



**September 22 - October 1**

Book and Lyrics by Howard Ashman  
Music by Alan Menken

Based on the film by Roger Corman  
Screenplay by Charles Griffith

THE  
YOUNGSTOWN  
PLAYHOUSE

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# **LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS**

**BOOK & LYRICS BY  
HOWARD ASHMAN**

**MUSIC BY  
JOHN BUCHAN**

**DIRECTED BY  
ROBERT DENNICK JOKI**

BASED ON THE FILM BY ROGER CORMAN, SCREENPLAY BY CHARLES  
GRIFFITH

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED BY THE WPA THEATRE (KYLE RENICK, PRODUCING  
DIRECTOR)

ORIGINALLY PRODUCED AT THE ORPHEUM THEATRE, NEW YORK CITY BY  
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SHUBERT ORGANIZATION

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ALL AUTHORIZED PERFORMANCE MATERIALS ARE ALSO SUPPLIED BY MTI.  
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# CAST

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Seymour.....	Kage Jonas Coven
Audrey.....	Carolyn Colley
Mr. Mushnik.....	Nate Beagle
Orin.....	Frank Carsone
Audrey II.....	Connor Bezeredi
Ronnette.....	Wayne Bonner III
Crystal.....	Heather Powell
Chiffon.....	Sarah Whitlatch
Customer 1.....	Caitlyn Murphy
Customer 2/Mrs. Luce.....	Alicia Wormley
Bernstein.....	John Weber
Snip/Wino.....	Eric McCrea
DJ.....	Shelby Gossick

# SETTING

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Skid Row

# RUNNING TIME

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135 minutes

# CREATIVE TEAM

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Director/Costume & Puppet Design.....	Robert Dennick Joki
Stage Manager.....	Caitlyn N. Santiago
Music Director.....	Tyler Stouffer
Choreographer/Intimacy Coordinator.....	Emelia Sherin
Lighting Designer.....	Leslie Brown
Scenic Designer.....	Isa Foltz

# CREW

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Production Coordinator.....	Johnny Pecano
Run Crew.....	Isa Foltz
Audio Technician.....	Evan Gottschalk
Audio Assistant.....	Brandi Valley

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## ARTIST PROFILES

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**Robert Dennick Joki (Director/Costume Designer)** is an artist and activist who is fiercely proud to make his home in Youngstown, Ohio. He is the creative force behind the Rust Belt Theater Company, which is now in its fourteenth season serving the Mahoning Valley. He has written over a dozen original musicals, including the annual holiday hit *How The Drag Queen Stole Christmas*. Currently celebrating twenty five years on stage, he is known for outrageous costumes and live vocals, under the stage name “Starrlet O’Hara.” He is a former Mr. Ohio Allstar, and has been honored as Grand Marshal of both Pride in the Valley in Warren, Ohio as well as Pride Youngstown. This is his first time directing on the main stage at The Youngstown Playhouse.

**Caitlyn N. Santiago (Stage Manager)** is very happy to be starting up another season at The Youngstown Playhouse as stage manager. Although she’s never acted on the Moyer or Main Stage, she has been involved in many productions, working as crew or stage managing - just last season alone, she worked on 7 shows, stage managing 5 of them. She considers The Youngstown Playhouse to be her home theatre and is fortunate to have the opportunity to work on shows. As always, Caitlyn would like to thank her Playhouse mentors for their support and guidance. She is incredibly excited to be able to work alongside Rob Joki, as well as her many talented friends in the cast and crew. She would also like to thank her friends and family for their continuous love and support.

**Tyler Stouffer (Music Director)** is thrilled to be music directing with The Youngstown Playhouse for the first time! Tyler recently relocated to his hometown of Salem after spending the last 10 years performing, directing, music directing, and learning in Southern California. Tyler is a proud alumnus of the BFA Performing Arts program at AMDA in Los Angeles. Some music directing credits include *Sweeney Todd*, *Next to Normal*, *Heathers*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Titanic*, *Godspell*, and he recently assisted on YourArts’ production of *RENT* at the DeYor PAC. Tyler won an LA Scenic Award for “Outstanding Musical Direction of Multiple Productions”

for his work on *Heathers* and *Next to Normal*. Tyler is also an active performer having recently performed in *Avenue Q* and *The SpongeBob Musical* with MTC and in *RENT* at the DeYor PAC. [www.tylerstouffer.com](http://www.tylerstouffer.com) @tstouff

**Emelia Sherin (Choreographer/Intimacy Coordinator)** a Warren, Ohio native Emelia has choreographed over 25 productions in the past 10 years. As an arts educator and advocate, she believes in dance accessibility and inclusivity by choreographing for people of all skill and comfort levels to help bring stories to life on stage with movement. Sherin is a teaching artist for the Ohio Thespians chapter of the Education Theatre Association and is the Education Coordinator for Stambaugh Auditorium, Opera Western Reserve, Youngstown Symphony Orchestra, and The Youngstown Playhouse. She earned her degree in Public Relations with minors in Dance Studies and Theatre Management at Kent State University. She created, *Lights On*, which is a handbook and certification course for sexual violence and misconduct prevention in the arts community, supported by COMPASS Rape Crisis Center. She is also a certified Intimacy Designer/Choreographer who helps actors and directors communicate scenes of intimacy or domestic violence in a safe and consensual manner on stage and for film.



