

PATIOBILL

APRIL 3 - APRIL 19, 2026

LITTLE SHOP of HORRORS



Directed by
LIZZY BRENNAN POOLE
& RAYMOND EVANS

Produced by
BECKY GOLDEN-HARRELL

Musical Direction by
HALEY ADAMS

Choreographed by
MILEIGH NELSON

patio
playhouse

WWW.PATIOPLAYHOUSE.COM (760) 746-6669

PATIO PLAYHOUSE PRESENTS:

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



Directed by: Lizzy Brennan Poole and Raymond Evans

Produced by: Becky Golden-Harrell

Produced by special arrangement with MUSIC THEATRE
INTERNATIONAL

Based on the 2003 Broadway Version, Books 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)

This production was supported in large part by a grant from
Janecek Family Charitable Fund.

Any video or audio recording of this production is prohibited.

Patio Playhouse acknowledges that this production is being performed on the traditional
lands of the Kumeyaay-Ipai Peoples and wishes to pay our respects to Elders both past
and present.

Thank you!

This production was made in part by the generous support of Janecek Family Charitable Fund. Their commitment to the arts and community has played a vital role in bringing our performances to life. We extend our heartfelt gratitude for their contribution, which helps us continue to enrich and entertain our audience.

We would also like to thank Modern Roses for their generous bouquet donation for the shows and Norris Performing Arts Center for their loan of the dentist's chair.



WELCOME

Welcome to *Little Shop of Horrors*! Or should I say... welcome to the most plant-tastic, unbeleafable night of theatre you'll have all season.

We are so thrilled to have you here at Patio Playhouse, where things are growing in all the right ways—on stage and off. While Seymour is busy tending to a certain mysterious plant, we've been hard at work cultivating something special for you, our incredible patrons.

You may notice a few freshly planted upgrades around the theatre... including our brand new chairs and our newly expanded lobby! More space to gather, mingle, and enjoy the magic before the show begins (and during intermission snacks—because priorities). These renovations are just the beginning of our continued commitment to making your theatre experience better than ever.

But like any good garden, growth takes care, time... and a little extra nourishment. If you love what you see tonight, we invite you to consider making a donation to Patio Playhouse. Your support helps us continue to create, improve, and bring stories like this to life for our entire community.

Thank you for being here, for supporting live theatre, and for helping us keep the arts alive and thriving. Now sit back, enjoy the show... and whatever you do—don't feed the plant.

With gratitude,
Jennifer Guttierre
Artistic Director, Patio Playhouse



DIRECTOR'S LETTERS

Thank you for attending our production of *Little Shop of Horrors*! This story has been near and dear to my heart since I first performed it in college 10 years ago; this production marking the third time I have been involved with this show! With the whirlwind of Raymond and I coming on as the show's co-directors only two weeks before opening, the entire cast and production team has been spectacularly supportive, flexible, and collaborative. We couldn't have asked for a better experience as first-time directors in spite of the ever-changing rehearsal process. To the set crew and tech crew: Your contributions are what brings our show to life! It has been a supreme pleasure to lead the magic.

Little Shop is a story of love, ambition, and risking it all for success. The show's campy nature and 60s inspired music create an atmosphere and energy that are infectiously fun; there's romance, humor, and horror all wrapped up in a poppy vintage setting. And at the heart of it all is Seymour's internal struggle between doing the right thing and finally fulfilling his dreams. The show makes us ponder: if you were in Seymour's shoes, what would you do? Who amongst us would be sweet talked into feeding your blood?

-Lizzy



This has long been one of my favorite shows: there's not a single moment, a single line or lyric, a single dance number that doesn't make me laugh, smile, and kick my feet with giddy excitement. I played Mr Mushnik some (many) years ago and I now have the privilege of bringing to life the sadistic inner workings of Orin Scrivello, DDS, - throw in co-directing with a fantastic partner and I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

Come take a chance... and welcome the *Little Shop of Horrors*.

-Raymond

ACT 1

Prologue

Scene 1: Mushnik's Flower Shop

Scene 2: Skid Row

Scene 3: Da-Doo

Scene 4: Grow for Me

Scene 5: Ya Never Know

Scene 6: Somewhere That's Green

Scene 7: Closed for Renovations

Scene 8: Dentist!

