

LITTLE SHOP

of HORRORS



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Masquerade
Theatre Company
presents

LITTLE SHOP of HORRORS

Book and Lyrics by
HOWARD ASHMAN

Music by
ALAN MENKEN

Based on the film by Roger Corman

Screenplay by Charles Griffith

MANOEL THEATRE VALLETTA

APRIL 28, 29, 30

MAY 5, 6 7, 2000

\$1

Vocal Arrangements By
ROBERT BILLIG

Musical Direction By
RENZO SPITERI

Directed By
anthony bezzina

Orchestrations By
ROBBY MERKIN

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre (Kyle Renick, Producing Director)

Originally Produced at the Orphen Theatre, New York City by the WPA Theatre,
David Greffen, Cameron Mackintosh and the Shubert Organisation

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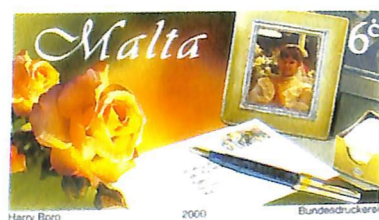


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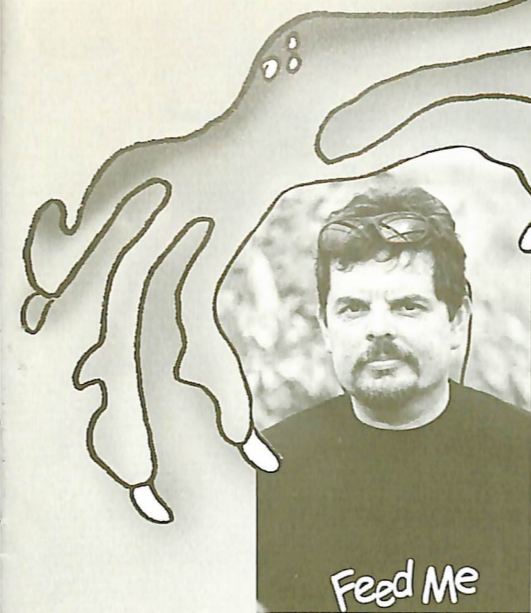
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**Date of Issue:
9th February 2000**

**Last day of sale:
25th January 2001**



**anthony bezzina
(DIRECTOR)**

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I choose to live my life by recalling moments. Each production has specific moments that send me back home with a good feeling. This musical has lots of these moments. Moments which bring a tear to the eye, or a smile to the face...Moments of sheer brilliance by the voices of the actors on stage, moments of technical achievement of people backstage, and moments of you as punters leaving the theatre satisfied that

you got your money's worth ..I most dearly hope that you will! On behalf of Masquerade, I would like to thank you for your continuous support and encouragement. We hope that you find these moments and cherish them, and maybe 'we' could share them. Enjoy the show, and next time you water your plants, look out for the tell-tale sign.....YA NEVER KNOW!

Feed Me

anthony bezzina trained at MTADA 1987 - 1990, and at Webber Douglas, London, in 1982.
Theatre credits include:
• For MADC ~ Tartuffe (1983), Ants (Under The Sycamore Tree), Private Eye, Goldilocks, Sleeping Beauty, Ali Baba, Cinderella, My Fair Lady, Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, Oliver and Humpty Dumpty.
• For ATTURI ~ Sat Sun Monday, Sweet

Bird Of Youth, Filomena, Servant Of Two Masters, Waltz Of The Toreadors, Don't Dress For Dinner.
• In-Nisga Ta' Gensna (25th Independence Pageant)
• Hatambu Shadow Theatre for Maltafest 1997
• Rock Opera Zaghzugh
• Co-ordinated several ceremonies for sports functions and National Festivities Committee

• Directed first children's opera Bel & The Dragon
In 1998, he launched his theatre company Masquerade with the musical Annie, which was followed by the comedy Gun-Shy and musicals The King & I and most recently, Tin Pan Ali.
In October 1998, Tony launched his drama school for children, Masquerade Theatre Arts School.

