

# Perfect horrors from students

SUPERBLY entertaining, funny, an outstanding musical performance – that's the only way to describe members of Pembroke College's First Diploma Performing Arts production of the Little Shop of Horrors, showing at Merlin Theatre last week.

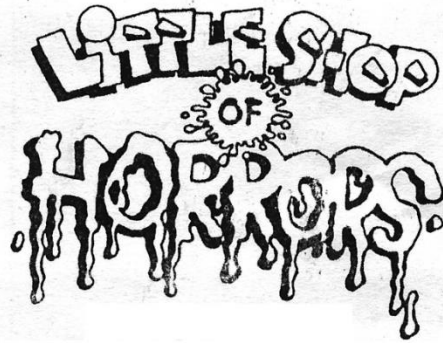
The whole cast deserve to give themselves a pat on the back for their professionalism and perfect comic timing.

The performers had the audience in fits of laughter as they told the tale of Seymour and 'Audrey Two' – the plant with an insatiable appetite for blood.

Seymour Krelborn, shop assistant at Mushnik's Flower Shop in the aptly named 1950s downtown Skid Row, was superbly played by Paul Ward.

His greased back hair, thick rimmed glasses and 'bad taste' clothing created the perfect look for this misfit employee.

Seymour is the discoverer of



Audrey Two 'a breed of plantlife, hitherto unknown on this planet...' And he is driven to keep the plant alive by his love for Audrey, Mushnik's female shop assistant.

The plant promises to give Seymour whatever he desires, including Audrey, if he provides him with blood.

Another outstanding performance came from Matthew Baker who played the sadistic dentist Orin Scrivello. Matthew also stepped in at the last minute to fill Simon Biggs' role as Mr Mushnik.

Matthew, already a well practised performer, sang with gusto in his

role as Orin, completely convincing the audience he had a nasty streak.

One of the highlights of the show had to be when Orin appeared on stage complete with his laughing gas machine – which also had the audience roaring with laughter.

Both Orin and Mr Mushnik fall victim to Audrey Two as does Audrey herself, delicately played by Michelle Maliphant.

Eventually Seymour also becomes a meal as he tries to kill the plant which as it grows bigger is constantly singing 'Feed Me, Feed Me All Night Long'!

The three singing stars Ronnette, Crystal (played by Cardiganshire girl Becky West) and Chiffon, added that extra special touch.

There were tearful scenes at the end of their last night performance as the cast thanked their course leader Jim Outram for making the show possible.

NB

**Reviewed by Nicola Blackwell**

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