Scene 9: Mushnik and Son

Scene 10: Feed Me (Git It)

Scene 11: Now (It's Just the Gas)

INTERMISSION

ACT 2

Scene 1: Call Back in the Morning

Scene 2: Suddenly, Seymour

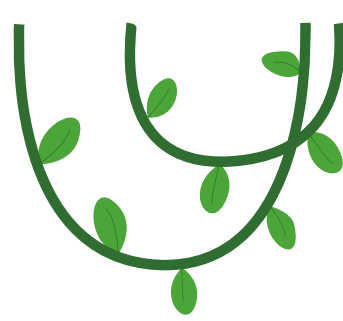
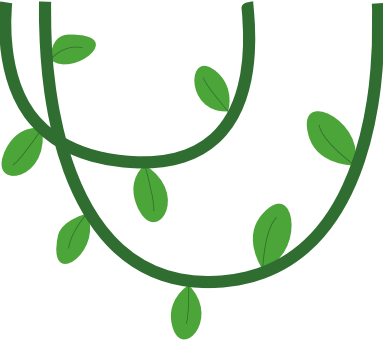
Scene 3: Suppertime

Scene 4: The Meek Shall Inherit

Scene 5: Sominex / Suppertime (Reprise)

Scene 6: Somewhere That's Green (Reprise)

Finale (Don't Feed the Plants!)



CAST LIST

Seymour...Tom Clemen Rafanan

Audrey...Alisha Kassel

Mushnik...Arlo Costello

Orin Scrivello DDS...Raymond Evans

Audrey II...Mario Ledesma

URCHINS:

Ronette...Ashley Perez

Chiffon...Sarahbelle Maxwell

Crystal...Kirra Irvine

ENSEMBLE:

Aaron Castro (Seymour U/S, greaser)

Cristian Molina (Orin U/S, wino, Mrs. Luce)

Ella Anderson (narrator, interviewer)

Hayden Manning (dental patient, Skip Snip)

Mitch Krassin (Mushnik U/S, Mr. Bernstein, landlord)

Ruth Russell (waitress, vines)

Sydney Ash (wino, Ms. Martin, hotdog vendor U/S)

Sylvie Wilhelm (customer, vines)

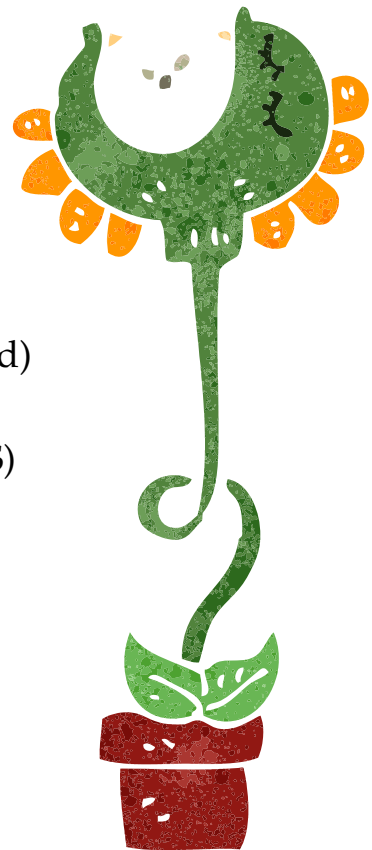
Vanessa Smith (Audrey U/S, hotdog vendor)

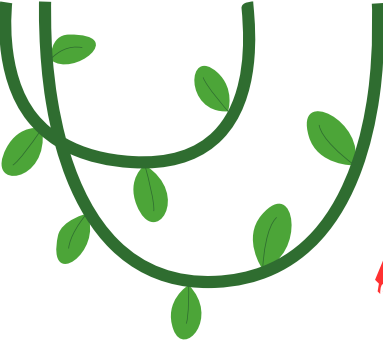
AUDREY II PUPPETEERS:

