

Reviews

"Little Shop of Horrors"
 Directed by Frank Oz
 Starring Rick Moranis,
 Ellen Greene, Vincent
 Gardenia and Steve
 Martin
 ★★★★★

In 1960, Roger Corman, a director who specialized in making extremely low-budget horror films, made the original "Little Shop of Horrors" in just two days. The film starred Jackie Joseph, Jonathan Haze, Mel Welles, and Jack Nicholson in an unforgettable role as a man who goes to the dentist in hopes of a long, painful root canal operation.

Corman's "Little Shop of Horrors" was so bad it was funny. Not surprisingly, the film became a cult classic.

In 1982, Howard

Ashman and Alan Menken decided that "Little Shop of Horrors" would make a great musical for the stage. Ashman wrote the stage play and lyrics, Menken wrote the music and, on July 27, 1982, "Little Shop of Horrors" opened at the Orpheum Theatre in New York. The critics and the public loved it.

Now "Little Shop of Horrors" is a movie again.

"Little Shop of Horrors" is the story of Seymour Krelbourn (Rick Moranis), a poor orphan who works at a Skid Row flower shop run by Mr. Mushnik (Vincent Gardenia). Seymour is madly in love with Audrey (Ellen Greene), his beautiful, but air-headed, co-worker.

Things are not bright for Seymour. Audrey is dating Dr. Orin Scrivello,

D.D.S. (Steve Martin). Dr. Scrivello loves to cause pain. He rides his motorcycle to the office each morning, performs a few root canals and pulls a few teeth, without using gas. (Actually *he* uses gas, it's his patients who don't get any). When Dr. Scrivello gets off work he likes to spend a romantic evening beating up on Audrey.

Seymour's only hope lies with Audrey II, a strange, little plant he bought from a Chinese florist during an unexplained total eclipse of the sun. If Seymour can get the plant to grow, it might attract more customers to the shop and maybe he can make enough money to take Audrey away from Skid Row.

All of Seymour's attempts to make Audrey II grow haven't had much success until one night when he pricks his finger and begins to bleed. Audrey II begins to perk up so Seymour lets the plant have a finger to suck on.

The next day Audrey II



Seymour Krelbourn (Rick Moranis) eyes his unusual plant which has an unusual appetite.

has doubled in size. Business begins to pick up and Seymour becomes anemic trying to supply plant food. One evening Audrey II makes demands for more blood than Seymour can provide. After some arguing and singing, and after Seymour sees that Dr. Scrivello has been beating up on Audrey again, Seymour decides the good dentist would make even better plant food.

After munching on the dentist, Audrey II grows

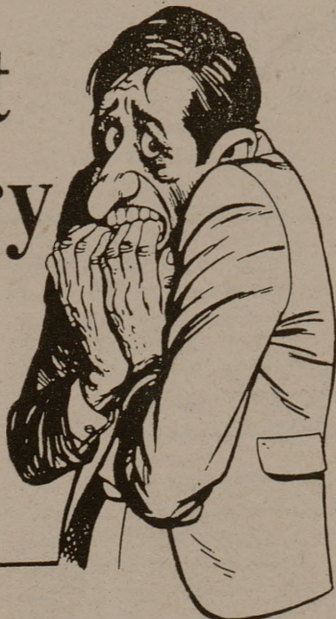
even larger. The plant's appetite and Seymour's fame also grow. Finally, Seymour has had enough of the madness and goes into the flower shop for a man-to-vegetable confrontation.

The acting in "Little Shop of Horrors" is superbly funny. Moranis, a veteran of Canadian television's SCTV and the films "Strange Brew" and "Ghostbusters," is the perfect nerd. He is both heroic and hopelessly klutzy. Greene, who has

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