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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Ford's Theatre Announces Cast and Creatives of *Little Shop of Horrors*

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman  
Music by Alan Menken  
Directed by Kevin S. McAllister  
Choreographed by Ashleigh King  
Music Directed by William Yanesh

Performances are March 15-May 18, 2024  
Tickets Now on Sale at Box Office and [Online](#)

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Ford's Theatre Director **Paul R. Tetreault** announced the cast and creative team of its production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The beloved American musical is being brought to life by an all-local cast and creative team, including director **Kevin S. McAllister**, choreographer **Ashleigh King** and music director **William Yanesh**. **Derrick D. Truby, Jr.** takes on the role of hapless florist Seymour Krelborn and **Chani Wereley** plays his co-worker and love interest Audrey.

*Little Shop of Horrors* is a nonstop blast, sci-fi horror comedy, love story and rock musical that has become one of the most treasured pieces of American musical theatre. While paying homage to doo-wop and Motown recordings, the story follows a luckless florist shop worker, Seymour, who raises a wisecracking carnivorous plant that develops a craving for human blood. He delights in the fame and fortune that his leafy, ever-growing friend attracts, while trying to show his co-worker Audrey that she is the girl of his dreams. As Seymour discovers his plant's out-of-this-world origins and intent toward world domination, he learns the lesson: "Don't feed the plants!"

"In reviving *Little Shop of Horrors*, we are creating a global *Little Shop* that reflects the diversity of today's world, with a sense that we can truly see the people onstage," says director **Kevin S. McAllister**. "To do this with treasured friends and collaborators, and direct at a theater where I got my start as a professional artist, is fulfilling."

The Ford's Theatre 2023-2024 season is sponsored by **Chevron** and **Lockheed Martin Corporation**. *Little Shop of Horrors* is generously supported by Lead Sponsor: **ConocoPhillips** as well as the following Sponsors: **Altria Group**, **HII Mission Technologies** and **KPMG LLP**.

### Creative Team

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**Kevin S. McAllister** (Director) is a director, actor, singer, former professor and Artistic Director/Co-Founder of ArtsCentric. He has directed over 50 productions for ArtsCentric. Outside of the DMV, he serves as the Assistant Director Fellow for the national tour and recently closed Broadway production of *Come from Away*. He has won two Helen Hayes Awards for acting (including Ford's *Ragtime*) and has been nominated for eight. He can also be heard on the recent Broadway revival cast recording of *Caroline, or Change*, where he portrayed The Dryer and The Bus. When not on stage, he works regularly with young minds around the country as a clinician.

**Ashleigh King** (Choreographer) Ford's: *Grace* (Associate Choreographer). Regional: Northern Stage: *'Bov Water*, *Spring Awakening*; *Spamalot*. Signature: *Hair* (upcoming); *Ragtime*; *Which Way to the Stage* (Helen Hayes nom.). Studio: *Fun Home*. D.C.-Area: Kennedy Center: *Finn* (upcoming); *Fovea*. Woolly Mammoth: *Fairview*; *Teenage Dick*; *The Sensational Sea Mink-ettes*. Keegan: *Seussical*; *Legally Blonde* (Helen Hayes Award). Imagination: *Nate the Great*; *A Year with Frog and Toad*. Adventure: *Alexander and the Terrible...*; *Big River*, *Make Way for Ducklings*; *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*; *Junie B. Jones*. Virginia Rep: *Mamma Mia* (RTCC Award).

**William Yanesh** (Music Director) Ford's: *Guys and Dolls*, *Into the Woods* (Helen Hayes Award, Music Direction). Regional: Signature: *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *The Last Five Years*; Arena: *Snow Child*; Round House: *Ordinary Days*. D.C.-Area: Labor Heritage Foundation: *Working in DC*; 1st Stage: *Floyd Collins*. Music and Lyrics: Flying V: *Vanishing Girl*; Adventure Theatre: *Make Way for Ducklings*, *Blueberries for Sal*, *Caps for Sale*. Training: Carnegie Mellon University. Socials: @barbershopraga.  
[williamyanesh.squarespace.com](http://williamyanesh.squarespace.com)

## The Cast and Musicians

Making their Ford's debuts are DMV-local actors **Derrick D. Truby, Jr.** (ArtsCentric Company Member, Folger: *Merry Wives of Windsor*) as Seymour Krelborn and **Chani Wereley** (Signature: *Into the Woods*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Pacific Overtures*) as Audrey. With thrilling takes on the roles and powerhouse vocals, you won't want to miss their performances.