Pod 1...Dash Guttieri

Pod 3...Cristian Molina

Pod 4...Frank Guttieri





ARTISTIC TEAM



Directors: Lizzy Brennan Poole and Raymond Evans

Music Director: Haley Adams

Intimacy Choreographer: Ell Miller

Set Designer: Corinne Price

Set Builders: Scott Heidemann, Daniel Solis, Cory Beiriger

Stage Manager: Scarlett Lang

Costumes: Jennifer Guttieri and Sylvie Wilhelm

Assistant to the Costumer: Gigi Solis, Celeste Solis

Lighting Design: Rick Ashcroft

Lighting and Sound Operator: Alex Lopez

Program: Becky Golden-Harrell

Cover Art: Brandy Baesel

Prop Master: Leslie Williamson

Photography: Jesse Williamson

Concessions Design and House Manager: Michelle Cocchia

Raffle Manager: Eva Piskosk Shegluk

Lobby Decorations: Sara Mass and Brandy Baesel



ACTOR PROFILES



Aaron Castro (Seymour U/S, Greaser) is thrilled to be performing in San Diego after relocating from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in August 2025. Before heading west, he appeared in several Shakespeare productions with a close friend's company, most recently playing Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. When he is not on stage, Aaron is usually putting his AMC A-List pass to work or diving headfirst into whatever new hobby has captured his curiosity this week.



Alisha Kassel (Audrey) is excited to be part of this fantastic show. She has been doing theater in San Diego for 30 years and hopes to keep doing it for 30 more. Some of her favorite roles include Morticia in *Addams Family*, Fantine in *Les Mis*, and Cinderella in *Into the Woods*. She wants to thank her husband and family for their constant support and love.



Arlo Costello (Mushnik) is so excited and grateful to be a part of this production! Arlo studied Theatre Arts at Western Connecticut State University. Some of their past roles include Ben Affleck in *Matt & Ben*, Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Gonzolo in *The Tempest* at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and Harold Mitchell in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Patio Playhouse.



Ashley Perez (Urchin, Ronnette) is an actress and classically trained soprano. Some of her previous roles include Glinda (*The Wizard of Oz*), Rapunzel (*Into the Woods*), April (*Company*), and Minnie Fay (*Hello Dolly*). She is currently a princess performer with Royal Entertainers. A recent graduate from MCIAT Actor's Studio, she's thrilled to be joining the cast for her sixth role with Patio Playhouse! She would like to thank her loving and supportive family, friends, and her loving boyfriend.



ACTOR PROFILES



Cristian Molina (Ensemble, Orin U/S, wino, Mrs. Luce) is excited to be doing his second production with Patio Playhouse. He has a variety of talents ranging from music to animation. He hopes to bring joy and laughter to those around him. To quote Roger Rabbit, "Sometimes laughter is the most powerful weapon we have!" He'd like to thank those that support him with his endeavors they know who they are. Thanks for coming and enjoy yourselves.



Dash Guttieri (Puppeteer Audrey II pod 1, newspaper boy) is an 11-year-old performer who is thrilled to be part of *Little Shop of Horrors!* Previous roles include Maui in *Moana*, Augustus Gloop in *Willy Wonka*, and Pugsley in *The Addams Family*. Dash loves bringing big characters to life and is especially excited to be behind the scenes helping Audrey II grow (and maybe cause a little trouble). When he's not on stage, he enjoys performing, making people laugh, and being part of the theatre community. He hopes you enjoy the show! He is not responsible for anything Audrey II may or may not eat.



Ella Anderson (Ensemble, narrator, DJ) is an elementary music teacher in Carlsbad. She has a love for performing, and when looking for a creative outlet this spring decided to get involved in theater! This is Ella's first production since high school and she is so excited to be in the ensemble for *Little Shop of Horrors!*



Frank Guttieri (Puppeteer, Audrey II pod 4). Frank is excited to return to *Little Shop* after 35 years, this time as the puppeteer of the largest Audrey II. He is thrilled to take on this unique role and put action to Mario Ledesma's extraordinary vocal talent. He is grateful to the *Little Shop* production team for this opportunity. He also gets to puppeteer with his son, Dash, who is working a smaller version of the plant. Thank you for coming to the show and enjoy!



ACTOR PROFILES



Hayden Manning (Ensemble, dental patient, Skip Snip) is thrilled to to a part of this production. Recent credits include *Being Earnest*, Stanley (*Streetcar Named Desire*), Casey (*The Legend of Georgia McBride*), Mr. Darcy (*Pride & Prejudice*), and Dr. Sanderson (*Harvey*). He has been acting since the age of 10 when he appeared in a production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Hayden is grateful to his friends, family, the cast, crew, and audiences who keep live theatre thriving.



Kirra Irvine (Urchin, Crystal) is a spirited musician, actress, and dancer who is thrilled to be playing Crystal in *Little Shop of Horrors*. She is currently a musical theater director and music instructor at Leading Note Studios in San Marcos, where she has directed multiple shows including *Aladdin Jr.*, *Schoolhouse Rock Live! Jr.*, *Frozen Jr.*, and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Kirra is also a student at Palomar College studying vocal performance and was a member of the Chamber Singers ensemble for two years. Additionally, she is a singer-songwriter with multiple songs available on all platforms and is excited to announce a new single and EP on the way.



