



News

'Little Shop' plans surprise ending

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Marion High puts on a '50s B-movie tribute favorite

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For the first time ever, Marion High School students will perform the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* this weekend.

Director Marsha Vermilion said the play is a tribute to 1950s B-movie horror, but also has a little *Macbeth* thrown into it.

"It's a story about a man who's willing to do anything for the woman he loves," she said.

The play parallels the movie with Rick Moranis — up until the ending.

"People who've seen the movie won't know how it ends," Vermilion said.

The 20-member cast has been practicing for the past eight weeks. Vermilion said people who have a dark sense of humor, who like catchy music and who enjoy seeing talented students will enjoy the performance.

"It has a lot to offer for a lot of different people," she said.

Sophomore Amanda Lehman plays the lead, Audrey. She said she tried out for the part because it was the only female lead available, and she said she likes her role.

"You can be fun in it, and I get to have an accent," she said.

Talking in a New Jersey accent isn't difficult, Amanda said.

"I'm usually good with those," she said.

She also said she's used to singing, because she's performed a lot in Community School of the Arts. She thinks the audience will enjoy the play, she said.

"It'll be really funny, and the music is good, for the most part," she said.

Amanda's sister, Alyssa Lehman, is also in the play. Although Alyssa is an eighth-grade student in the Oak Hill school district, Vermilion asked her to be in the play.

"Her sister is the lead, and they look enough alike," she said. "We needed someone that looks like (Amanda)."

Alyssa said she will perform as Audrey in a dream scene.

Freshman Caleb Marshall, who also has performed in CSA plays, is Seymour in the musical. He said he was attracted to the play because of the story line.

"It's really imaginative," he said. "It's wasn't normal. And, the music is really good."



Caleb Marshall and Amanda Lehman are Seymour and Audrey in the production of the *Little Shop of Horrors* at Marion High School. Elaine Moore / emoore@chronicle-tribune.com

Caleb is enjoying his character because he gets to act dorky and be someone else. Singing, however, is a challenge for him.

"Singing's always been one of my No. 1 fears, so this is a big step for me," he said. "I hope I can pull it off."

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