

Charlie Brown meets Little Shop of Horrors

Showtune showdown returns to Bronson Centre

BY STEVEN MAZEY

Musical theatre fans, this is your night.

As part of the annual Showtune Showdown competition, teams of musical theatre performers from three Ottawa theatre troupes will compete for prizes and perform selections from classic and contemporary Broadway shows, including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Footloose*, *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, *Avenue Q*, *Legally Blonde* and *Tick, Tick... Boom*.

A fundraiser for Ottawa choir Tone Cluster, the event at the Bronson Centre will involve teams from Ottawa's Zucchini Grotto Theatre Company (the winners of last year's event), Suzart Productions and Carleton University's Sock'n'Buskin troupe.

Competing for a \$500 top prize, the teams will each perform several selections. There will be a *Jeopardy*-style round in which performers are given clues about a musical and the competitor who guesses the title correctly is asked to perform a tune from the show, on the spot. If none of the competitors guesses correctly, audience members are invited to take part and perform.

More than 500 people attended last year's event.

"It's an absolute riot, partly because there's so much audience participation," says Zucchini Grotto member Nicole Milne, an experienced musical theatre performer. "It's a fun, light evening where everyone is rooting for everyone else."

Celebrity judges for this year's competition include CBC Radio Ottawa host Kathleen Petty, Youth Services Bureau director Alex Munter and Canadian Centennial Choir director James Caswell.

The event starts at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Bronson Centre, 211 Bronson Ave.

Tickets are \$15 in advance, available through Ticketweb.ca, or \$20 at the door.