Additional cast members include **Jay Frisby** (Ford's: *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*, *Grace*) as Audrey II (Manipulation)/Derelict, **Kaiyla Gross** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*) as Ronnette, **Joe Mallon** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*, *One Destiny*, *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*) as Orin/Bernstein/Snip/Luce/Everyone Else, **Lawrence Redmond** (Ford's: *Twelve Angry Men*) as Mr. Mushnik, **Nia Savoy-Dock** (Ford's: *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*) as Chiffon, **Ryan Sellers** (Round House: *The Tempest*; Theater J: *The Chameleon*) as Audrey II (Manipulation)/Derelict, **Tobias A. Young** (Ford's: *Ragtime*, *The Wiz*; Signature: *Passing Strange*) as Audrey II (Voice) and **Kanysha Williams** (Arena: *American Prophet: Frederick Douglass In His Own Words*; ArtsCentric: *Little Shop of Horrors*) as Crystal. Understudies include **Scott Ward Abernethy** (Mosaic: *Till Trilogy*; Ford's Oratory Teaching Artist), **Tori Gomez** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*), **Christopher Mueller** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*, *Ragtime*) and **Theodore Sapp** (Signature: *Ragtime*).

**William Yanesh** will conduct a band that includes **Nathan Beary Blustein**, **DeAnte Haggerty-Willis**, **Eliot Seppa** and **Carroll "CV" Dashiell III**.

## The Designers

**Paige Hathaway** (Round House: *The Mountaintop*; Arena: *The High Ground*) will be the scenic designer. The set is inspired by the artwork of Gerd Winner and the 1990 *Dick Tracy* film (particularly the matte paintings by Michael Lloyd) and their "graphic, colorful grittiness," according to Hathaway. "We use a very bold yellow, green and red pulp-y color scheme that makes the world feel slightly surreal and heightened," she said.

**Alejo Vietti** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*, *SHOUT SISTER SHOUT!*, *Meet John Doe*) will be the costume designer. **Max Doolittle** (Ford's: *My Lord, What a Night*; Olney: *Kinky Boots*) serves as the lighting designer. **David Budries** (Ford's Associate Artist: *Into the Woods*, *The Wiz*, *Ragtime*, *Little Shop of Horrors* – 2010) will be the sound designer. **Danna Rosedahl** (Ford's: *The Trip to Bountiful*, *My Lord*,

*What a Night, Fences*) will be the hair and make-up designer. **Rachel Hirshorn-Johnston** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol*) will serve as dialects and vocal director.

**Craig A. Horness** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol, Into the Woods, The Wiz*) will be the production stage manager, with **Taryn Friend** (Ford's: *A Christmas Carol, One Destiny*) serving as assistant stage manager. **Monkey Boys Productions** will be providing the puppets for Audrey II.

## Accessibility and Special Performances

At Ford's Theatre, we are committed to ensuring visitors of all abilities can experience the performances, exhibits, history and programs our site has to offer. **Audio-described performances** of *Little Shop of Horrors* are scheduled for **April 9 at 7:30 p.m.** and **April 27 at 2 p.m.** An **ASL sign-interpreted** performance is scheduled for **April 11 at 7:30 p.m.** A **Sensory-Friendly** performance is scheduled for **Saturday, May 4 at 2 p.m.** This sensory-friendly performance will be open to the general public, and we welcome anyone who may benefit from an adjusted theatrical environment.

Beginning **March 15, 2024**, all performances will be captioned via the [GalaPro Free Closed Captioning Mobile App](#). GalaPro is available from the App Store or Google Play and allows patrons to access captioning on demand through their phone or tablet device. Patrons can set their phones to airplane mode and connect to the local GalaPro WiFi network before the performance begins. More information at <https://fords.org/visit-us/plan-your-visit/accessibility/galapro-captioning>.

Ford's Theatre accessibility programs are supported by the **Liberty Mutual Foundation**.