**HOWARD ASHMAN
(book and lyrics)**

Howard Ashman is a native of Baltimore, Maryland. He was Artistic Director of New York's WPA Theatre from 1976-1982. He directed and supplied book and lyrics (with Dennis Green) for the musical version of Kurt Vonnegut's God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater, which was described as 'a small miracle' by Clive

Barnes of the new York Post and 'positively eleemosynary' by Mel Gussow of the New York times, precipitating a brief Off-Broadway run and a successful revival at Washington DC's Arena Stage.
For his work on the original New York production of Little Shop of Horrors, he is the recipient of an Outer Critic's Circle

Award (best lyrics and best Off-Broadway musical), a New York Drama Critics Circle Award (best musical), and a Drama Desk (best lyrics). Where the latter award is concerned, he is proud to have been nominated alongside T.S. Eliot and even prouder to have lost as Best Director to Mr. George Abbott.

**ALAN MENKEN
(Composer)**

Alan Menken won the 1982/83 Outer Critics Award for Little Shop of Horrors. Prior to this he and Howard Ashman, collaborated on God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater. Mr. Menken has also collaborated with Stephen Brown on

Attina: Evil Queen of the Galaxy, produced in workshop by Michael Bennett as Battle of the Giants, and The Thorn.
As a composer/lyricist he has written Real Life Funnies, a musical based on Stan Mack comic strip, produced at the

Manhattan Theatre Club, and Patch, Patch, Patch, a revue comprised of songs written as a member of Lehman Engel's BMI Musical Theatre Workshop.

PLOT SYNOPSIS

The time: early 60s. Our guides: Crystal, Ronette, Chiffon, Shinelle, Rubette and Marvellette - 6 street urchins who function as participants in the action and a Greek Chorus outside it. The Place: Mushnik's Skid Row Florist, where Seymour Krelborn, an orphan, works as a clerk. Seymour dreams of a better life and longs for love of his co-worker Audrey, whose taste runs to tougher men (given that

she has a bad self-image) - though she is flattered when Seymour names his new plant AUDREY II in her honour. But the plant only thrives when it is fed blood, and when Audrey's newest boyfriend abuses her one time too many, Seymour feeds him to Audrey II. The voracious plant wants more and more, but will it succeed? Watch and find out. And as our 6 urchins would advise, "**Don't feed the plant!**"



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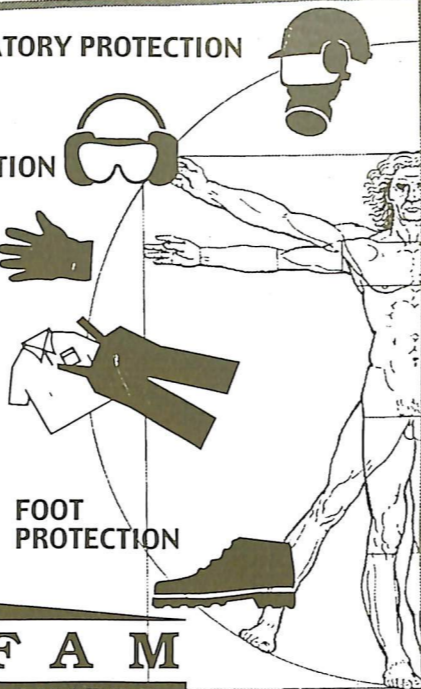
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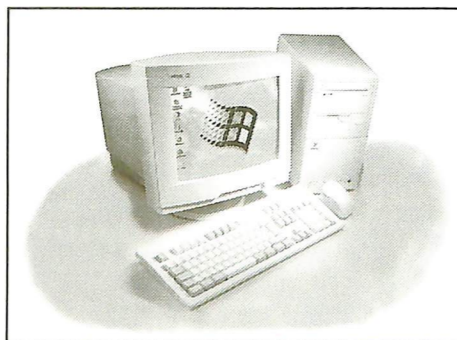
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MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Prologue (Little Shop of Horrors)	Street-urchins
Skid Row (Downtown)	Company
Da-Doo	Street-urchins
Grow for Me	Seymour
Don't it Go to Show Ya Never Know	Mushnik, Street-urchins, Seymour
Somewhere That's Green	Audrey
Closed for Renovations	Seymour, Audrey, Mushnik, Street Urchins
Dentist!	Orin, Street-urchins
Mushnik & Son	Mushnik, Seymour
Feed Me (Git It!)	Seymour, Audrey II
Now (It's Just the Gas)	Seymour, Orin

ACT II

Call Back in the Morning	Seymour, Audrey
Suddenly, Seymour	Seymour, Audrey
Supertime	Audrey II
The Meek Shall Inherit	Company
Finale (Don't Feed the Plants)	Company

There will be one interval between acts.

