

Little Shop of Horrors
ACT1 Theater 2020
Directed by: Stephanie Escorza

First-Round Auditions: By video submission, deadline March 25th, 5 PM

Callbacks Sunday March 29th 1 PM, conditions permitting

Auditioners to send in a video audition consisting of a 1-minute comedic monologue and 1 minute of a song of the auditioner's choice in the style of the show backed by a karaoke track. Send to Director Stephanie Earle at slae23@gmail.com, along with a pdf of a filled-out audition form available on the ACT1 website.

What is ACT1 Theater?

ACT1 is an all-volunteer, non-Equity, no-fee community theater with a focus on quality entertainment. Now in our 25th anniversary year, we're proud to bring you musical and non-musical theatrical productions; you'll find us in performance in several major productions each year. Among our many full-length shows have been *Fiddler on the Roof*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Boys Next Door*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor® Dreamcoat*, *Guys and Dolls*, and many others. In 2018, ACT1 Theater formed a Partnership with the City of Alpharetta, and has produced cabarets, Shakespeare performances, and shows at the Alpharetta Arts Center Black Box Theater. ACT1 is the proud recipient of several Metropolitan Atlanta Theater awards, and many nominations. We are a community outreach of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church, and provide entertainment to the community without religious bias.

In addition to using many experienced theater folks, one of the objectives of our work is to provide a venue for those who have never been involved with theater before. We enjoy seeing new folks discover a love of theater – whether that's performing on the stage; building sets; making costumes; or working as a stagehand, lighting technician or sound technician. We also welcome the contributions of those who keep our day-to-day operations going, like marketing or admin support. As new cast and crew members "learn the ropes" and become seasoned pros, they may decide to try their hand at stage managing or directing. All of our cast, crew, and management are volunteers. No matter what role you choose, this will be the most fun that you have had in a long time! The actors, staff and crew always form bonds that make this more than a hobby – it's family.

Can I Review the Script in Advance?

Scripts are not yet available; however, there are many videos of stage and movie versions available on YouTube.

Among the things we'll be looking for are:

- Voice quality – Can you project, so that you'll be heard from the back of the auditorium?
- Energy – can we hear the interest and excitement in your voice?
- Facial Expression – Does it match the words you're reading?
- Character – Can you "be" the person you're reading?
- Willingness – Can you follow instructions and give it your best shot?

After the first-round auditions are viewed, an email will be sent to you by the evening of March 26th. Callbacks for auditioners chosen to move forward will be held on Sunday, March 29th. You may be asked to read lines from various characters with other actors so we get a feel for your acting range and ability to play off of other actors. You may also be taught a song segment. Auditioners will also be taught a 16-count piece of choreography, so you may want to bring character or comfortable shoes.

How will you pick the cast?

Many things go into putting a cast together. Of course, your performance at the audition is important, but so are other things that are not in your control. The script dictates, to a large extent, who will be cast. As an example,

characters playing members of a family should look like they could be family. So casting is a process of finding good actors of an appropriate age who fit in combination with the other actors. No parts are precast, and everyone who gets a part will have auditioned at one of the two initially scheduled times, unless special arrangements are made in advance.

When will I know if I'm cast?

If we are able to cast you, we will contact you no later than the evening of Sunday, March 29th. We will also let you know if we are not able to cast you at this time. Remember, that doesn't mean you did a poor job, and please – come back to audition for another show! If you are cast, the first read-thru will be at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, March 31st.

What am I committing to?

By auditioning you're not committing to anything. Come try us out and see what you think. However, you will be asked to list any conflicts between your personal calendar and the rehearsal and performance schedule; a large number of conflicts may affect your chances of being cast. If we offer you a part, and you accept, then you are making a commitment to attend every rehearsal possible. That means you can't miss a rehearsal unless it's absolutely necessary and you've discussed your situation with the Stage Manager in advance. **No absences are allowed during the last two weeks of rehearsals or any performance.** Even if you have your part perfected and don't feel you need to be there, remember that your fellow actors are dependent on you being where you're supposed to be. If someone has a line to deliver to you and you're not there, it makes it very difficult to stay in character and keep the scene running smoothly. A major factor in a production not getting to a polished, professional level is a cast that is erratic in attendance. OK, enough preaching – just want you to understand the importance of being at rehearsals.

Tell me about this play!

