

Little Shop of Horrors!

The students studying BTEC Performing Arts, a new course at the college, are in the process of demonstrating what they have learned on the course so far by staging a version of *Little Shop of Horrors* in the college theatre, Tuesday 9th to Friday 12th December.

This is a chance for them to show off some of the skills they have acquired during the course, not just as performers, but as professional practitioners. They are not only starring in the show, but have been responsible for every aspect of the production, from securing the rights and casting to managing the whole budget themselves, running the whole company as professionals. Students have directed the show, choreographed the dance routines, arranged the harmonies, designed and built the set and lighting. In short, they have worked together as a professional ensemble and done the whole thing for themselves.

One student, Thomas Woodards, comments: "Putting on Little Shop of Horrors as a group has been an extremely enjoyable time for us all. The dedication throughout the whole group has made it possible to put on a professional performance. However it has not all been smiles as the level of stress has been sky high during the whole process!"

Another student, Rebecca Cutbush, added: "This project has not only been fun, but has been extremely useful to us as part of our course as we have had to learn skills such as finance, advertising and publishing, and set design. Putting on a production isn't just about looking good with cheesy smiles on stage and being talented, it's the behind-the-scenes work that makes it successful. The weeks we spent organising the whole musical were hectic and sometimes stressful, but we have learnt so many skills that we can take with us when entering the business. I am so glad that I am part of such an amazing and talented bunch of performers. We all worked together as a team, and pulled off, in my eyes, a very successful musical. It has given me a strong insight into how the industry really works and what I look forward to for the future. I would do it all over again anyway."

Course tutor, Matt Cawson, comments: "We are particularly proud of the levels of commitment the students have shown, always freely giving their time to help whenever needed (including driving to North Wales to collect the set!) They have showed a level of professionalism way beyond their years, and continually beyond the call of duty."