THE BAND

Musical Director	Renzo Spiteri
Singing Coach	Simone Attard
Percussion & Drums	Renzo Spiteri
Piano	Simone Attard
Electronic Keyboards	Mark Attard
Guitar	Jesmond Psaila
Bass Guitar	Andre Micallef





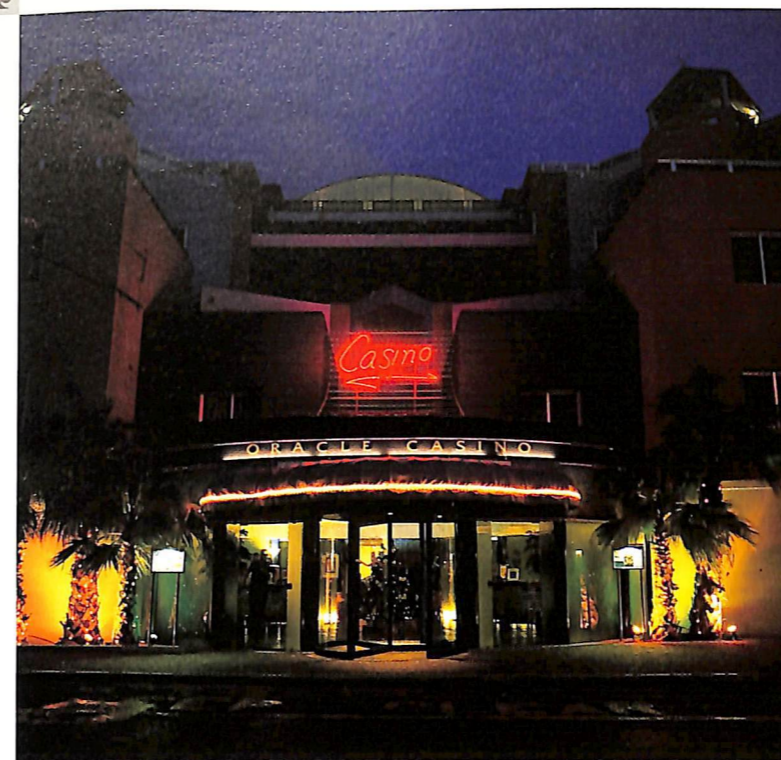
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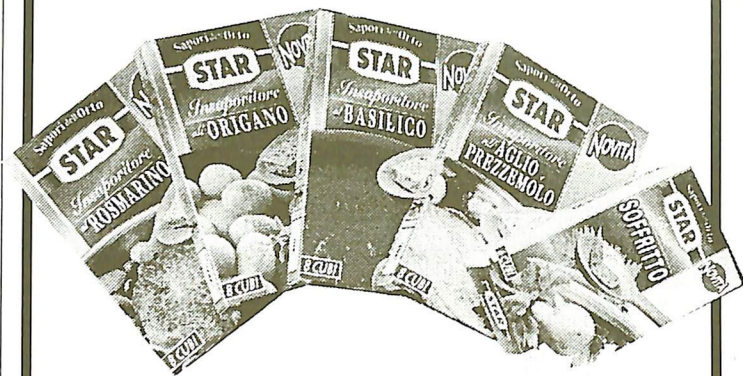
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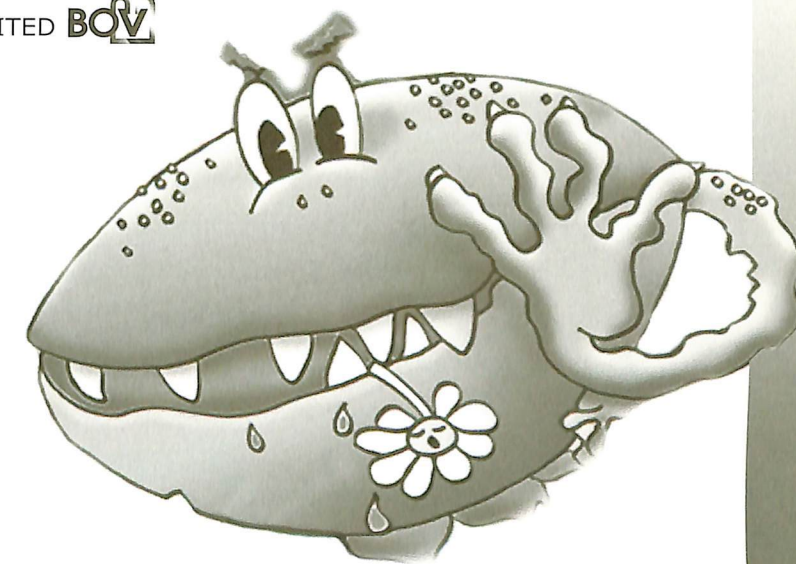
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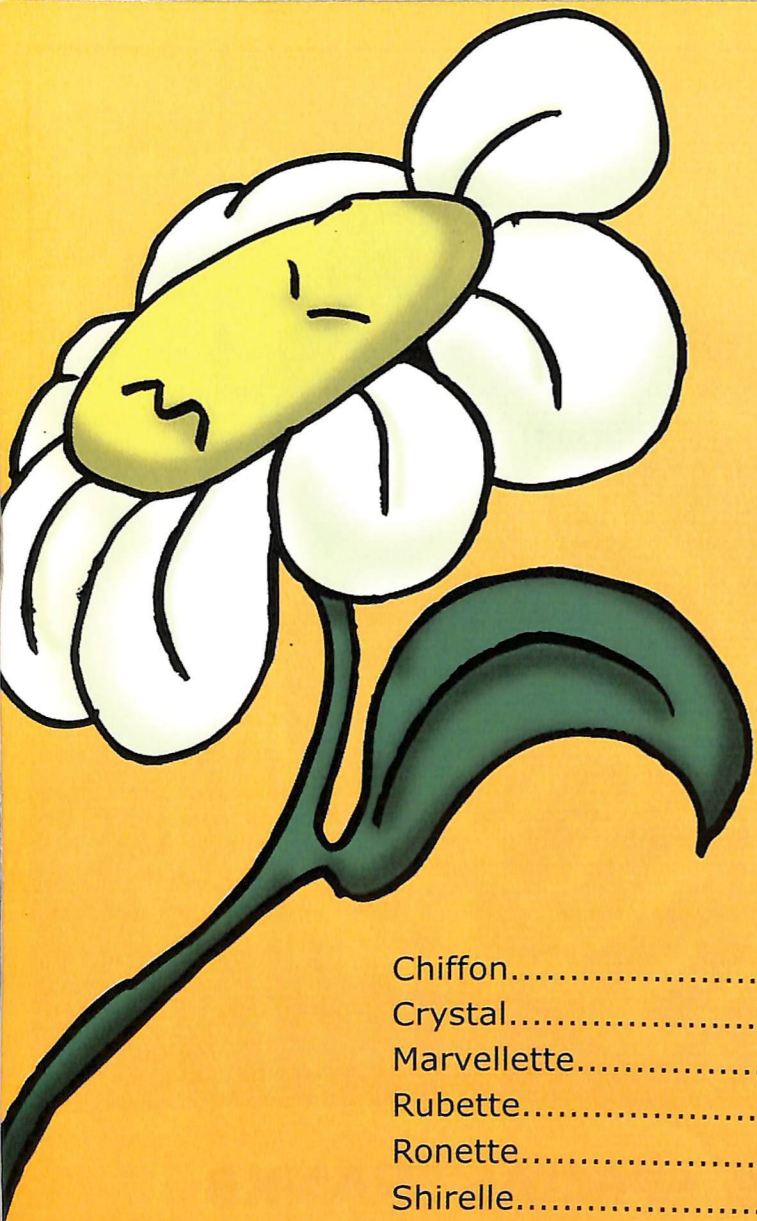
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THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Chiffon..... CORYSE BORG
 Crystal..... RACHEL FABRI
 Marvellette..... KAREN POLIDANO
 Rubette..... NADIA VELLA
 Ronette..... PIA ZAMMIT
 Shirelle..... SIMONE ZAMMIT
 Mushnik..... ALAN PARIS
 Audrey..... ISABEL WARRINGTON
 Seymour..... COLIN ZAMMIT LUPI
 Derelicts..... CHRIS DINGLI, JOHN MARINELLI
 Audrey Junior..... FIONA BARTHET
 Orin..... KEVIN DRAKE
 Customers, Bernstein,
 Snip Luce and Everyone else CHRIS DINGLI, JOHN MARINELLI
 AUDREY II (Manipulation) MARIO DALLI
 (Voice) MARIO ELLUL



