



NICK BRANNAM
DIRECTOR | CHOREOGRAPHER

PRODUCTION	<i>Little Shop of Horrors</i>
COMPANY	BAOS Limelight
PUBLISHED BY	Basingstoke Gazette
DATE OF PUBLICATION	26 th September 2019

MANY people have a dream of becoming rich and famous, but to what lengths would someone go to achieve fame.

This is the conundrum put before Seymour Krelbourn (Alex Williams) when he discovers a “unusual and interesting” plant.

Basingstoke Amateur Operatic Society ([BAOS](#)) Limelight have taken on the adaptation of Little Shop of Horrors for their latest production and the cast truly transport you to Skid Row.

The BAOS Limelight group kick things off with the iconic Little Shop of Horrors theme tune which instantly took me back to watching the film when I was a child.

The voices of the chorus really adds a sense of spectacle to what BAOS Limelight have produced, and would in no way lead you to think this is a group of amateur’s.

Set predominantly in Mr Mushnik’s (Aurum Elertas) florist we are quickly introduced to Seymour and Audery (Jazz Clarkson) with the on-stage trio bouncing off each other and giving one another the opportunity to have their moment in the spotlight.

The production moves at a rapid pace, not to say that it’s rushed, but it seems fitting of the 1960s era in which it is set, which means every single person on stage is always doing something to keep the narrative moving.

It is the introduction of Audrey II where everything changes and Williams’ interaction with the puppet from tiny planet to its full formed “feed me Seymour” self, where he really showcases his talents.

There are great comedic moments sprinkled throughout as well, in particular Williams and Elertas interaction during “Mushnik & Son” and Ryan Gaul’s cackling laugh as dentist Orin Scrivello D.D.S, which nicely break up the narrative into bite size chunks.

Even though Willams and Clarkson may share the leading roles on-stage, Sarah Merritt also has a key and unique role providing the voice of Audrey II, putting a fresh spin on such an iconic character.

What struck me is how well the cast managed to capture the spirit of the characters I loved from the film, from Seymour's geeky nature, to Audrey's squeaky voice, BAOS Limelight clearly did their homework.

Everything about this BAOS Limelight production is well timed and slick and there is not a single moment where you are taken out of the environment you are place. The cast full immerse its audience into their world and what an unusual and interesting world it is.

Little Shop of Horrors will be performed at the Haymarket from September 26 to September 28.

For more information and tickets visit anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/baos-limelight-little-shop-of-horrors.

Tim Birkbeck