

CHARACTERS

SEYMOUR: Mid-twenties and perhaps balding a little. Our insecure, naive, put-upon, florist's clerk hero. Above all, he's a sweet and well-meaning little man. He is *not* a silly, pratfalling nerd, and therefore should *not* be played as a hero of a Jerry Lewis film.

AUDREY: The bleached blond, Billie-Dawn-like, secret love of Seymour's life. If you took Judy Holiday, Carol Channing, Marilyn Monroe, and Goldie Hawn, removed their education and all feeling of self-worth, dressed them in spiked heels and a low-cut black dress, and then shook them up in a test tube to extract what's sweetest and most vulnerable- that'd be Audrey.

MR. MUSHNIK: Their boss. A failure of an East Side florist. His accent, if he has one, is more that of middle class New York than of Eastern Europe. He seldom smiles but often sweats.

ORIN: A tall, dark, handsome dentist with a black leather jacket and sadistic tendencies. He is *not*, however, a leftover from the movie version of *Grease*. Think instead of an egotistical pretty-boy- all got up like a greaser but thinking like an insurance salesman and talking like a radio announcer (If we do not have enough actors, the actor who plays him play also A Voice not unlike God's, Wino #2, Customer, Radio Announcer, Mr. Bernstein, Mrs. Luce, Skip Snap, and Patrick Martin).

THE PLANT (AUDREY TWO)- An anthropomorphic cross between a venus flytrap and an avocado. It has a huge, nasty looking pod which gains a shark-like aspect when open and snapping at food. The creature is played by a series of four increasing in size puppets, manipulated by one puppeteer. (If we do not have enough actors, this actor while also play Wino #1 in the first scene). The first time we see The Plant, it is less than one foot tall. The last time we see it, it fills the entire stage.

VOICE OF THE PLANT: Provided by an actor on an offstage microphone. It is important that this actor has clear visual access to the puppets on stage, so that he can provide accurate lip-synch. The sound is a cross between Otis Redding, Barry White, and Wolfman Jack. Think of The Voice as that of a street-smart, funky, conniving villain- Rhythm and Blues' answer to Richard the Third.

CRYSTAL, RONNETTE, and CHIFFON- Three female street urchins who function as participants in the action and a Greek Chorus outside it. They're young, hip, smart, and the only people in the whole cast who *really* know what's going on. In their "Greek Chorus" capacity, they occasionally sing to the audience directly. And when they do, it's often with a "secret smile" that says: "we know something you don't know."

WINO #1: Dunkard sleeping on the street of Skid Row. (sings backup and some singular song lines in "*DOWNTOWN (SKID ROW)*".)

WINO #2: Panhandler (sings backup "*DOWNTOWN (SKID ROW)*".)

CUSTOMER: Notices Audrey 2 in the window. He comes into flower shop to inquire. Optimistic and upbeat. Clearly a static stock character from B movies.

INTERVIEWER: Pre-taped. Interviews Seymour for a radio program.

MRS. LUCE: Elitist Editor's wife of *LIFE MAGAZINE*. Tosses money at Seymore for his plant story.

SKIP SNIP: Agent wanting to book Seymour's gigs. Sleazy. Does require some singing.

MR. MARTIN: Another sleazy opportunist. Works for Botanical Enterprises. Eventually at the end plants pots of Audrey 2 babies to distribute all over the country.