

SCENE 3

[MUSIC CUE 7] LIGHTS come up to reveal SEYMOUR, emptying garbage in the stage R trash can. The shop is only lit in silhouette. MUSHNIK holds a frozen attitude on the telephone at the worktable. Several DECORATORS and CLEANERS are also frozen in the shop, mid-action]

07 - "CLOSED FOR RENOVATION"

SEYMOUR: *[at trash can]* WE'RE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION, FOR SPIFFING UP AND GROOMING
'CAUSE CUSTOMERS ARE FLOCKING
AND BUSINESS HAS BEEN BOOMING
WE NEED REFRIGERATION IN OUR NEW IMPROVED DISPLAY
SO WE'RE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION TODAY

[LIGHTS come up in the shop as SEYMOUR enters it, and MUSHNIK and the DECORATORS and CLEANERS come to life. We see now that the place is in the midst of a transformation. There are lots of new, living flowers in the window. The worktable is gone. In it's place is a large object covered by a white drop-cloth. SEYMOUR is cleaning]

MUSHNIK: *[on phone]* Yes indeed. This is the shop you heard about on Channel Five News. Yes, the Audrey Two is on display exclusively here!

[AUDREY enters from the workroom, wearing a frilly pink apron. She sings with SEYMOUR and gracefully begins to mop the floor, as MUSHNIK continues his phone conversation in silence.]

SEYMOUR & AUDREY: WE'RE CLOSED FOR DECORATION
CAUSE FORTUNE HAS BEEN SMILING
SO NOW WE'RE DUE FOR PAINTING
NEW PLUMBING, AND RE-TILING
WE'LL MAKE A SHIP SHAPE SHOWPLACE OF OUR LITTLE SHOP AND THEN
TOMORROW WE'LL BE OPEN AGAIN

MUSHNIK: *[hanging up the phone and addressing SEYMOUR who still is cleaning]* Aren't you finished yet?

SEYMOUR: *[Holds up his hands. We see that he has band-aids on each o his ten fingers]* I'm doing my best, but all these band-aids make it kinda hard.

AUDREY: You've been getting hurt so much lately

SEYMOUR: Er... I know... seems like every time I pick up a pruning shears, I slip. *nervous giggle*

[During the rest of the number, SEYMOUR, AUDREY, MUSHNIK and the DECORATORS and CLEANERS complete the transformation of the shop: removing dust sheets to reveal; a brand new window display bordered with twinkling lights, a new work table with a shiny new façade also bordered with lights; and a shiny new cash register on the counter. And all the while, they are all singing and dancing very merrily.]

ALL: WE'RE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
FOR SWABBING-DOWN AND BROOMING
'CAUSE BUSINESS HAS BEEN THRIVING
SINCE AUDREY TWO'S BEEN BLOOMING
THE PHONES HAVE NOT STOPPED RINGING
WITH THE CUSTOMERS WHO SAY:

SEYMOUR: ANOTHER BUNCH OF PEONIES

AUDREY: ANOTHER BUNCH OF DAISIES, PLEASE

SEYMOUR: GERANIUMS, ANEMONES

AUDREY: FORGET-ME-NOTS AND FLEUR-DE-LIS

MUSHNIK: WITH GRATIS HOME DELIVERIES

ALL: ON PAID-IN-FULLS AND C.O.D'S

WE'RE CLOSED FOR RENOVATION –

[They whisk the drop cloth off the mysterious object stage R, revealing it to be AUDREY TWO – now over two feet tall and sporting huge, dangerously spiked leaves]

ALL: TODAY!