

Solihull School Past Musicals:

- 1976– H.M.S Pinafore
- 1978– The Beggars Opera
- 1979– Salad Days
- 1980– Orpheus in the Underworld
- 1981– La Bella Helene
- 1982– Free as Air
- 1983– The Magic Flute
- 1984– Pink Champagne
- 1985– Orpheus in the Underworld
- 1986– Kiss me Kate
- 1987– The Mikado
- 1988– The Merry Widow
- 1989– La Belle Helene
- 1990– The Pirates of Penzance
- 1991– Pink Champagne
- 1992– Fiddler on the Roof
- 1993– My Fair Lady
- 1994– Annie get you Gun
- 1995– South Pacific
- 1996– Kiss me Kate
- 1997– Oklahoma
- 1998– Guys and Dolls
- 1999– Crazy for you
- 2000– West Side Story
- 2001– Cabaret
- 2003– Oliver
- 2004– Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 2005– Les Misérables
- 2006– Barnum

- 2007– The Sound of Music
- 2008– The Scarlet Pimpernel
- 2009– My Fair Lady
- 2010– South Pacific
- 2011– Grease
- 2012– Fiddler on the Roof
- 2013– Phantom of the Opera
- 2014– Spamalot
- 2015– Les Misérables
- 2016– Carousel
- 2017– Tommy
- 2018– Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 2019– Made in Dagenham
- 2020– Twelfth Night (Unable to perform)



SOLIHULL

# LITTLE SHOP OF

# HORRORS



Book and Lyrics by  
HOWARD ASHMAN

Music by  
ALAN MENKEN

Based on the film by Roger Corman, Screenplay by Charles Griffith

Originally produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)

Originally produced at the Gropeum Theatre, New York City by the WPA

Theatre, David Geffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organization

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with  
 Music Theatre International (Europe)  
 All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI Europe  
[www.mtishews.co.uk](http://www.mtishews.co.uk)

Improvised  
 programme  
 due to  
 COVID....t.he  
 show MUST  
 go on!!!



## Director's Note

We started this production in September 2020 and it is rather amazing that we are able to perform it now. What a journey it has been for everyone involved!

There are several challenges performing Little Shop of Horrors - one is the plant... a challenge, as it was not there until the later stages of rehearsals, so the actors had to react to an empty space for most of the rehearsals. Another is the B movie feel of the show, with 2 dimensional characters who aren't real. In our production we have tried to make those characters more 3D and less like caricatures...more relatable for modern audiences. Mr Hunton's fantastic design supports this, with his modern twist on 1960's clothing and Mrs Hart's mixture of modern and 1960's inspired dance. We have set the whole story as a flashback, seeing the end at the start - a post apocalyptic world where the plant has taken over and then rewinding back in time during the opening to see the story - as told by the girls. Finally ending up back where we began with the plant taking over.

The biggest challenge this year has been rehearsing in Covid times. We have had to have separate 'bubble' rehearsals, which has been demanding and difficult for the cast, however they have approached rehearsals with enthusiasm and professionalism. We have been so proud of the way they have persevered through difficult conditions, worked so hard and had so much fun along the way. They have been such a pleasure to work with and it has been a privilege to see them grow and develop alongside their characters and the production.

As always, this production has been a real team effort. A huge thank you to all involved, in whatever capacity and to the school community for being so supportive and helping us to ensure "the show must go on"!

**K E Stafford**





# Snaps from the Show!

## Musical Director's Note

Well – it's been on, then off, then on, then off, then... hopefully on! What a year it has been. Amongst many things we have all missed over the past twelve months is the experience of making music together, and even hearing live music. Of course, all the online learning and concerts have been wonderful in their own way and certainly helped us through these different times but, oh how much we have enjoyed rehearsing this show over recent weeks.

The show's musical score is composed by the legendary Alan Menken. In addition to *Little Shop of Horrors* he created scores for *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Little Mermaid*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *Enchanted* and *Tangled* – to name but a few. The songs in *Little Shop of Horrors* cover a wonderful range of styles and characterisation, some light and frothy, some lyrical and some on the darker side. If you love 1960's rock and roll, doo-wop and early mow town, you are in for a treat! I am sure that you will leave with many of the melodies spinning around your head.

As always, throughout the rehearsal process I have been struck by the energy and enthusiasm of all involved in the production: the technical crew for their patience and resilience in facing their many challenges, including a complex sound balance; the actors for embracing all that has been required of them in their singing, including some important harmony work; and the band for their wonderful musicianship and precision. I can only hope that they (and you) have enjoyed the experience and end result as much as I have.

**T Kermode**



# The Cast

**Seymour** Ben Cusack  
**Audrey** Laura Bryan  
**Mr Mushnik** Amelia Bogira  
**Orin (Dentist)** Freddie Truman  
**Voice of the Plant (Audrey Two)** Himself  
**Crystal** Hiba Sandhu  
**Chiffon** Courtney Holland  
**Ronnette** Paige Ellis-Astle  
**Fontella** Lauren McDaid Meehan  
**Shirelle** Jennifer Storey  
**Bernstein** Freddie Truman  
**Mrs Luce** Amelia Bogira  
**Skip Snip** Hannah Greenwood  
**Skip Snip Assistant** Daniel Youssef  
**Mr Patrick Martin** Freddie Truman  
**Plant operator** Ellie Lawley  
**Plant Foliage** Heidi Atkinson  
Eleanor Woodward  
**Voice not unlike God's** Himself  
**Customer** Freddie Truman  
**Radio Interviewer** Anais Sukkersudah  
**Wino 1** Freddie Truman  
**Chorus** Jane Chanji  
Giorgia Dalley  
Frankie Deehan  
Mai Fallon  
George Finney  
Hannah Greenwood  
Diya Palmer  
Jackson Rayford Masih  
Anais Sukkersudah  
Alex Townsend  
Daniel Youssef

My advice for younger students would be; do not give up! It may be difficult or disappointing to be cast as side characters or chorus members at the start, but everyone has to start somewhere Unfortunately, as my time at Solihull is ending, this will be my last production. I'm hoping to go to Warwick University to study Spanish and Business so hopefully I'll be able to continue playing roles in a different language.