THE PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Coordinator VERONICA BEZZINA
 Stage Manager CHRISTIAN MIFSUD
 Assistant Stage Manager ANN DEMARCO
 Setting By ANTHONY DEGIOVANNI
 Costumes By ERNEST CAMILLERI
 Lighting By anthony bezzina
 Plants/Puppets Design MARTIN P. ROBINSON
 Choreography anthony bezzina, PATRICK VELLA
 Ballet Choreography MONIQUE PELLEGRINO PETIT

Production Carpenter JOE PAPA DALLI
 Properties ROBERT DESIRA BUTTIGIEG, YVONNE DESIRA BUTTTGIEG,
 LISA CASSAR, ANTHONY M. GATT, LAURA LEJMAN,
 ALVIN TSANG

Backstage Crew ANTHONY BORG, VANESSA DEBATTISTA, JEFF PARSONS,
 DAPHNE SAID, ROBERTA STELLINI

Plants Construction ERNEST CAMILLERI & THE KCB TEAM, NORMAN HILL
 Assisted by DORIS BORG, GINA BORG
 Wardrobe By VERONICA BEZZINA, VANNA VELLA
 Wardrobe Assistants MARIE BORG, HELEN CILIA, THERESE MIFSUD, ANNE
 PARSONS, ANNE MARIE ZAMMIT LUPI
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Assistants to the Production Robert Abela, Anthony Borg, Coryse Borg, Kevin Drake,
 Jon Rosser, Alfred Vassallo

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WHO'S WHO...

ISABEL WARRINGTON

Isabel's acting career started with the MADC 'One Act Play Festival' in 1996 when she was nominated for Best Actress.

However, her stage debuts started when she was a student with The College of Jazz Dance and Alison White Dance Studio, where she participated in many dance shows. At the MADC Clubrooms she performed in comedies *DO NOT DISTURB* and *THE FARDALE HOUSING ESTATE TOWNSWOMEN'S CLUB MYSTERY MURDER*. Her first appearance at the Manoel was with *Masquerade* in the comedy 'GUN-SHY'. This was followed by her role as *Syphilia*, the *Witch* in this year's pantomime and *Jacqueline* in *LA CAGE AUX FOLLES*.

COLIN ZAMMIT LUPI
Colin Zammit Lupi has appeared in a number of pantomimes and

musicals since 1988. Roles include 'Sinbad' in *Sinbad the Sailor*, 'Freddy' in *My Fair Lady*, 'Theo' in *Piaf*, 'Mr. Ames' in *A Chorus of Disapproval* and 'Teen Angel' in *Grease*. He sang in the *Voices* series of concerts from 1991-1994. Colin, a very keen musician, has been around on the local music scene over the past ten years as half of the *Colin & Gianni* duo.

KEVIN DRAKE
Kevin Drake has been treading the boards (on and off) for nigh on 13 years. Memorable theat-

rical moments DO NOT include playing to an audience of fifteen in a 850 seat auditorium some 11 years back. Performances worth recalling, however, might include Moliere's *Argan*, *Shylock*, Prof. Henry Higgins, *Daddy Warbucks* in the musical *ANNIE*, the *Dentist* in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and, most recently, *King Phra Meha Mongut II* in the eponymous musical *THE KING AND I* - a character-part from which his ego and psyche have not yet fully recovered. Notwithstanding the fact that Kevin is returning to the part of the sadist-dentist after a decade, he has STILL not grown any fonder of members of the dental profession AND the irrational, pathological fear instilled in him by the sound of a dentist's drill has yet to be overcome.

