

the Providence cast. Pauline did Magenta and Jerry did parts of Riff. Seeing that they had no one doing Rocky, I offered to do that part, despite my lack of blonde hair, of a clean-shaven face, of a belly that mustn't always be sucked in, and of any muscular definity worth mention. Back then, times were rough, and they had to take what they could get. Now that they are not so desperate, it's simply a matter that they are stuck with me. Bob's natural part, Dr. Scott, was already taken, so he became the Narrator.

August and September were up in the air. Some people couldn't show up every week so we would double-up and even triple-up on some parts. Dave did Eddy, and we got a different Janet out of the audience each week. Stacy did Janet for two straight weeks, but then she went away to college at RIC. And Mark went away to URI.

By October, things started to fall in place. Everything started to click. Patti became Janet. We never have had to go to the audience since. Thank God for Patti. And Chese became our Narrator. He was instantly perfect at it. Mark moved over to the part of Eddy, and Bob moved back to his old part of Scott, where he regained his role as master of the wheelchair (Indeed, Bob has suffered an identity crisis because of his close association with this part. Read his book, I am not Scott!). TC (I always wondered what TC stands for) then took the part of Magenta.

As of Halloween night, we had put together a full cast for the first time. A cycle started whereby the good actors and actresses rubbed off of the rest, the rest got better, and the good ones got even better than before because of it. And the improvement flowed back and forth. This flow has been a key to the cast's ability and maintenance during turnover of various parts as time was to go on and parts had to be replaced. I have been in many different casts since I've done the show in both Newport and Providence, and I would say that Halloween night, 1981, was the best show by a cast on one given night that I've ever been involved in.

The show was supposed to come to it's seasonal end after Halloween. But, as we now know, Mr. Jarvis kept the show and we kept coming and the audience kept going to see it.

A few changes took place over the Fall and Winter. After Halloween, Lori, Ozzi, Pauline, and Jerry were no longer able to make the voyage. Terri replaced Lori as Columbia and did that part until January. The part of Brad, though, was not replaced for awhile. Eddy was also a part we had trouble filling. Things got thinner by the week, then the Friday night cast came through for us with replacements. Sue, who still does Frank on Fridays, became our regular Columbia. Jimmy, also from Friday, became our regular Brad. Alan became our regular Eddy. And now that Bob has been away for awhile, he miraculously comes alive every week after being picked to death to also do Dr. Scott.

Halloween night was the best show I've been in. We peaked as a cast. Still, we weren't perfect. We never will be. That means we can always try to do better. We have tried to at least maintain as best a cast as we can. I hope that I don't sound like I'm braging too much, even though I feel my friends can back me up. I've seen it both ways.

The people I've meet down here are not perfect. I've meet many new people from both the cast and from the audience who come very often and treat us very nice. Some people have come, some gone, and some still here. Some have stayed longer than others. Whatever, all of them have tried. That has been the difference. I would conclude of my experiences down here that it is not now as it was before, when I first saw this place.

Most of the time, things never change (especially when they are said to have). Once in a while, they can be a little different (where it counts).

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