

**Nick Petriello** (Music Director) is a 2010 graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, with a dual Bachelor's Degree in Film Scoring and Contemporary Writing/Production. Since moving to Los Angeles in 2011, Nick has worked as an orchestrator on TV (ABC's "Revenge," "Nashville," and "Modern Family," Showtime's "Shameless," CBS's "Under The Dome," and NBC's "Aquarius"), feature films ("Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters" and Mattel's BARBIE animated features), video games ("Halo 4"), and music albums (Seal's "Soul II" and Rod Stewart's "Merry Christmas, Baby," both under acclaimed producer, David Foster). Nick currently holds the position of touring music director for Frenchie Davis ("The Voice") and David Hernandez ("American Idol"), both of whom tour domestically and internationally. He is also the event entertainment contractor for Warner Bros. Studios in Burbank and Bright Horizons Family Solutions in Boston. In musical theatre, Nick has worked for 3-D Theatricals, musical directing "Tarzan" in summer 2015, and is resident musical director for Theatre Planners in Hollywood, having musical directed "Reunion," "The Story of Alice," and "Drama Queens From Hell." This is the second time Nick is bringing "Little Shop of Horrors" to life on the Cupcake Theatre stage, and he is thrilled to be working with such an inspired creative team.

**Susannah Corrington** (Stage Manager | Audrey u/s) is pleased as punch to be a part of her fourth Cupcake production. After jetsetting across the country, performing in St. Louis, Chicago, and Memphis, she is happy to be back at home in Los Angeles. You can see her still puppeteering away in Cupcake's production of AVENUE Q, where she is reprising her role as Kate/Lucy. Other credits include Christine in DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS (Ostrander Nominated Best Actress in a Musical), Pennywise in URINETOWN, The Witch in INTO THE WOODS and Mama Noah in CHILDREN OF EDEN. She'd like to thank her incredibly supportive parents and friends. And to Jarek Stultz: "All I ever wanted was you and a sweet little house." [www.susannahcorrington.com](http://www.susannahcorrington.com)

**Jarek Stultz** (Choreographer) brings over 22 years of experience in training, performing, and educating to The Cupcake. He has worked with over 50,000 kids across the United States and in 7 countries around the world teaching musical theater, ballet, tap, jazz, and hip-hop. He was an associate professor of dance at the University of Alaska and a performer for Disney Cruise Lines. In 2015, Jarek opened his own studio in Memphis, Tennessee (Jarek Stultz Dance Academy), and has since relocated to Cupcake as the head of the dance department and resident choreographer. [www.jarekstultz.com](http://www.jarekstultz.com)

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For upcoming show information or tickets to our upcoming production of *Hairspray*, please visit [www.thecupcake.org](http://www.thecupcake.org)

# CUPCAKE STUDIOS

presents



[www.thecupcake.org](http://www.thecupcake.org)

# CUPCAKE STUDIOS

PRESENTS

## LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

BOOK and LYRICS BY  
**HOWARD ASHMAN**

MUSIC BY  
**ALAN MENKEN**

### STARRING

Thomas Polk Rhonda Karson David Callander Matt Merchant  
Desi Dennis-Dylan Shayla Hudson-Williams Dominique Kent  
Adam Conn Jökull Jónsson Nathan Stephenson