ALAN PARIS

Alan Paris started his theatre frenzy with a bang at the age of 15, falling off a stage at Stella Maris College while playing 'Uncle Max' in *The Sound of Music*. Roles that followed include 'Riff' in *West Side Story*, 'Ross' in the *Scottish Play* and roles in 'Brighton Beach Memoirs' and 'Charley's Aunt'. Alan has also played various roles in pantomimes.

JOHN MARINELLI

John Marinelli's theatrical credits include 'Ford' in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, 'Maxim de Winter' in *Rebecca*, 'Othello' in *Othello*, 'Banquo' in *Macbeth*, 'Don Pedro' in *Much Ado About Nothing*, 'Buckingham' in *Richard III*, 'Horatio' in *Hamlet* and other parts in *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Blithe Spirit*, and *Tomb with a View*. Musicals include *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Oklahoma*, *Joseph* and *The Amazing Technicolor*

Dreamcoat, *My Fair Lady*, *Annie* and *The King And I*.

MARIO ELLUL

Mario Ellul started his singing carrier with his school band Fog. In the 80's, he formed part of the successful band Mirage. Mario's first experience in musicals came in 1989 with 'Little Shop of Horrors' when it was staged at University by MADC, when he had played the plant. In 1992 he joined yet another band, 'Under Cover'. 1994 was the year he took part in *VOICES* for the first time. This led to back Mike Spiteri's winning song in the *Festival for the Eurovision Song Contest*. Mario trained at MTA-DA and voice with the late Mary Fields, and also won best actor in MADC's one act plays back in 1984. *Little Shop of Horrors* remains Mario's favourite and he was very keen to join Anthony Bezzina to be part of this talented cast for what he hopes will be his best performance yet.

MARIO DALLI

One normally associates Mario Dalli with backstage as he has stage-managed and constructed props for a number of productions. Some years back he formed part of the ensemble in the musical *OLIVER*. After an absence of 5 years from the scene, he ended up with the role of *AUDREY 11* - the plant. Mario hopes he survives the ordeal!

CHRIS DINGLI

Chris Dingli was introduced to stage as a '90-year old woman' in a school play. After this he decided to brave the stage and started off in pantomime, with his latest role being 'Cedric' in *ALISON*

WONDERLAND. Other roles include 'Doody' in *GREASE* and the lead in 'CHAR-LIE'S AUNT'. Despite appearances, there may be a slight glimmer of musical talent in the lad as he plays the viola. Chris is currently studying Communications at the University of Malta. He likes pizza, chocolate and is tremendously sacred of dentists.

CORYSE BORG

Coryse burst onto the local theatre scene after five years training at M.T.A.D.A. She started off with a bang as 'Mabel' the singing chicken in panto *Jack and the Beanstalk* graduating to another 'Mabel', this time in Oscar Wilde's *The Ideal Husband*. Other parts include 'Maria' in Sheridan's *The School for Scandal*, 'Hermia' in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Nights Dream*, 'Princess Bella' in panto *Puss in Boots*, 'Mary Parfitt' in *Do Not Disturb* as well as parts in musicals and pantomimes such as *Oliver*, *Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Oklahoma*, *Aladdin*, *Anything Goes* and *Humpty Dumpty*.

RACHEL FABRI

Rachel is very thrilled to have been cast in this role. Although still very young, she has already taken part in musicals 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' and 'Oliver' for the MADC, and 'Bel And the Dragon', 'Annie' playing the title role, 'The King And I' and 'Tin Pan Ali' for *Masquerade*. Rachel attends *Masquerade Theatre Arts School* and is also currently taking piano and singing lessons.

