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### Gardner-Webb School of Performing and Visual Arts to Present Musical

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# Gardner-Webb School of Performing and Visual Arts to Present Musical

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Office of University  
Communications

February 3, 2017

*'Little Shop of Horrors' Takes Stage Feb. 23-26 in Dover Theatre*

**By Katie Furr, ('20) GWU Intern for Communications**

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb School of Performing and Visual Arts will present the musical, “Little Shop of Horrors,” on Feb. 23-26 in Dover Theatre inside the Lutz-Yelton Convocation Center on the main campus.

Little Shop of Horrors poster

The musical is a comedy by writer Howard Ashman and composer Alan Menken. It follows a florist shop employee who raises a plant in hopes of winning the girl of his dreams, but his plan backfires when the plant becomes a carnivorous monster. This show is not recommended for children.

Gardner-Webb’s production will be directed by Dr. Chris Nelson, assistant professor of theatre arts. He shared that one of the challenges of producing the musical has been creating different versions of the man-eating plant that grows bigger during the show. “We selected this musical because it’s scary but fun and has catchy music,” Dr. Nelson offered. “My vision for the show here is that people get to see something unusual that they will enjoy, will make them laugh, and boost interest in the School of Visual and Performing Arts.”

The cast includes Cory Walters as Snip/Luce, Bekah Bridges as Chiffon, Christina Smith as Ronnette, Julia DeSerio as Crystal, Andy Bennett as Mr. Mushnik, Ian DeSmit as Seymour, Alyssia Pagan as Audrey, Daniel Graves as Orin, Joe Bragdon as The Plant, and Kordell Hemphill as Voice of the Plant. The accompaniment will be provided by the Gardner-Webb University Orchestra, conducted by Dr. Patricia Sparti.

Show times are 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23-25 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 26. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students, \$5 for GWU faculty and staff, and free for GWU students. For tickets, visit [gardner-webb.edu/theatre-arts](http://gardner-webb.edu/theatre-arts) or call Rachel Alexander, administrative assistant to the dean of the School of Performing and Visual Arts, at 704-406-2066.

***Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 10 days prior to the event. Please call 704-406-4253 or email [servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu).***