**Kage Jonas Coven (Seymour)** has been a member of community theater in the Youngstown area for the past 20 years. He'd like to thank everyone who helped him along this path and all those who have come to see his work. This is his Playhouse main stage debut and he's very excited to reprise this role from his bucket list. Most recently Kage appeared as Wadsworth in The Collingwood Center's production of *Clue*. He also played Collins in The YourArts production of *RENT*. He

hopes you enjoy the show and all the hard work he and The cast/crew have put in. P. S. - DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!

## ARTIST PROFILES

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**Carolyn Colley (Audrey)** is thrilled to be in her first production on The Youngstown Playhouse stage! After a long hiatus, she returned to the theater this April as a member of the ensemble in *RENT* at DeYor Performing Arts Center. Her last role before that was Rapunzel in Kent Trumbull Theater's production of *Into the Woods* way back in 2006. She is also the front-woman and principal songwriter for the

indie-rock band Black Wolf & the Thief, regularly playing around the northeast Ohio region and recording original music. Carolyn would like to thank her family for always supporting her artistic endeavors.



**Nate Beagle (Mr. Mushnik)** is delighted to be returning to Skid Row! Most recently Nate was seen at The DeYor Performing Arts Center as Benny in the YourArts production of *Rent*. Regional credits include *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Shrek: The Musical*, *A Christmas Carol* (Jenny Wiley Theater), *The Full Monty*, *Greater Tuna*, *Grease* (Northern Lights Playhouse), *Grumpy Old Men: The Musical*, and *Junie B Jones* (Prather

Entertainment). Local theater credits include *The Laramie Project* (Trumbull New Theater), *Sister Act* (The Youngstown Playhouse), *20th Century Blues* (The Hopewell), *Seussical: The Musical* (YSU). Love to his wife Kelly, mom, Amanda, and Jay.





**Frank Carsone (Orin)** an actor with a life-long appreciation of the arts, including theatre, film and television production. As a student, he led an active role in the Business Professionals of America, a nationwide CTSO (Career Teacher-Student Organization), giving several competitive presentations, three of which being on the national level. His time with the BPA has given him the opportunity to create content for a number

of causes; culminating with an induction into the Trumbull Career and Technical Center Hall of Fame in 2013. On the post-secondary level, Frank has also been involved with productions at Youngstown's Covelli Centre, The Hopewell Theatre, DeYor Performing Arts Center and LinMar Strategies for Entertainment. He has also appeared in *RENT* (Squeegieman), *The Other Side* (The Magician) and *Clue* as Mr. Boddy. With experience in acting, audio/video production, broadcasting, voiceovers, public speaking, graphic design, public relations, delegation and condensed time management, Frank is excited to join the cast of *Little Shop of Horrors*!



**Connor Bezeredi (Audrey II)** Born and raised in Salem, Ohio, Connor was involved consistently at Salem Community Theatre from the age of 12 until graduation from Youngstown State University with his BFA in Musical Theatre. After college, Bezeredi added several professional credits to his resume, including: Scrooge in The Imbible's seasonal off-Broadway production, *Christmas Carol Cocktails*; Pat/Bud in *4:20 The Musical: X-mas Special* and *4:20 The Musical: In Concert*. You may (or may not) recognize him from his most recent performance as Mark Cohen in the YourArts production of *RENT* at Powers Auditorium in the DeYor Performing Arts Center. He is so grateful to be back sharing another of his favorite shows with this beautiful cast, fabulous crew, and visionary creative team. @connorbezzz

## ARTIST PROFILES

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**Wayne Bonner III (Ronnette)** is happy to be back on The Youngstown Playhouse stage in *Little Shop of Horrors!* Some credits include *Shrek the Musical* (Donkey), *Almost, Maine* (East/ Daniel), *HONK!* (Bullfrog), *RENT* (Angel Dumott Schunard), *Dreamgirls* (Ensemble), *Frozen Jr.* (Prince Hans), *The Color Purple: The Musical* (Harpo), *The Gospel According To Tammy Faye* (Angel Valazquez), *Elf: The Musical* (Store Manager), *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Ensemble) and *Sister Act* (Eddie Souther). Alongside performing, Wayne is a choreographer (*Elf: The Musical*, *Newsies Jr.*), photographer, and theatre arts educator. Wayne is also a part of The MAC Experience LLC led by Michael A. Cotton Jr. Wayne is excited to continue his passion for the arts. He gives all thanks to God and to everyone who has supported him on his journey!