Mario Ledesma (Audrey II) is thrilled to be stepping out from behind the piano and onto the stage for this production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. While he currently serves as the Resident Music Director at Patio Playhouse, his passion for storytelling extends to every facet of the theatre. Recent music direction credits include *Ride the Cyclone*, *The Addams Family*, and *Moana Jr.*, and he is currently in the process of music directing the upcoming production of *Mean Girls*. When he isn't at Patio, he serves as the Assistant Choral Director at Mission Hills High School, where he helps cultivate the next generation of vocal talent. He would like to thank the cast, crew, and the entire Patio Playhouse community for their continued support. Most importantly, he sends a special thank you to his incredible students for their constant inspiration and encouragement in all his creative endeavors.



Mitch Krassin (Mushnik U/S, Mr. Bernstein, landlord) is excited to return to Patio after a few years away. Favorite roles across San Diego include Jasper (*Deadland*), Roger (*Rent*), and Billy (*Bright Star*). Mitch is a proud graduate of USD, where he got fully immersed in theatre. For Mary.

ACTOR PROFILES



Raymond Evans (Orin Scrivello, DDS) began acting in kindergarten and has performed in well over 30 stage productions including playing Mr. Mushnik in this very play some many moons ago. His recent roles include the problematic Mr. White and others in *Mother Wit* (The Old Globe), the sometimes-zealous Reverend Hale in *The Crucible* (Lamplighters - Aubrey nominated) and the wide-eyed Leonard Vole in *Witness for the Prosecution* (PowPAC). He has always been deeply inspired by theater, including learning ASL after seeing his favorite play, *Children of a Lesser God*, for the first time - let us walk through this magic door, together.



Ruth Russell (Ensemble/Vine) is thrilled to be working with Patio for the first time on one of her favorite musicals. Favorite acting credits: Pattie Levaco in *Kimberly Akimbo* (Scripps Ranch Theatre), Deirdre in *I Hate Hamlet* (Broadway Vista), Mary Bailey in *It's A Wonderful Life Radio Play* (Southwestern), Candy Cottingham in *Working: The Musical* (Scotland Fringe Festival), Daughter in *Quilters: A Musical*, and Zombie in *Twelfth Night of the Living Dead* (Loud Fridge). Thank you for supporting live theatre and giving us the opportunity to create magic with you. Follow IG: @TheRuthRussell for personal updates and @CityDoggosSD for adorable doggie daycare.



Sarahbelle Maxwell (Urchin, Chiffon) is thrilled to be making her debut with Patio Playhouse! Born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, she found her love for singing at a young age and eventually discovered live theatre. She went on to performing, competing, and working in theaters throughout southern Arizona. Sarahbelle spent two years studying in Arizona State University's Music, Theatre, and Opera program where she trained in music, dance, acting, vocal, instrumental and operatic performance. Some of her favorite roles include Gertrude McFuzz (*Seussical*), Wednesday (*The Addams Family*), Molly Aster (*Peter and the Starcatcher*), and Mae Tuck (*Tuck Everlasting*). After moving to San Diego, she received a BS in Counseling and Applied Psychological Sciences and is active in various animal welfare, rescue, and therapy groups. When she isn't onstage, you can find her taking care of animals, riding horses, rollerskating, and sewing. Thank you to her love Denson, her kitties, and everyone who has inspired her on her journey back to the stage. Enjoy watching us have fun!

ACTOR PROFILES



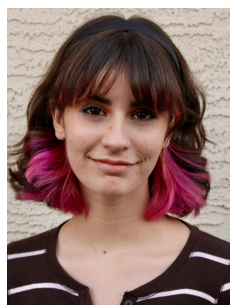
Sydney Ash (wino, Ms. Martin, hotdog vendor U/S). This is Sydney's first show on the Patio Playhouse stage! Previous credits include *American Idiot*, *School House Rock*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Carrie: The Musical*. She is currently working to become a music educator, and would like to thank her family for forcing her out of her comfort zone and the friends she has made during this production!



Sylvie Wilhelm (Ensemble, customer, vines) is incredibly excited to be working with Patio Playhouse for the first time. Though she has taken part in a lot of youth theater productions, most recently starting in *The Prom* as Emma Nollan, she's very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a more professional production.



