



Little Shop of Horrors - Loudoun County High School

What could go wrong at a simple flower shop on Skid Row? Everything. However, Loudoun County High School could do no wrong during their performance of Little Shop of Horrors.

Little Shop of Horrors originally started as a movie, premiering in 1960. The movie was adapted for theater in 1982, going off-Broadway until a stint on Broadway in 2003. It's currently running off Broadway, and at Loudoun County High School. Little Shop of Horrors stars Seymour, who works at a flower shop. During an eclipse of the sun, Seymour finds a mysterious plant which boosts him into stardom. However, the plant wants something sinister in return. Will Seymour keep his fame, or will the plant ask for too much?

Max McKnight was great casting for Seymour. His characterization shined through beautifully and was a joy to watch. The same praise can also be applied to Kat Blackwood, who played Audrey. Speaking of Audrey, the plant (Audrey 2) was voiced beautifully by Natalia Settiani. Her voice was amazing, and her acting fit very well with her prop counterpart.

The Doo-wop Girls (played by Mia Rodgers, Anna Takemoto and Norah Lee) shined, especially in three-part harmonies. They had great chemistry with each other and managed to have great vocal mixing while dancing fun choreography. All three of them were fun characters to watch. The Doo-wop Girls worked great with Orin (played by Collin Diem), especially in the song Dentist. The Dentist managed to walk a fine line between funny and insane. No matter how high stakes the scene was, Orin the Dentist shined because of his commitment to the character. He also had a great voice, keeping his own in harmonies and solos alike.

One of the most interesting parts of the show was the plant's mechanics. Jada Venson, who designed the puppet, did an amazing job. The complex mechanism consisted of a gigantic mouth, two vine hands and a fun slide that allowed anything going into the plant to be swallowed in an interesting manor. This really added to the show and made the part more convincing.

The makeup, designed by Kirby Pena and Bean Montgomery, was great. The bruise makeup for Audrey was especially realistic and helped to raise the stakes of certain scenes. The costumes were great for every character. The costumes, especially for

Seymour, changed as the show went on, and helped to convey time passing. The set was intriguing, the main set consisting of a flower shop with a window. This window was a great addition and added to the show by helping to convey realism. The lighting was great, including a lot of different and unique effects. The lighting also changed to convey a difference in emotion, especially in the song Now (It's Just the Gas). All these details helped the tech to shine in this performance.

Overall, the characterization and character choices made by actors were great, the vocals from leads were good, and the tech helped to engage the audience. Now, just one last thing; Don't feed the plants!

-Ethan King