### Free First Preview:

**March 15, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.**

Ford's Theatre partners with TodayTix to give out free tickets for the first performance of each mainstage production in our theatrical season. Tickets are available via the TodayTix app, beginning 10 a.m. ET on March 8 for the March 15, 7:30 p.m. performance of *Little Shop of Horrors*. Visit [www.fords.org/free](http://www.fords.org/free) for lottery entry details.

### Ford's Education Events

The **Teacher Preview Workshop** for *Little Shop of Horrors* will be on Wednesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

**Student matinees** for *Little Shop of Horrors* are Friday, April 5 and 11 and May 10 at 12 p.m. [Learn more on the Ford's Theatre website.](#)

### Generation Abe Events

**Save the date: May 2, 2024**

Generation Abe events for history and theatre lovers ages 21-40 are BACK for *Little Shop of Horrors*. More information is forthcoming. Save the date for discounted \$25 tickets to performances and opportunities to mingle with artists, staff and peers after performances in partnership with *District Fray/On Tap*. [Learn more about #GenABE here.](#)

## Ford's Theatre Society

One of the most visited sites in the nation's capital, Ford's Theatre reopened its doors in 1968, more than a hundred years after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. Operated through a partnership between Ford's Theatre Society and the National Park Service, Ford's Theatre is the premier destination in the nation's capital to explore and celebrate Abraham Lincoln's life and legacy.

Ford's Theatre Society was founded under the guidance of executive producer **Frankie Hewitt**, who during her 35-year tenure, established Ford's as a living, working theatre producing performances that highlighted the diversity of the American experience. Since the arrival of **Paul R. Tetreault** as Director,

critics and the theatre going public have recognized Ford's for the superior quality of its artistic programming. With works from the Tony-nominated *Come From Away* and the nationally acclaimed *Big River*, to the world premieres of *Meet John Doe*, *The Heavens Are Hung in Black*, *Liberty Smith*, *Necessary Sacrifices*, *The Widow Lincoln* and *The Guard*, Ford's Theatre is making its mark on the American theatre landscape. In the past decade, the mission of Ford's Theatre Society expanded to include education as a central pillar. This expansion led to the creation and construction of the Center for Education and Leadership, which opened in February 2012. Under the current leadership of Board of Trustees Chairman **Phebe N. Novakovic** and through the lens of Lincoln's leadership and legacy, Ford's today endeavors to advance Lincoln's "unfinished work" with programs and performances that cultivate empathy, encourage dialogue and bridge divides in American life.

For more information on Ford's Theatre and the Ford's Theatre Society, please visit [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org).

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**#FordsLittleShop**

Ford's Theatre on Instagram: [@fordstheatre](https://www.instagram.com/fordstheatre)

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Ford's Education on Twitter: [@fordsedu](https://twitter.com/fordsedu)

Website: [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org)



## FACT SHEET: *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*

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**Dates:** March 15-May 18, 2024

**Press Night:** Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Ford's Theatre is located at 511 10th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20004, between E and F Streets.

**Times:** Tuesdays-Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.; Saturdays-Sundays at 2 p.m.; Friday, April 5 and 11 and May 10 at 12 p.m.; Mondays starting March 25 at 6:30 p.m. (except May 6)

**Tickets:** Tickets range from **\$25-\$95** and are available to the public now. [Reserve tickets here](#). The May 2 [Generation Abe](#) performance is **\$25** for patrons 21-40 with code **UNDER4024**.

**Accessibility:** Ford's Theatre is accessible to persons with disabilities, offering wheelchair accessible seating and restrooms, audio enhancement and Braille and large print playbills. Accessible seating is available towards the rear of the orchestra and balcony.

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**Parking:** Paid parking is available at several independent neighborhood garages: the 24-hour QuickPark at the Grand Hyatt (entrance on 10th Street between G and H Streets NW), the Central Parking Garage (entrance on 11th Street between E and F Streets NW), and the One Parking garage below Ford's Theatre (at 511 10th Street, NW).

**Metro:** The Metro Center station (Red, Blue, Orange and Silver Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the Eleventh Street exit. The Gallery Place-Chinatown station (Red, Yellow and Green Lines) is two- and one-half blocks north of the theatre from the G Street exit. For further information, call Metro at (202) 637-7000.

Get Tickets at [www.fords.org](http://www.fords.org) – #FordsLittleShop

Information: (202) 347-4833 – Toll Free: (888) 616-0270 – Groups: (202) 638-2367

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