

Drama – Musical Theatre



What is Little Shop of Horrors about?

Little Shop of Horrors is a horror-comedy rock musical written by Howard Ashman (book and lyrics) with music by **Alan Menken**. It is set in **Skid Row**, a poor and rundown part of the city, and follows **Seymour**, a timid florist who discovers a strange and mysterious plant he names **Audrey II**, after his kind co-worker and secret crush. However, Audrey II has a dark secret – it feeds on human blood. As the plant grows, so does Seymour's fame and success, but things soon spiral out of control. Blending dark humour, horror, and energetic rock music, the musical explores themes of greed, fame, love, and the consequences of our choices.

Different types of Musicals

Book Musical – The most traditional form of Musical Theatre. The songs, dances, and story all work together to tell one full story. The 'book' means the script. (*Matilda*, *Hairspray*)

Jukebox Musical – Pop music is used from one group/ artist or several of the same genre. It sometimes tells their story, or is used in conjunction with a made up story. (*Mamma Mia*, *Beautiful*, *Jersey Boys*)

Rock Musical – This sometimes overlaps with Jukebox musicals. A musical that uses Rock music. (*We Will Rock You*, *Rock of Ages*)

Dance Musical – A Musical with a large amount of a specific kind of dance e.g. Tap, Hip Hop, Ballet (*An American in Paris*, *42nd Street*)

Sung through Musical – A musical with no spoken dialogue. The story is told entirely through song (*Les Miserables*, *Hamilton*, *Phantom of the Opera*)

Concept Musical – A musical based around a specific theme, rather than a narrative or plot. (*A Chorus Line*, *Avenue Q*, *Cabaret*)

Roles and Responsibilities in theatre

Director

- They oversee the creative aspects of the production. They are in charge of the rest of the creative team and make the key decisions. They help the actors improve their performances and ensure the performance is audience-ready.

Stage Manager

- They provide crucial support to directors, performers, designers, and technical crew throughout the production and rehearsal process, and supervise onstage and backstage activity during performances to make sure the show goes off without a problem.

Set Designer

- Design the set of the play and provide sketches and other design materials before overseeing the creation of the set

Costume Designer

- Design what the actors wear on stage. They make sure the costumes are appropriate for the style and period of the piece. They ensure the costumes fit the actors.

Musical Director

- A Musical Director (MD) takes responsibility for all the musical elements of a production, leading both the actors and musicians through rehearsals and in performance, conducting the orchestra and cast.

Choreographer

- Creates the dance routines that work with the music and lyrics of a production or performance.

Lighting/Sound Designer

- Design the lights and sound that the performance will be needing. They create lighting and sound plots.

Casting Director

- A Casting Director is the person responsible for selecting performers for a production.

Producer

- Producer oversees all aspects of a theatre production. They are the starting point of everything. They raise investment from backers, find the venue, hire the creative team and have a say in casting and design.

Technician

- A Theatre Technician operates technical equipment during the performance, such as lighting, sound, and special effects. They follow cues from the Stage Manager and help make sure everything runs smoothly on the night of the show.

Makeup Artist

- Designs and applies makeup to transform actors into their characters