### UNDERSTUDIES / SWINGS

Elizabeth Adabale Adam Conn Susannah Corrington Jökull Jónsson

### PRODUCED BY

**Michael Pettenato**

STAGE MANAGER

**SUSANNAH CORRINGTON**

SET DESIGN

**BENJAMIN WARREN**

STAGE CREW

**ROSHAD GUNTER**

SCENIC DESIGN

**ELIZABETH MCCOLOUGH**

### DIRECTED BY

**Ezra Weisz**

CHOREOGRAPHY

**JAREK STULTZ**

LIGHTING DESIGN

**KEVIN VASQUEZ**

SOUND OP

**ZACH STAUFFER**

LIGHT OP

**JAREK STULTZ**

### SKID ROW BAND

Nick Petrillo, piano/conductor

Brenton Kossak, bass

Alec de Kervor, guitar

Andrew Bilotti, drums

### ALTERNATE MUSICIANS

Sean Bart, piano

Dustin Morgan, bass

Ken Rosser, guitar

**Dominique Kent** (Chiffon) Dominique Kent is a recent graduate of AMDA College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts. She is thrilled to be a part of LITTLE SHOP at the Cupcake Theatre. Her previous credits include "Trix the Aviatrix" in *The Drowsy Chaperone*, "Miss Jones" in *How to Succeed* and Ensemble in both *Dreamgirls* and *Les Miserables*. She has also been a featured soloist in multiple Blackbox shows and Intensives during her time at AMDA. She is so blessed to have such an amazing support system and owes so many thanks to her cast, family and friends. Most importantly she thanks God for his wonderful blessings! She can't wait to see what will happen in her next chapters of life!!

**Matt Merchant** (Orin Scrivello, D.D.S.) Regional and Tour Favorites: Bloody Bloody Andrew Jackson, Happy Days, A New Musical, Beauty and the Beast, As U2 Like It, It's a Stevie Wonderful Life. TV and Film: Don't blink moments in various things. Excited to be knocking another off the villain bucket list. I asked my nephew to help me write this bio. He pointed at his Superman shirt and said "Unka Matt." He's 3. I haven't played Superman.... yet. Thank you Cupcake Theater for everything and thank you to the fam for all the love and support!!

**Thomas Adoue Polk** (Seymour Krelbourn) is thrilled to be joining the cupcake family again! You might recognize him as Kevin from the Call of Duty Black Ops 3 trailer. Favorite roles include Seymour in *Little Shop of Horrors*, Mark Cohen in *RENT*, Pseudolous in *A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum*, and *Beauty and the Beast* (MTW).

**Nathan Stephenson** (Audrey II Puppeteer) Trained in both Classical and Contemporary Theater, Nate is a graduate from AMDA: College and Conservatory of the Performing Arts with his BFA, he has trained with some of the industry's top professionals such as Thomas O'Leary, Eric Scott Gould, Chrissy Whitehead, William Mesnik and Anthony Mark Barrow. Amongst his favorite roles: George in *Our Town*, Molina in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and Ben Gunn in *Treasure Island*. Nate is excited to reprise his puppetry role as Audrey 2 *Little Shop of Horrors* at the brand new Cupcake Theater!

**Elizabeth Adabale** (Urchin Swing) is excited to be back at the Cupcake! She is a graduate of USC where she studied both science and theatre. Some of her favorite roles include The Witch in *INTO THE WOODS*, Pennywise in *URINETOWN* and Fairy Godmother in *CINDERELLA*. She has also been featured in a variety of short films and a pilot with Silverbird TV. When she is not performing, Elizabeth also directs and some of her favorites have been *YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN*, and *LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS!* She thanks God and her family for their support, and hopes you thoroughly enjoy this show. Learn more about her at [elizabethadabale.com](http://elizabethadabale.com)!

**Ezra Weisz** (Director) is an acting coach who has been working in the entertainment industry as an actor, director, and voice over artist for over 20 years. He has also been an audience warm-up guy for live television tapings. He has worked on "Wizards of Waverly Place," "Sonny With A Chance," "So Random," "Jessie," "Austin and Ally," and most recently, "Liv and Maddy." ...to name a few. Ezra also has an extensive background in voice over directing. He has directed the English Dubs of Academy Award nominated films, various anime and he's currently directing the Netflix animated series, "Popples," The International Emmy award winning series, "The Jungle Bunch," the new pirate adventure series "Zak Storm," and Nickelodeon's hit animated series, "Miraculous Ladybug." Ezra continues to teach improvisation and acting techniques all around the world. His positive attitude and ability to connect to his students has allowed him to rise to the top of his field. The fact that many of his students become successful working actors helps, too! He is always very proud of their accomplishments and genuinely loves what he does.