NADIA VELLA

Nadia's first main role was in the C.H. School production *RATS* in which she played the leading role. This was followed by 'Annie' in *ANNIE*, 'Royal Princess' in *THE KING AND I*, and



Clockwise From Top Left: Karen Polidano, Pia Zammit, Rachel Fabri, Simone Zammit, Nadia Vella and Coryse Borg

'Morgiana' in *TIN PAN ALI*, all *Masquerade* productions at the Manoel Theatre. Nadia attended *Drama Troupe* for 3 years, and is presently attends *Masquerade Theatre Arts School*. Nadia is very happy to be taking part in *LITTLE SHOP* as she thinks the music is fantastic, and hopes that you all have a good time.

KAREN POLIDANO

Born and raised in Toronto, Canada, Karen Polidano began her musical career at the age of 8 as the main soloist in her school's choir. Her first main role was 'Benny Southstreet' in her high school production of 'Guys and Dolls'. Since moving to Malta in 1995, her roles include *Cosette* (understudy) in 'Les Miserables Concert', *Hope Harcourt* in *Anything Goes*, *Royal Wife* in 'The King and I' and *Lady Diana* in an original musical 'Queen of Hearts - The Story of Lady Diana'. Karen is currently reading a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Malta, and continues to pursue her love for music every chance she gets.

PIA ZAMMIT

Pia started her theatrical career in pantomime, and has played various roles. Dammit Zammit, as she is now known, discovered that she had a male singing voice and gravitated towards musicals taking part in *JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT* (she played the coat!), 'Charlotte' in *OLIVER* and

most recently 'Rizzo' in *GREASE*. She was determined to land a role as an urchin in *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS* and in fact contacted her old friends from the Russian underworld to 'do away with the competition'. Even though it's hard to miss her on stage - it's even harder not to hear her!

SIMONE ZAMMIT

Simone Zammit trained at M.T.A.D.A., and singing with Mary Field and Erloise Thomas Jones at the Johann Strauss School of Music. Her 24 years experience ranges from various radio and TV productions and roles in plays such as 'Macbeth', 'Medea', 'Blood Wedding', 'Saturday, Sunday, Monday'. Singing in operas, operettas, musicals and pantomimes such as 'Manon Lescaut', 'La Danza delle Libellule', 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Annie', and 'The King And I'. Simone participated in a 2-week tour to London presenting 3 Maltese plays.



ERNEST CAMILLERI

Ernest Camilleri's interest in costume design started at an early age. He

attended several courses in costume and fashion design both locally and abroad. He started designing extravagant costumes for carnival, then moved on to designing for various theatre and dance companies such as *YADA*, *MADC*, and *Alison White*. His most remembered costume designs were for the various pantomimes he has worked on, in particular this

year's *Alison Wonderland*. Other works include *Anything Goes*, *Tango*, *Merchant of Venice* and *Othello*. This is Ernest's third for *Masquerade* after *THE KING AND I* and *TIN PAN ALI*.

TONY DEGIOVANNI

Studied at the Malta School of Art, the Eastbourne College of Art, Brighton Polytechnic and the University of London. Observer for scenic design at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon. Taught Art and Design for several years and was Education Assistant responsible for Art Education and Head of the Malta School of Art. Anthony DeGiovanni has designed for *Maltafest*, *Ilijeli Mediterranean Arts Festivals* and *MADC* as well as for a number of important cultural events like *Gensna*, *Malta International Song Festival*, *Kanzunetta ghall-Ewropa*, *Kanzunetta Zghazagh* and *Kanzunetta Maltija*. He also designed three sets of stamps for Malta Post Office, various national pavilions at international fairs and the recent *l-Elfejn il Fejn* exhibition.

