-budget 1960 movie of the same name, which has become a cult classic. To see or purchase images from this event, visit spotted.yankton.net.



2011



KELLY HERTZ/P&D

Seymour (Joe Boudreau) swoons over his co-worker Audrey (Maddie Mines) in a scene from the YHS production of "Little Shop of Horrors."



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