**Michael Pettenato** (Producer) is the founder of the Cupcake Studios, where he has produced *Avenue Q*, *RENT*, *The Vagina Monologues*, *Urinetown*, *The Last Five Years*, *Diary of Anne Frank*, *Spelling Bee*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and others. Before this, he owned/created a chain of cupcake stores. Before that, he was a NYC stand-up. Before that, he studied Comparative Literature at USC.

# A NOTE FROM EZRA

## Meet the Cast & Crew

**David Callander** (Mr. Mushnik) received his undergraduate degree in theatre from Pomona College and first made a career as a stage manager. His Broadway credits include: LEGS DIAMOND, ORPHEUS DESCENDING, KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN and BUDDY: THE BUDDY HOLLY STORY. His onstage credits include: EVITA (with Marin Mazzie), A CHORUS LINE, and THE WINTER'S TALE (with HRH The Prince Edward). David has performed at the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center and the St Louis Cabaret Conference. LA credits include the Sondheim revue PUTTING IT TOGETHER, Beauregard in MAME, and Lockstock/Cladwell in URINETOWN. Thanks to Audrey at Western Costume, Enoch at Nigel's Beauty Emporium, and Jeff at Cinema Secrets for helping Mushnik come to life. And a very special thanks to my angels: Carol, Judy, Karen, and Faith.

**Adam Conn** (Ens. | Dentist u/s | Audrey II u/s) is back for the ride! After playing Brian in AVENUE Q at Cupcake (both in Hollywood and NoHo), Adam continued finding his purpose in life outside his apartment. From choreographing Bach at Lipzig at Group Repertory Theatre in North Hollywood to fighting the Romans in Morgan Freemans Story of God series to not voting for Trump..... Adam has delved into adulting at a fuller pace. You can still find him stabbing kids (with their parents permission of course) at Swordplay Fencing studio in Burbank. He can also be found playing a Ninja Turtle & Kylo Ren for birthday parties and events through Action Events.

**Desi Dennis-Dylan** (Crystal) is incredibly excited to be making her debut with The Cupcake Theater Company! She would like to thank the amazing cast and crew of this production, her wonderful family and friends and Shawn Brogan and everyone at The Brogan Agency. Instagram: @desidennisdylan

**Jökull Jónsson** (The Voice of Audrey II) is excited to return to Cupcake as the voice of Audrey II for the second time. Jokull is a singer/songwriter from Iceland and fronts folk/rock band The Evening Guests when he's not voicing blood thirsty Venus Flytraps. To learn more about Jokull's music, visit his website [www.theeveningguests.com](http://www.theeveningguests.com)

**Shayla Hudson-Williams** (Ronette) is 3 year vet at the cupcake theater. She was a part of the successful Vagina Monologue cast which ran for 18 months. Shayla also plays Gary Coleman in Avenue Q, and is thrilled to be a part of the Little Shop of Horrors cast! Shayla went the American Academy of Dramatic Arts, UCLA, and is now Attending Antioch University for her MFA with an emphasis in Film & TV Production. She was very fortunate to put her education to use by performing with artists such as Missy Elliot, Usher, and Janet Jackson. She also had the privilege of working with writers on networks such as BET, Universal NBC, and CBS. Currently Shayla owns her own TV & Film Production CO. ByGirlz Entertainment LLC.

**Rhonda Karson** (Audrey) is very proud to return to the Cupcake Theater to reprise her role in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS. She has starred in numerous productions across the country, including THE LOST COLONY, America's first and longest running outdoor drama, which received a Tony Honors Award in 2013. She is an accomplished actor, singer, independent filmmaker, video editor, and acting coach. Recent credits include CABARET, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, AVENUE Q, THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES, and several independent film projects. She performed Mozart's Requiem in Carnegie Hall. Rhonda graduated from AMDA College and Conservatory of Performing Arts with a BFA in Performing Arts/ Acting.

