

Village Theatre

KIDSTAGE

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Michelle Sanders, PR/Communications

(425) 392-1942 x124

msanders@villagetheatre.org

www.villagetheatre.org

SUMMER INDEPENDENT SET TO ROCK THIS SUMMER WITH *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS*

Everett, Wash. — KIDSTAGE Summer Independent produces *Little Shop of Horrors*, running July 9-18, 2010 at The Little Theatre at Everett High School.

KIDSTAGE's Summer Independent production is a professionally mentored performance program, unique to Village Theatre. Most Summer Independent students have prior experience with Village Theatre, be it behind the scenes or onstage, in KIDSTAGE or the Mainstage, however having KIDSTAGE specific experience is not mandatory. This program allows its students the opportunity to really take the reins in every aspect of producing this full-scale musical, from start to finish. From performance to directing, and behind the scenes jobs like stage management and set design to marketing, these students do it all.

Student director Dylan Pickus is a recent graduate of Kamiak High School with plans to attend Northwestern University in the fall to study theatre. A KIDSTAGE student since kindergarten, Dylan has been part of nine KIDSTAGE productions, and this year, served as a lyricist in Everett's first-ever Company Originals program. Dylan is thrilled to be part of Summer Independent this season and describes the program as "about asserting our independence. The entire process rests on the student's shoulders. It is our job to use the lessons we have gained from previous experiences to enrich ourselves further."

As the director of this production, Dylan worked with KIDSTAGE staffers to choose the production his team of Summer Independent students would be producing this summer. "After a month of looking, we settled on *Little Shop of Horrors*," Dylan commented. "Its message of humility really spoke to me especially in today's society. It's a fun show that has a message hidden underneath all the camp, which is my favorite kind of show."

Little Shop of Horrors will feature 11 cast members, between the ages of 13-20, from the Everett, Marysville, Snohomish, and Stanwood areas. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact

Michelle Sanders, Communications Manager at (425) 392-1942 x124 or at msanders@villagetheatre.org. Pre-production photos will be available on the Village Theatre website after June 21, 2010.

SYNOPSIS:

A down-and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, foul-mouthed, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature poised for global domination! One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows of all time, this affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies has become a house-hold name, thanks to a score by the songwriting team of Howard Ashman and Alan Menken, who redefined the animated musical film with Disney's "The Little Mermaid", "Beauty And The Beast" and "Aladdin." Charming, tuneful and hilarious, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, Little Shop Of Horrors never fails to entertain.

- What:** *Little Shop of Horrors*
Book by Howard Ashman
Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Howard Ashman
Based on the film by Roger Corman, screenplay by Charles Griffith
- Where:** **In Everett:** The Little Theatre at Everett High School
2331 Hoyt Avenue, Everett
- When:** **Everett Dates:** July 9-18, 2010 – **ON SALE NOW**
Friday and Saturday: 7:30 PM
Sunday: 2:00 PM
- Tickets:** **\$10 General Seating --** Box Office (425) 257-8600 or (888) 257-3722
www.villagetheatre.org

About Village Theatre KIDSTAGE:

Designed to encourage teamwork, personal integrity, self-esteem, and a life-long appreciation for live theatre, KIDSTAGE is a year-round performing arts training program in Issaquah, Everett, and Stanwood for young people ages 3-20. KIDSTAGE students participate in classes, workshops and full-scale KIDSTAGE productions. All performances are by KIDSTAGE students and classes are taught by professional theatrical instructors.

About Village Theatre

Based in Issaquah, WA, with operations in Everett, Village Theatre is a leading producer of musical theatre in the Pacific Northwest. Producing entertaining quality productions for the entire family since 1979, Village Theatre has grown into one of the region's best-attended Equity theatres, with over 18,000 subscribers and 182,000 projected total attendance each season. Through its Village Originals program, Village Theatre is nationally recognized for its contribution to the development of new musicals, having launched over 85 new works to date. Village Theatre also takes pride in nurturing tomorrow's audiences through its youth education programs, Pied Piper and KIDSTAGE, serving over 54,000 young people, families, and schools annually.

KIDSTAGE is made possible, in part, by Arts United, Bellevue Arts Commission, Citigroup Private Bank, City of Everett, City of Issaquah, Clear Image, Costco, Everett Clinic, Everett Cultural Commission, Fluke, Kobe Foundation, Snohomish County Tourism, Tulalip Tribes, US Bancorp, and Washington State Arts Commission.