

# DON'T READ THE POST...

unless you have seen WCCT's extremely fun-filled production of *Little Shop... Little Shop of Horrors*. Megan and I checked it out tonight since I figured a Thursday night showing would need more help filling the seats than a Friday night. I must say that it was very well done. The set took you to Skid Row, U.S.A. full of bums and trash laden streets. Someone mentioned that the first weekend shows were a bit loud in the musicians area, but I did not notice it. The man with the fingers and the gal with the sticks must have toned down a bit?

The entire cast was great, but I will pick on a few remarkable standout performances. I have to say that Travis **is** Seymour. He had the bumbling, nerdy, inept orphan turned flower shop attendant down to an art. So many great scenes that it would take an entire post to detail it all. **SUPERB PERFORMANCE**, my friend! I can't wait to work with you again. If it were in my power, you would be the Willie Award winner!

I must say that I was extremely taken aback by Shelley's performance of Audrey. She usually has this great, big, powerful voice that truly commands the stage. This time, she backed off the power to give a touching, sincere persona to the meek, "semi-sadist" dating character.

Finally, the trio of Mary, Amber, and **PEGGY!** They very nearly stole the show and for good reason... they were incredible. I'm running a bit long here, so I will comment on the young lady whom I have known since the 5th grade on her stage debut. I couldn't be prouder! Where were you !& years ago in high school?! For her first time on stage, Peggy had to deal with some truly powerhouse stage veterans but she held her own brilliantly. I was asked to tell her if I could hear her. Going against my trained experience, I tried to hone in on her voice during the trio numbers and yes, I could hear you. More

importantly, the mixing of the three voices was great! The attitude was dead on. During the scene changes, the three divas kept things lively by ad libbing which brought some chuckles from the audience.

So.. if you are in the area this weekend, take a few hours down on Skid Row. You will be in for a treat!

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## Little Shop Of Which?

Tonight began auditions for WCCTs newest venture: *Little Shop of Horrors*. I knew of at least two others who would be joining me. [Mare](#) and Travis from my stint with the Village Players in *Meet Me in St. Louis*. However, I began to wonder if they were going to show as Mary promised that they would be early. Early turned out to be about 7.05 PM. There was a wide range of talent... some young high schoolers to twenty somethings to the older set (30ish).

To break the ice, we all went around and introduced ourselves (including the director and asst. director). We then sang our selected audition piece. SOMEONE so kindly volunteered me to go second. So, I handed my excerpt to piano man/producer. I thought I did well. Honestly, there were a few who I could barely hear singing. Apprehension, nerves, but there were some who barely opened heir mouths. Some sang with the MIDI track from the show provided by the director. Only two others bothered to bring music that was not "canned." I have to mention Tim who sang something called "Ladies Choice" (I have no idea where the song comes from), but the performer was flamboyant to say the least. So much so, that he was asked to perform the song again. This time with his hands in his pockets and not moving so much across the stage.

The role of Seymour (after night one of tryouts) seems to be down to two. If it were up to me, Travis would have had it from the start. In my eyes, the poor sap should have a whiney voice, totally lacking from self-confidence, and shy. Travis not only had the voice, but the mannerisms. He projected well while maintaining the meek, humble character.

As expected, Mary totally rocked as one of the pivotal doo-wop girls. Her stage presence and "ghetto tude" was exceptional. Until the director asked the girls on stage to develop a Spanish(?) accent. Thankfully, that request was quickly abolished.

We also had a lot of readings done for Orin Scrivello, D.D.S. Tim once again brought some chuckles from the audience. I attempted to be sly, slippery, and sadistic, as I led Seymour to the chair ("Say, AHHHHH"). Squirmy put a southern twang into his performance. I'm just not sure that I could do justice to the dentist's songs.

Only two were asked to read for the voice of Audrey II. Tim put his own spin on the voice. There was a young high schooler who seemed to have the voice. For his audition piece, he sang with the vocal track for "Feed Me/You Can Do It."

I was asked to read a segment of Mr. Mushnik's lines. After my first reading, I was told to be more Jewish. After my second and third, I heard no comments. Maybe I will rewatch some of Vincent Gardenia in the movie version before going back tomorrow night. No one else was asked to read the role... no one else old enough, apparently. Guess I am too old for Seymour... did not get asked to read for the role. But, I think Mushnik would be a fun challenge... he gets eaten, anyway.

I don't remember too many reading the role of Audrey. Dunno, maybe tomorrow night.

So... if anyone else is interested, round two tomorrow night at

7.