## Hiba Sandhu– Crystal

I have been extensively involved with the drama department at Solihull School since Year 7, contributing to almost every production as cast and crew, earning myself Drama Colours in UV. Since joining the school in J1, I have always aspired to be part of the school musical, and after not being able to perform last year, I am delighted to be back on stage for this year's production. Also, as a Drama Scholar, I have taken the opportunity this year, to direct *Heavy Weather* for LV, where I learned a lot about the joys of creating theatre and I hope to direct more shows in the future. During lockdown, the Birmingham Hippodrome started their Young Advocates programme; I was selected from over 300 applicants and am now the creative director of the final group of 16. I also have a strong passion for music and I am working towards achieving my grade 8 Singing later this year. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the cast of *Little Shop of Horrors* and I am excited to finally be performing again.





## Amelia Bogira— Mr Mushnik

As a newcomer to Solihull school, I'm delighted to play *Mushnik* in this year's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. I love performing *Mushnik and Son* with Ben as I love getting to be comedic and make the audience laugh. I have always been involved in drama at my previous school, last year playing the role of the *Tin Man* in the *Wizard of Oz*. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with a new cast this year in my first principle role at Solihull School and I am excited to finally put a show together after all the setbacks and delays due to COVID.



## Paige Ellis— Astle— Ronette

I am excited to play *Ronnette* because this is my first singing role in a drama production and I cannot wait to harmonise with my other girls. I'm also looking forward to playing a really sassy, girly, and cheeky role that I can have fun with instead of something serious. My favourite number is definitely *Skid Row* because although the harmony is difficult, the dance and staging makes it fun, and I love the 60s style to it. My highlight role at Solihull was the Portuguese *Queen Catherine*, in *Nell Gwynn*. I loved my big, heavy, corseted dress and it was a challenge for me to be more expressive in my acting; I was speaking a different lan-



## The Crew

**Director** K Stafford

**Musical Director** T Kermode

**Choreographer** J Hart

**Technical Manager** P Jukes

**Production Designer** K Hunton

**Stage Manager** L Cloke

**Deputy Stage Manager** Alex Warburton

**Assistant Stage Managers** Heidi Atkinson

Gabrielle Homer

Hermione Hooper

**Lighting Operators** Eleanor Woodward

Jess Woodman

**Make Up** S Thomas

### Band

**Keyboard 1** Ziying He & Vincent Li

**Keyboard 2** D Rice

**Drum Kit** Fabian Botterill

**Percussion** S Phillips

**Guitars** D Wilkins

**Bass Guitar** H Wood

## Special Thanks

Mrs Hatley and Miss Davies for their help with soloists, Mrs Ray-Barrett for photos, the Gardening Team, Richard and Mark from maintenance, Mrs Fair for all her logistical help, staff for prop help, Theatre Design clubs for set help and to the parents for their unwavering support.

## Cast Bio's

### Ben Cusack— Seymour Krelborn

Many things excite me when playing *Seymour*, for example the belting songs and becoming a mix between a hero and a nerd whilst also showing a romantic but timid side. My favourite songs are *Feed Me*, because of the jazzy nature and the high tessitura, and then *Skid Row* because it's a big chorus number that sets the scene for the whole musical. The highlight of my acting career so far was when I played *Lord Arlington* in *Nell Gwynn*, this was the villain, a more aristocratic *Captain Hook*. I'm happy to have played both sides, villain and hero, even if *Seymour* does have a dark side to him. My most interesting moment on stage was probably during the production of *Heritage* where I was playing a man in a dinosaur outfit and I went completely off script and also improvised to add a more comedic effect to the play, provoking laughter from the audience. My advice for younger students would be to give it your all, make memories and have fun, don't worry about being nervous backstage because once you're out there performing, with the audience behind you, it's like you're in another world. Having taken part in almost every production available since joining the school I was honoured to play the lead in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Music and Drama have been an important railing for me to lean on at Solihull, always supporting me whether that be in plays, concerts or even BBC Radio broadcasts. I will leave with many memories of characters I've played throughout my time here, I've dreamed of playing the lead role since being in Year 7 and thankfully I've got it in my final year. This will be my last production so I'm going to give it my all...



### Laura Bryan— Audrey

I am ecstatic about playing the role of Audrey in this year's school musical *Little Shop of Horrors*. Ever since joining the previous Saint Martins in year 7, where I have been a performing arts scholar and continue to be at Solihull School, I have gained a true passion for theatre. I have tried my upmost to perform in every show and performance possible, and I am always dedicated to drama within the school. Some of my most notable performances outside of school are performing in two professional pantomimes at the Core Theatre in Solihull: *Sleeping Beauty* and *Robin Hood*. I always enjoy being a part of theatre life, and hopes to pursue a career in performing arts. My favourite song in the musical would have to be *Skid Row* as I love the dancing and amazing storytelling. Also the song is so catchy! Next year I will be embarking on a new journey as I join Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, where I will be able to study Musical Theatre alongside my A levels. I am so sad to leave Solihull and the incredible drama department behind, but I know this opportunity will benefit me in the future, and will be able to prepare me for (hopefully!) a career in Musical Theatre industry. My advice for young performers in the school would be to never give up, and get involved with every drama activity you possibly can, as you will be able to learn and grow much more!