**Heather Powell (Crystal)** is excited to return to The Youngstown Playhouse stage. This is her second show here after her 2019 performance as an ensemble member in *Dreamgirls*. She has been in many productions with the Rust Belt Theater Company including *Living Dead the Musical* (Betty/Ben/Judy), *Forbidden Youngstown*, and *How the Drag Queen Stole Christmas* (Ensemble/ Young Starlett/Mick). When she's not on stage she can be seen (or more often heard) attending local theater productions all over, supporting

the abundance of talent the area has to offer. Although watching her friends perform brings great joy she's thrilled to bring you laughter and smiles from the stage side of things while she brings her passions to life. She could never do this without you and wants you to know that you are loved and appreciated. Thank you so much.

## ARTIST PROFILES

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**Sarah Whitlatch (Chiffon)** is making their debut at The Youngstown Playhouse. Sarah is a lifelong Trumbull county resident who, since 2020, has found their theater home with The Rust Belt Theater Company, and has starred in *Dating Sucks! The Musical* and *How The Drag Queen Stole Christmas* (Little Orphan), as well as numerous other roles in productions with The Rust Belt Theater Company. Sarah would like to thank

their family and friends for helping guide them into musical theater, especially their daughter Haylee, who always reminds Sarah to go for their dreams and that anything is possible.



**John Weber (Bernstein)** *RENT* as Homeless Person, Police Officer #2, Pastor, Ensemble (YourArts), Monsignor O'Hara in *Sister Act* (Top Hat Productions), Brandy Bottle Bates in *Guys & Dolls* (Easy Street Productions and the Youngstown Symphony). In *Annie* he played Al/ Servant/Harold Ickes (Easy Street), In *Annie* with Crown Theater he played Drake the Butler. John has had several appearances with The

Youngstown Playhouse: *Hunchback of Notre Dame* (Father Dupin / Ensemble) *Mamma Mia* (Ensemble), *Funny Girl* (Tom Keeney), *Bullets Over Broadway* (Warner Purcell), *Young Frankenstein* (Ensemble), *The Music Man* (Constable Locke. Mary Poppins / Police Officer), *Fiddler On The Roof* (The Innkeeper), *Legally Blonde* (Winthrop and Dewey), *Cabaret* (Customs Officer/First Sailor/Gorilla), *The Mystery Of Edwin Drood* (Bazzard), *Scrooge: The Musical* (Mr. Pringle/Topper/The Ghost of Christmas Future). He has appeared at Salem Community Theatre in *Oliver* and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest...*

## ARTIST PROFILES

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**Eric McCrea (Snip/Wino)** is thrilled to be back at The Youngstown Playhouse after last being seen in *Elf: the Musical*. An employee with the Purple Cat, Eric enjoys reading, bowling, and video games. Some of his other credits include *The Book of Liz* and *In The Moonlight*, *Eddie* at the Oakland and *The Outsiders*, *West Side Story*, and *Biloxi Blues* here at The Playhouse. He dedicates his performance to all the plant lovers out there.

**Shelby Gossick (DJ)** is making their first appearance at The Youngstown Playhouse. Shelby has been working with the Rustbelt Theater Company over the last year appearing in three different productions, *Dating Sucks: the Musical*, *Forbidden Youngstown*, and *The Illusion*. Shelby has done both scripted and vocal roles and while they have recently bounced back into the theater it is quickly becoming a passion!

**Alicia Wormley (Mrs Luce/Customer 2)** is from Niles, Ohio. She is a Nursing student but loves theater. She has been in shows at the Rustbelt Theater Company as well as the Squeaky Wheel Theater Company. This is her first show at The Youngstown Playhouse and she is super excited to be a part of it! She wants to thank everyone for coming out to support the local theater community and to remember whatever you do, **DON'T FEED THE PLANTS!!**

**Caitlyn Murphy (Customer 1)** is very excited to be making their Youngstown Playhouse debut as a part of *Little Shop of Horrors*. The last few years Caitlyn has been seen on stage with the Rust Belt Theater Company in shows such as *Forbidden Youngstown*, *Madhouse*, *How the Drag Queen Stole Christmas* and many others. As well as *Shrek the Musical* with Millennial Theatre Company. They've also been on stage recently as a part of Reviere Movement Collective, a local dance company. Caitlyn is very excited to be working with an amazing group of humans to bring this show to life on The Playhouse stage. They would send love to their friends and family for all of their support.