Tom Clemen Rafanan (Seymour) is a child therapist in San Diego. Originating from the Big Island of Hawaii, Tom has done numerous shows during college, such as *Beauty and the Beast* and *Evita*, but was notable for playing Henry in *Next to Normal*. Wanting to further hone his skills, Tom has come to California to see what the next steps in his life is, and it looks like his journey brought him to San Diego! After performing in Patio's production of the *Addams Family*, Tom has made a true family at Patio and is forever thankful. Thank you to Haley, Jenn, and Lizzy for giving me the chance to play my dream role in my dream show.



Vanessa Smith (Audrey U/S, ensemble, hotdog vendor) is extremely hyped to be performing with her friends once again. Her previous roles include Stella in *Streetcar Named Desire* and The Bride Ancestor in *Addams Family*, both with Patio. She wants to thank her family and friends for all the rides to and from rehearsals. Hopefully she has a car by the time you're reading this and is driving off to somewhere that's green!!!

CREATIVE TEAM



Lizzy Brennan Poole (Director) has been living in San Diego and performing locally for the past three years. She is thrilled to make her Assistant Directing debut at Patio Playhouse! Lizzy earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music from Boise State University and performed with the Opera Idaho choir, Critical Mass, after graduating. Roles Lizzy has played on stage include Nellie Forbush in *South Pacific* and Elizabeth in *Laundry & Bourbon*. Locally, she performed in the ensemble in *The Addams Family Musical* at Patio Playhouse, and in the New Plays Festival at The Lamplighter's Community Theater.



Raymond Evans (Director) is pulling double duty as Orin Scrivello, DDS, and co-director, which has been an amazing opportunity. A long-time performer as well as an ACT and PowPAC judge, this is his first time directing a full production and he couldn't have asked for a better show to cut his teeth on. Nor could he have asked for a better team to help him get this show on its feet. A special thanks goes to his co-director: he, quite literally, never would have got here without her.



Haley Adams (Music Director). Haley grew up in youth theater around San Diego, and is honored to be on the other side of the table as Music Director. She studied Cognitive Science and Music Production at USC, where she got into composing and producing audio, and co-wrote/music directed her first musical for the Hollywood Fringe Festival '24. Haley loves being involved in the arts, and thanks Patio Playhouse for welcoming her back into theater with open arms.



Ell Miller (Intimacy Choreographer) is a multi-disciplinary art maker. A graduate of CSU San Marcos with their degree in Visual & Performing Arts, Ell has put it to use acting, directing, stage managing, producing, teaching, and most recently, directing & choreographing staged intimacy. Recent intimacy credits include *A Streetcar Named Desire*; *Addams Family the Musical* (Patio Playhouse), *Ordinary People*; *Prescription Murder*; *Social Security*; (PowPAC). Ell is grateful for the opportunity to bring this important work to the community theater spaces they serve to create safer and braver spaces for actors and directors alike.

CREATIVE TEAM



Jennifer Guttieri (Costumer) is delighted to be costuming *Little Shop of Horrors*! An award-winning costumer, she has had a wonderful season bringing stories to life through design. One of her favorite projects this year was *Winnie the Pooh*, where she loved creating a whimsical world for the Hundred-Acre Wood.



Leslie Williamson (Props Coordinator) is a Patio board member and serves as the in-house Props Coordinator. She has worked in props since 2018 with various theaters and has been part of PATIO since 2023, supporting productions behind the scenes and helping bring each show to life.

Jesse Williamson (Photography) is Patio's in-house photographer and has been capturing show moments since 2023, when his daughters fell in love with performing at Patio Playhouse. He has been married to Leslie Williamson since 2004 and is the proud dad of three daughters, ages 18, 15, and 10. Jesse loves preserving the energy, heart, and behind-the-scenes magic of each production through his photography.

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Patio Playhouse offers memberships, season tickets, and show packs to support the theater and save on tickets:

- Memberships include benefits such as voting rights, recognition in programs, access to newsletter & priority notifications, comp tickets and other perks depending on membership level.
- Season tickets let you secure admission to all mainstage productions in a season at a lower price.
- Show packs (4-ticket packs) are ticket packages that give you the flexibility to use tickets either all at once for a single show or across multiple productions.

For more information on Memberships, Season Tickets & Show Packs visit our website for details, or call the box office at 760-746-6669 patioplayhouse.com

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