A deviously delicious Broadway and Hollywood sci-fi smash musical, *Little Shop Of Horrors* has devoured the hearts of theatre goers for over 30 years. Howard Ashman and Alan Menken (*Disney's The Little Mermaid, Beauty And The Beast, and Aladdin*) are the creative geniuses behind what has become one of the most popular shows in the world.

The meek floral assistant Seymour Krelborn stumbles across a new breed of plant he names "Audrey II" - after his coworker crush. This foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore promises unending fame and fortune to the down and out Krelborn as long as he keeps feeding it, BLOOD. Over time, though, Seymour discovers Audrey II's out of this world origins and intent towards global domination!

What are the roles available?

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Seymour Krelborn: An insecure, put-upon florist's clerk and eventual hero. He is a genuine, well-meaning man who is taken for granted because of his clumsy ways and poor social skills.

Gender: male

Age: 25 to 35

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: A2

Audrey: Bleached-blond, Billie-Dawn-like, secret love of Seymour's life. She has poor self-worth and education, but incredibly good looks and a sweet and vulnerable demeanor.

Gender: female

Age: 25 to 35

Vocal range top: D5

Vocal range bottom: G#3

Mr. Mushnik: The seasoned owner of the failing East Side flower shop and Seymour's nosy boss. He is profit-driven, greedy, and manipulative.

Gender: male

Age: 55 to 65

Vocal range top: F4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Orin Scrivello: An egotistical dentist with a passion for leather and sadistic tendencies. Audrey's abusive boyfriend, who is targeted by Seymour.

Gender: male

Age: 30 to 40

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: G2

The Plant (Audrey II): An actor/vocalist located offstage. The voice is that of a conniving, street-smart 'villain.' A funky Rhythm and Blues voice is best.

Gender: male

Age: 20 to 50

Vocal range top: G4

Vocal range bottom: G2

Crystal, Ronnette and Chiffon are African-American street urchins, acting as the occasional Greek Chorus. Young, hip, and smart, these girls are the only ones who have a grip on reality.

Gender: female

Age: 20 to 35

Vocal range top: F5

Vocal range bottom: Ab3

What about rehearsals?

Our schedule calls for 3 rehearsals a week, for 11 weeks, followed by 3 weekends of performances. Our first rehearsal is scheduled for Tuesday, March 31st. Rehearsals are normally on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30pm and Sundays at 1:00 PM. We take very seriously your commitment and your time. The schedule will be laid out in advance, and only rarely deviated from. The very first rehearsal will be a "read-through" and will include the entire cast. It's just what it sounds like – we'll all sit around and read the script. It's the time to meet your fellow actors, learn about policies and procedures, hear the Director's vision for the show, get measured by the costume department, begin to assimilate your character, work on any tricky pronunciation, etc. We'll give you your copy of the script, the schedule, and any other material you'll need.

After that, the next set of rehearsals will be broken down, scene by scene, and we'll do the "blocking". Blocking is the term used for any stage movement – crossing from one side to the other, sitting down, standing up – all the stuff that supports your lines. It is a MUST to bring a pencil and make notes in your script as you work. Once we're through these "working" rehearsals, we're now about 4 weeks in, and it's time to combine them, and run the full act, and later the full show, fine-tuning as we go. There may be additional or extended rehearsals the week before opening, also known as "Tech Week," if the show needs intensive work prior to opening; please leave your schedule flexible this week.

When are Performances?

Currently, there are plans for 9 performances of this show June 12th – June 28th. Here's the performance schedule:

- June 12th - 8pm
- June 13th - 8pm
- June 14th - 2pm

- June 19th - 8pm
- June 20th - 8pm
- June 21st - 2pm
- June 26th - 8pm
- June 27th - 8pm
- June 28th – 2 pm
- June 28th post-production – Set Strike & Cast Party

You can have all your fans book tickets at www.act1theater.com or call the box office at 770-663-8989 to make their reservations. Each cast member will get two tickets free for opening weekend. In addition, cast members may buy more tickets at a discount, for family and friends.

What about....?

For any other questions, please email Managing Director, Melody Cookson, at melody.l.cookson@gmail.com. Do note that our ability to follow this schedule will be dependent on the situation involving the COVID-19 virus. Callbacks, rehearsals and show dates are dependent on our ability to utilize the space within guidelines recommended by the CDC and with permission of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church.