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ALICE IN  
WONDERLAND

JANUARY 19 - 21  
MAIN STAGE - YOUTH

FEBRUARY 9 - 18  
MOYER ROOM

LOVE/SICK

Shrek  
THE MUSICAL JR.

MARCH 8 - 10  
MAIN STAGE - YOUTH

APRIL 12 - 21  
MAIN STAGE

THE  
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HERE ON THE  
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MAIN STAGE

95  
THE MUSICAL

TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION:  
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# THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE

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## MISSION STATEMENT

As we anticipate our 100th Anniversary Season, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to our mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

## ABOUT THE PLAYHOUSE

The Youngstown Playhouse, founded in 1924, has sustained a legacy of quality live performance theatre in Northeast Ohio by staging innovative, unique, and accessible theatrical performances of both classic and modern productions. Located in Youngstown's Glenwood Avenue Corridor, The Youngstown Playhouse annually serves over 9,000 guests of all ages with a full season of musicals and plays complemented by workshops, readings, and concerts. The Playhouse facility houses a mainstage theatre of 400 seats and The Moyer Room an intimate blackbox space seating 75. The Youth Theatre Program serves nearly 150 participants through classes, workshops, and fully staged productions attended by over 1,000 local public school students annually. With the 100th Anniversary Season approaching, The Youngstown Playhouse remains committed to its mission of presenting quality theatre arts performances, providing educational initiatives, and establishing and maintaining community partnerships while supporting and participating in the revitalization of the City of Youngstown.

Learn more at [youngstownplayhouse.org](http://youngstownplayhouse.org)

## THE JOSEPH E. SCARVELL YOUTH THEATRE ENDOWMENT

The Joseph E. Scarvell Youth Theatre Endowment Fund was established in May 2021 under the stewardship of The Community Foundation of the Mahoning Valley to honor Joe's lifelong commitment to arts education. It is our hope that the fund, which began with an initial investment of \$20,000 supported by a major anonymous gift, will support our educational programming in perpetuity as we seek to cultivate the next generation of theatre professionals and patrons.

Contributions to the fund may be directed to CFMV via check or credit card at [www.cfmv.org/donate](http://www.cfmv.org/donate). For other forms of donation, such as stock transfer or real estate, donors may contact CFMV staff at 330-743-5555 or [info@cfmv.org](mailto:info@cfmv.org).

# THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE

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Although a donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated, gifts of \$100 or more will be included in the "Friends of The Youngstown Playhouse" Annual Giving Society. All members of the Giving Society will receive benefits including:

- Special recognition on the Youngstown Playhouse website and in event playbills
- Advance notice of upcoming events and early access to tickets
- Exclusive invitations to pre-show events and early VIP entrance for select events

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Gabrielle Jones, Development Coordinator at 330-788-8739 or [fundraising@youngstownplayhouse.org](mailto:fundraising@youngstownplayhouse.org).



Scan to learn more!

# THE YOUNGSTOWN PLAYHOUSE

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# Upcoming events



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**DR. AMY ACTON**

OCTOBER 4 | 6:30

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## BRASS METROPOLIS

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**LATIN FIRE**

OCTOBER 14 | 7:30 PM

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DEYOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



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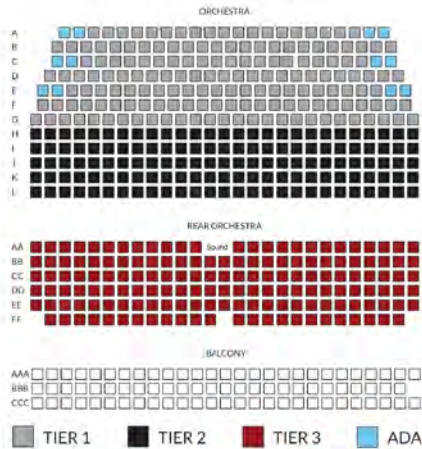
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\*Indicates a gift made in memory of Mary Melanie Cox

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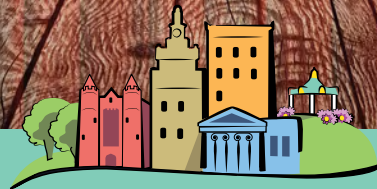
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# DESALVO CONSTRUCTION

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COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL

**Proud Supporters of  
Youngstown Symphony Orchestra,  
Youngstown Playhouse,  
Stambaugh Auditorium and  
Opera Western Reserve**

**Our key elements of success are:**



**Technology**



**Innovation**



**Adaptability**




**Improvement**



**Integrity**




**Community**

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