



WARWICK ROCKY



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FREE - AT THE WARWICK MALL CINEMAS

THE OBSESSION

by Candace Betz

Seconds before midnight the audience gets restless in their seats. Then "20th Century Fox" illuminates the screen; the many voices start chanting, "Lips, we want lips!" Everything goes black; many hands applaud wildly as a set of blood red lips appears on the screen to sing the all but famous opening song to The Rocky Horror Picture Show.

The opening song "Science Fiction Double Feature", music and lyrics by Richard O'Brian, is what the show is really about. It isn't a spoof but more of a tribute to all the great horror flicks and musicals of days gone by. With a story line that resembles Frankenstein, stunts from King Kong and a floor show that looks like it came out of an MGM musical, the elements for such a tribute are definately there.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, screenplay by Jim sharman and Richard O'Brian, has been in existence approximately 10 years. Originally a play called The Rocky Horror Show, written by Richard O'Brian, which came out 2 years before the movie, is still being run today. The movie has been and is still being shown all over the english speaking world and even Japan and Puerto Rico. Incidentally, Richard O'Brien also wrote all the music and lyrics for the show.

Traditionally, every Friday and Saturday night at midnight, RHPS lights up the screen. Seldom has this tradition been broken since the movie became a cult hit in the 70's.

This cult film has a large following with ages ranging mostly from teens to late twenties. Some of these followers, every weekend, wait in the seats of a movie theatre for the bewitching hour to strike with their bags of rice, spray bottles filled with water, toast (occasionally covered with peanut butter), and rolls of toilet paper, with which they take part in each scene of the movie as the ritual of being an audience member is set in motion. Some will even go the the extreme of going to the show dressed up as their favorite character.

All of this is considered mild compared to the real extreme some of these faithful followers will go to. They will actually become a RHPS cast member. They will go to the show every weekend without fail and dress up like the characters and act out the movie in front of the audience. These people are truely devoted.

Then there are those who aren't part of this group, who haven't seen the show, and much worse, haven't even heard of it. These people have a name among Rocky Horror buffs. They are known as "virgins". These virgins, instead of going to be deflowered, ask questions such as "Why go to RHPS every weekend?" "Is it the same show every time?" and (this is the one that makes most Rocky lovers clench their teeth) "What is RHPS?"

These questions can be answered rather easily. RHPS is fun, involving, an escape, a socializing time (especially for the cast). It's entertaining, and the bottom line is that it's something to do. The next question has to be answered with a yes and no. Yes, the movie is the same; however, the show isn't, because something different happens every weekend, whether it's in the audience or in the cast. And last of all, of the teeth clencher, it can be said that to get the full effect is to go see it.

AMATURE CAST NIGHT

The weekend of July 20-21 (and also possibly the next weekend too), the cast will be away (Horraayyy!!). If you've ever wanted to do the show, but were affraid to get up with the cast, now is your chance! Here is an opening to get that tough first time over with. No qualifications are necessary to do the show, just a willingness to try something different. And who knows, if you're not too careful, you might have a very good time and want to do it again and again. If you are interested, please contact Roy (me, usually Riff, occasional Rocky ASAP!