PATRICK VELLA

Trained at the Liverpool Institute for the Performing Arts. Age 26, Patrick performed in various theatre shows such as 'Rooster' in *ANNIE*, 'Simon Zeolotes' in *Jesus Christ Superstar*, 'The Nutcracker Soldier' and 'Madam Bon Bon' in the ballet *The Nutcracker*. His choreography works include the musical *Lady Di*, and *The Highlights of the Musicals*. At present, Patrick teaches drama at St. Michael's Foundation, and is a tutor at *Masquerade Theatre Arts School* and *D.U.T.P.*

SIMONE ATTARD

Simone has performed as a pianist in Malta, England, Sicily, Italy and Germany. Besides being a soloist, she is also an accomplished accompanist, and has performed with many local and foreign singers and instrumentalists. She has attended courses in *Sonnenberg* (Germany) and *Italy Chigiana* in Siena) in singing and pianoforte respectively. She graduated from the University of Malta, obtaining a B.Ed. (Hons) in Music and also hold pianoforte diplomas as a performer. Simone is a past member of some of the more important choirs on the Island, and was

Chorus Mistress of the Manoel Theatre Choir and the Malta Children's Choir. She has also participated in numerous pantomimes and musicals. Simone is currently a full-time piano teacher and repetiteur at the Johann Strauss School of Music. She is also one of the singing tutors at *Masquerade Theatre Arts School*.

RENZO SPITERI

Renzo Spiteri has worked in various musical situations that span from jazz to classical, from theatre music to pure percussion performances. He has participated in numerous concerts locally and abroad, promoting percussion and contemporary music. For the past two years he has been furthering his studies in percussion in Italy. During this period he has performed with classical ensembles, participated in jazz concerts and recorded CDs as session musician. He is the artistic director of '2000 Rhythms' - a percussion project which he created and launched during the main Millennium Celebration concerts held at *Floriana Independence Arena* last December.

THE BAND

"I'd like to add a few words about the musicians who form the band for 'Little Shop'. It's a five piece band made up of *Jesmond Psaila* on guitar, *Andre Micallef* who plays the bass, *Mark Attard* on keyboards, *Simone Attard* on piano and myself on drums and percussion. I consider *Jes*, *Mark* and *Andre* as my soul mates in most band work that I am involved in, such as *VOICES*, jazz and fusion music. Their musical versatility and wide experience always makes it a pleasure to have these people around. Simone has long been involved not only in the classical field but also in numerous musical productions, as a pianist and very often as a choirist and very often as a pianmistress too. We have worked together in classical concerts, but we have also shared long nights of rehearsals in a number of musicals! I am thankful for these musicians' experience and friendship. It is indeed a great asset in putting a production such as this together!"

Renzo Spiteri

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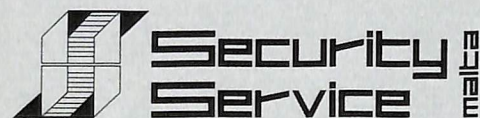
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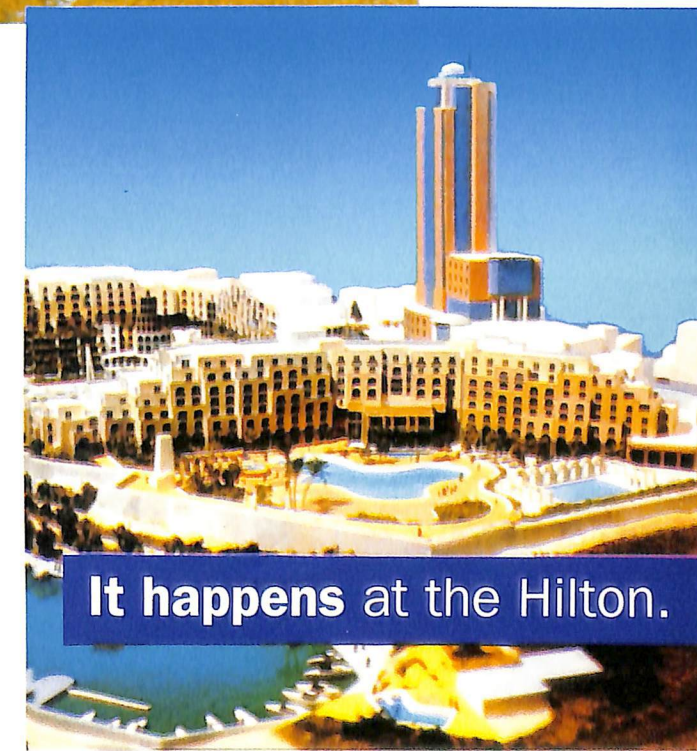
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