Little Shop of Horrors has been one of my all time favorite musicals. A sci-fi/horror/love story set on Skid Row with blood thirsty aliens, heroes that find their courage, and villains that get what they deserve has always been right up my alley. When my son Jacob was born I started calling him "Mr. Mushnik" in the Audrey voice and accent (I still do sometimes). I had no idea I would ever be directing Little Shop. Then, one day, during a total eclipse of the Sun, Michael Pettenato approached me and asked if I would like to direct the show. I needed a day to think about it. Not because I didn't want to but because I knew that I would be so consumed with it I had to make sure my other obligations, like family and work, wouldn't suffer. I said "YES" anyway.

The most amazing thing happened next. Family, work, and the Los Angeles theatre community all joined in to help out with making this production hum. When our original Orin Scrivello DDS was taken away by another project I reached out to my friends to aid in the search for a new actor. With the help of Daniel Henning from the Blank Theater Company, Carrie Keranen from Sacred Fools, Selah Victor while in the midst of producing Next to Normal, and Dave O who is an amazing Musical Director all over LA, I was able to find a new DDS in less than a day. To boost our production value I reached out to Dubbing Brothers, a post production house in Burbank where I often work and asked Kourtney Kaye and Mike Fox if I could record some select moments of the show. The amazing voiceover artist Richard Epcar provided his powerful voice for our opening monologue. My family have jumped in to help with backstage assistance and production stills, thanks Sabrina Photography. Even the support of my running club, Pasadena Pacers, has expressed their enthusiasm and support and were the first to purchase advance tickets. As the African proverb says, "Many hands make light work".

I would like to thank Michael for asking me to take on this dream project, Ben and Liz for the amazing set, Kenji for his sound design, Kevin for making everyone look so good under the lights, Jarek for his sweet dance moves, Nick for making the music and singing in this production so freaking strong and powerful, the cast for busting their butts and pushing themselves to be better with every rehearsal, Susannah for being my companion in this process and doing everything (I mean everything) that needed to get taken care of, and the audience for showing up and loving live theater. A very special thank you goes to Nate who operates Audrey Two. He has worked so hard and has maintained such a positive attitude and sense of humor throughout. He sweats through his clothes, cut his finger on the puppet, has to endure extreme heat, and has had nothing but joy on his face during all of it. Thank you for giving so much to the show, Nate. I hope you all enjoy tonight's production of Little Shop of Horrors and remember, "don't feed the plant".

# THE CAST

Seymour Krelborn.....Thomas Polk  
 Audrey.....Rhonda Karson  
 Orin Scrivello, D.D.S.....Matt Merchant  
 Mr. Mushnik.....David Callander  
 Ronette.....Shayla Hudson-Williams  
 Crystal.....Desi Dennis-Dylan  
 Chiffon.....Dominique Kent  
 Customer/Ms. Luce/etc.....Adam Conn  
 The Voice of Audrey II.....Jökull Jónsson  
 Audrey II Puppeteer.....Nathan Stephenson  
 Narrator Voiceover.....Richard Epcar

## UNDERSTUDIES/SWINGS

Crystal/Ronette/Chiffon.....Elizabeth Adabale  
 Dentist/Audrey II.....Adam Conn  
 Audrey.....Susannah Corrington  
 Customer/Ms. Luce/etc.....Jökull Jónsson

## SPECIAL THANKS



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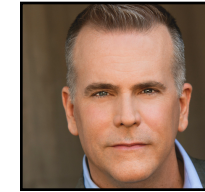
## Little Shop of Horrors



Thomas Polk



Rhonda Karson



David Callander



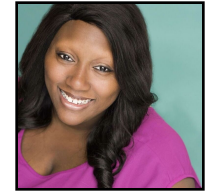
Matt Merchant



Desi Dennis-Dylan



Shayla Hudson-Williams



Dominique Kent



Jökull Jónsson



Adam Conn



Nathan Stephenson



Susannah Corrington



Elizabeth Adabale



Michael Pettenato



Ezra Weisz



Nick Petrillo



Jarek Stultz