

ALL THE WAY!

This week marks the first straight year that RHPS has been shown at the Jane Pickens Theatre. The picture first was shown here in the Spring of 1976, and had been shown from the Spring until the Fall every year thereafter. Mr. Jarvis, the manager, tried something different last Fall. He decided to hold on to the movie and show it through the winter months for the first time ever. And, so, here we are a year later and it's been done. The RHPS has achieved it's greatest triumph ever in Newport after all these years.

What did you expect anyway? We have the best manager, the best cast South of Boston and West of New York, and the most loyal audience we could ask for. Also, we may not have as big a city as some other places, but we operate out of the most beautiful city on the Atlantic Ocean. Really, when you think of all that's going for us and all that's going for you, and when you take the sum total of that and put it all on one side, we've got it made! Let's keep it that way for awhile.

HOW I SAW IT GROW

I first saw the RHPS on Memorial Day weekend of 1980 in Providence. My friend Bob had gone there and been in the cast, so I decided to try it once. You know, just to see what it was like. That's all.

I didn't love the show at first, but it grew on me week by week. It's dangerous that way. The ones that go and love it at first very often burn out quickly or are spotted easily by normal people and reprogrammed. But the ones who go once, don't love it, but go again... Well, no one really sees it happening on the outside. Often, you don't know it's happening on the inside. But it's happening, and it's there like anything else. And as Riff says, "Nothing will ever be the same."

One thing lead to another and, by August, I was involved with the cast there. I stayed there until May, 1981. A million things happened in between those dates about many subjects. Space does not permit total description of them, so it shall remain stored in my memory. So, like many others, I was there once and now I'm not. Everyone has their truths. And if they don't, they make them up. Also, you have to be at a situation to really know what's what. So, all I would conclude to an outsider of my experiences up there is that it is now as it was before. I went there.

I did not go to the RHPS for 4 months after that. It was more or less a thing of the past that provided me with memories. Bob and I found out that the show was still in Newport, though. We decided to check it out once in this theatre. You know, just to see what it was like down here. That's all.

When I got there, the first person I recognized was Chuck doing Riff Raff. I remembered him from a trial visit a year earlier. Back then, he was the only cast member around. He had been with different casts for 3 years before that in Newport, but now he was all alone. I felt bad for him. There were about 7 people in the audience that night. But now, by late August of 1981, there were at least a few people in the cast. Now, there was a girl doing Frankfurter named Sarah. I was amazed at how dedicated she was to doing the entire show, even though there was only a partial cast. That was very different to me.

Mark was doing Dr. Scott. Four people from Warwick and Cranston were also there. I already knew Lori, doing Columbia, and Ozzi, doing Brad, from