



News Release

Contact: Sandra Soliz
713-906-7912
solizs@stthom.edu

Broadway Favorite *Little Shop of Horrors* Plays Jones Hall

HOUSTON(Oct. 1, 2007)---The tale of a nerdy florist assistant and his singing carnivorous plant sets the stage for the University of St. Thomas Drama program's production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The show opens Oct. 31 at Jones Hall, 3910 Yoakum, and runs Nov. 1-3, 7-10, and 14-17.

"If you don't like musicals, this is the musical for you. It satirizes just about all that is campy or silly or sappy in the tradition of musical theatre," said Dr. Gino Chelakis, assistant professor of drama. "But also, if you love musicals, this is the musical for you. It pays homage to what is most glorious in the tradition of great American musicals."

In this gleefully gruesome musical, Seymour, raises a plant that feeds on human blood. He names the ever-demanding plant Audrey II, after his co-worker Audrey, who he secretly adores. As the singing plant keeps growing, so does its demand for more blood. Between bites, Audrey II brings down the house with its rhythm and blues singing abilities.

Playing the central characters are: Natalies Nassar, as Audrey, the ditzy, but ever sincere Donna Reed "wannabe"; Peter DiCesare is Seymore, the nerdy, but abundantly earnest botanical genius; Mark Hailer is cast in the role of Mush nick, the grumpy skid row flower shop owner; Julio Morales is the voice of Audrey II, the evil plant that seeks to dominate the entire world; Nelson Fernandez as Orin, a sadistic dentist; and Matt Giampietro wears several hats as Bernstein, Mrs. Luce, Skip Snip and Patrick Martina, a character with multiple personalities; Skye Shrum, Bridget Paliwoda, Whitney Baggett, Holly Beall, Arianna Day and Michele Stapleton as The Girls, a Greek chorus of doo-wop singers, rounds out the UST cast.

"The audience can expect an evening full of clever satire and a company of student actors and singers who give the most sincere performances in the Houston theatrical arena," said Chelakis.

Tickets are \$15 general admission; \$10 for students/seniors; and \$5 for UST students, faculty and staff.

University of St. Thomas, dedicated to building leaders of faith and character, is a private institution committed to the liberal arts and to the religious, ethical and intellectual tradition of Catholic higher education.

###

