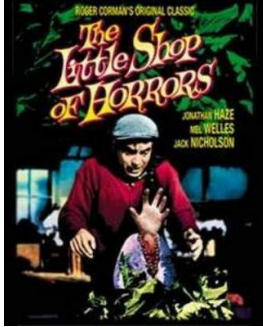


Short Review: "Little Shop of Horrors" (1960) by Dr. John L. Flynn



Little Shop of Horrors (1960). Santa Clara Films, b/w, 70min. Director, Producer: Roger Corman. Writer: Charles B. Griffith. Cast: Jonathan Haze, Jackie Joseph, Mel Welles, Myrtle Vail, Dick Miller, and Jack Nicholson.

"Feed me!" Nothing is sacred in this zany, crazy horror comedy, and certainly nothing is to be taken seriously. Seymour (Haze), the under-paid, over-worked Jewish fan boy who tends Mushnik's Flower Shop, discovers a blood-thirsty plant from outer space. Naming it Audrey II after the girl he wanted to ask out to the prom (Vail), he puts it on display in the store window. Suddenly, business is blooming at Mushnik's as customers rush in to see the exotic potted plant. However, when it starts crying "Feed Me!," Seymour goes trawling for buxom hookers to feed Audrey. Had he bothered to get laid by one of the hookers, Seymour might just have pulled Audrey up by its roots and had a real life outside his parent's basement. Oh, well! Lesson for all fan boys to learn! Suggested by John Collier's short story "Green Thoughts," this tale of a plant that feeds on blood is irresistible. Jack Nicholson appears in a minor role as a super-masochist who enjoys pain, and refuses to get out of the dentist's chair. A big-budget Broadway musical followed in the 1980's.

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