

HILARITY AND HORROR

Indulge yourself at VLT's Little Shop of Horrors

BY ALEXIS DEFILIA



I could not have been more excited to check out *Little Shop of Horrors* at the VLT this past weekend. As a kid I used to watch Frank Oz's 1986 remake of Roger Corman's 1960 horticultural classic on repeat, dreaming of the day I would be old enough to have a leopard-print dress of my own. And although there was no "Mean Green Mother From Outer Space," complete with singing baby plants, the VLT cast and crew did not disappoint my childhood expectations.

Little Shop of Horrors is a delightful sci-fi comedy/musical set in the '60s about a down and out florist, Seymour (Cody Mendonca), and his bloodthirsty, otherworldly Venus flytrap, Audrey II (Scott Machado). Seymour is in love with the original Audrey (Sabrina Gross) — every little girl from

Long Island's tight-dress-wearing icon — but a happy ending is hard to come by when you're stuck on skid row with a man-eating plant.

Director Chris Pinto does a fine job of representing the socioeconomic plague inherent to the play by exhibiting both the weight of life in the slums and the immensely elaborate green metaphor always growing on stage. The colors and words of the sets have a heaviness; the characters trudge their way from number to number, bound to a life of poverty. Even in times of hope and possibility, we still sense that the hunger for more will never be satisfied. This play, however, is not all empty wishes; we find plenty to be gobbled up.

The music, Alan Menken's handy work, is an incredibly

catchy and infecting blend of doo wop and '60s pop rock. Likewise, all the vocal players in Pinto's botanical skid row are exceptionally talented. Gross, though perhaps not quite as over the top and big haired as I imagine Audrey to be, is especially powerful in her vocal performance, blending both the sweet and savory. Orin (Esack Grueskin) is also notable as Audrey's hysterical, albeit sadistic, nitrous oxide-huffing boyfriend.

While *Little Shop* invites you to indulge and immerse yourself in two hours of ludicrous ear candy, it also offers a clear warning: Don't sell your soul for success, and don't feed your plants dismembered body parts. ■

Little Shop of Horrors runs through June 23 at Very Little Theatre. Tickets are \$19 to \$23 at TheVLT.com.

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REPRESENTATIVE, Adam Famulary, OSB 133556, 3040 Commercial St. SE Ste. 120, Salem, OR 97302 Phone: 503.863.2732 Fax: 971.770.0450 Email: famularylaw@gmail.com

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY- PROBATE DEPARTMENT: In the Matter of the Estate of: KAZUKO EMMY LYTLE, Deceased. Case No. 18-PB02782. **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Susan H. Schreiber, has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative, Susan H. Schreiber, c/o Kent Anderson Law Office, 888 West Park, Eugene, Oregon 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative. **DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED MAY 24TH, 2018.** /s/ Susan H. Schreiber, Personal Representative

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR LANE COUNTY- PROBATE DEPARTMENT: In the Matter of the Estate of: PHYLLIS FIELD STUART, Deceased. Case No. 18-PB03814. **NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS:** NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned, Nanette M. Stuart, has been appointed Personal Representative. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them, with vouchers attached, to the personal representative, Nanette M. Stuart, c/o Kent Anderson Law Office, 888 West Park, Eugene, Oregon 97401, within four months after the date of first publication of this notice, or the claims may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings may obtain additional information from the records of the Court or the Personal Representative. **DATED AND FIRST PUBLISHED MAY 31ST, 2018.** /s/ Nanette M. Stuart, Personal Representative