

Erin Dunn  
Community Comment  
Tuesday, September 26

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

The Artistic Producing Director at Ferndale Rep – the incomparable Leira Satlof – likes to say that the first thing I said to her at our initial meeting was “what are you going to do about the seats at the theater?”

I do know I asked that, but I really think it was the third thing I said to her.

I love theater and I especially love supporting Humboldt County theater, but the seats at Ferndale Rep kept me from staying for the second act on more than one occasion. It depended on what seat I ended up in.

Sometimes the seat went south of horizontal and that hurt my back. Sometimes the springs were on their last legs. Sometimes the seats were just plain awful.

There is great news for those of us who love Ferndale Rep but hate the seats—new ones have been installed! They are gently used from a movie theater and are not only comfortable, they have cup holders.

And they look good too.

But seats are not the only change you are going to notice when you go to see “Little Shop of Horrors,” the first show of the season at Ferndale Rep. The seats are just the beginning!

The lobby area has been expanded. They took out the last two rows of seats to move the wall back. And it is worth it! There will be beer on tap—in a kegerator, which I guess is like a refrigerator for beer—as well

as hard cider on tap. And, you can take your drink to your chair and put the glass in the cup holder!

Once the construction of the lobby is finished, new carpet is being installed. It's cheery like new carpet should be. And the inside of the theater is being painted too.

Be sure to check out the large electronic monitors with cast information when you enter the theater now.

Renovations couldn't happen without community support. They were made possible, in part, by funding from the Kurt Feurerman Foundation, Rotary Club of Ferndale, the McLean Foundation and private donors. A huge thank you to everyone who made it happen.

You can see the upgrades for yourself when you go see "Little Shop of Horrors" which starts September 28.

Based on the low-budget comedy/horror film directed by Roger Corman, "Little Shop of Horrors" is a rock musical comedy about a very, very, unexpected love triangle.

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 Seymour fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite. I'm sure you remember the song "Suddenly Seymour" and of course, the dentist.

"Little Shop of Horrors" premiered Off-off Broadway in 1982—later moving to Off-Broadway and eventually to Broadway.

And now, it's at Ferndale Rep.

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.