

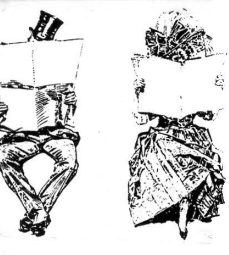


RHODE ISLAND

ROCKY



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DID YOU READ THE NEWSPAPER?

Did any of you manage to get ahold of last Friday's PAWTU-CUT TIMES (EVENING TIMES)? If you did, you would have managed to see 3 articles about our favorite Midnight movie by Dale King in the entertainment section.

For those of you who didn't see it, we are re-printing them here in RI ROCKY.

We are very pleased with Dale's ability to come in as a virgin and so well cover the mood of what happens here. We hope to see Dale again at the show.

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'Rocky Horror' unlike any other movie

By Dale King

CUMBERLAND — It's midnight in the Valley. Hours ago, Cumberland rolled up its sidewalks, turned off its lights and went to bed. Yet under this cloak of witching hour stillness, a hundred people converge on the Twin Cinema on Mendon Road. Their destination? *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Their assignment? To go crazy. Their *modus operandi*? To pelt friends and strangers with toast, toilet paper, rice and water.

Rocky Horror is the ultimate in audience participation. It's a multi-media barrage, an usherette's nightmare, a twilight zone to be found somewhere between group therapy and martial law. The audience talks to the actors on screen. They mimic and berate them. They add lines. Change lines. Create foul jokes. React to scenes. Laugh. Scream. Cut loose.

These people — and others around the country — have turned *Rocky Horror*, a 1975 satire of grade B '50s horror flicks, into the cult film to end all cult films.

AND JUST who would pay \$3 to spend two hours in a theater getting squirted with water and pock-marked with rice?

Anyone. As long as they know what to expect.

"No one's ever walked out — or complained," said theater owner Barbara Anderson. "People say it's different, but they always stay. And they leave laughing."

And *Rocky Horror* is now in its 12th week at the Cumberland Twin Cin, playing Fridays and Saturdays at midnight.

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Not all the actors are on the screen

CUMBERLAND — By day, Roy Rossi of Johnston is a computer programmer. Two nights a week, he becomes Riff Raff, one of the unsavory denizens of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. In fact, he's the "leader" of the troupe that's been following the film from the Showcase in Seekonk, to the Cinerama, to the Avon, the Cable Car Providence and to cinemas in Pawtucket and Warwick before landing in Cumberland last April. "Conservatively," Rossi says, he's seen *Rocky Horror* 340 times. And that's probably not even a record.

R.I. "They needed someone to play Janet." Janet (played by actress Susan Sarandon in the film) is the prim and virginal lady who gets married as the film opens — hence the throwing of rice. By show's end, she's dancing around in garter belts, fishnet hose and black panties. But so is her husband, Brad (Barry Bostwick in the movie), along with the other members of this very strange cast.

IF YOU HAVEN'T figured it out by now, *Rocky Horror* is not for the easily offended. There's no nudity — and foul language comes largely from the audience. But the picture plays heavily on homosexuality and transvestitism. Also, it's just plain weird.

Jim DiMeglio of East Providence joined the cast last year specifically to grab the role singer Meat Loaf plays in the movie, a fat motorcyclist who, in one scene, crashes out of a deep freeze. As transvestite scientist Dr. Frank N. Furter (played in the film by Tim Curry), Jon Winkelman of Warwick spends the night in drag. He started in Burrillville. They'd seen a TV video of "Time Warp," one of the songs from this crazy spoof of '50s horror films, and decided to catch the whole show. "It was everything we expected," they said, "and more!"

the cast as "Brad — the nerd," then took a wide swing to the role of the cross-dressing mad scientist.

"One day, they needed a Janet, so they pulled me out of the audience," said Stella Nielsen of Coventry, recalling her start.

And Sheilarae Carpentier — who's seen *Rocky Horror* 185 times — said, "Three years ago, I asked Roy if I could do a part. Today, he's my boyfriend."

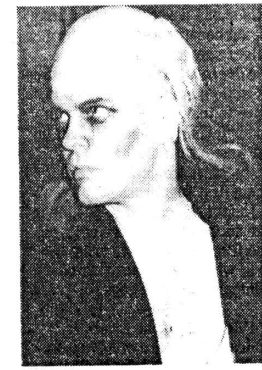
RAY PREW of Central Falls holds down two jobs. But he still finds time to spend Saturday nights as Dr. Scott, the "proctologist on wheels" in *Rocky Horror*.

"It changed my life," Prew said. "I used to be shy." But that was two years — and many performances — ago.

"Someone volunteered me," said Candace Betz of East Providence, who, with Sheilarae, is "second in command" of the troupe. "The first time I saw the movie, I hated it. I couldn't hear it with all the noise. But I went back later and liked it."

"It's fun for everyone," Candace said. "Sometimes, the cast screws up. And that's funny, too."

But who likes *Rocky Horror* most? Maybe theater manager Barbara Anderson, sitting on a stool in back, away from the flying food, water and other debris. "I'm 45 years old," she says, "and I love it."



ROY ROSSI... Also known as Riff Raff

ORIGINALLY . . .

More differences between the original RHPS script and the movie you've all come to know and love:

During Rocky's "Sword of Damocles," we were to see the Criminologist singing: Rocky needed piece of mind. He was doing just fine. He was the product Of another time. And as for feeling down — Well that's not a crime.

After Frank said (about Rocky), "He carries the Charles Atlas seal of approval," he really was supposed to say, "and he didn't even take lessons."

When Eddie busts out of the freezer, the do was supposed to crush several Transylvanians. He was also carrying a Gibson guitar instead of a saxophone. Then the following dialogue took place:

Columbia: Eddie!!
Eddie: Stay cool baby.
Janet: Who's Eddie?
Riff: The delivery boy.
Magenta: His delivery wasn't good enough, though.

It was Janet who was screaming when Eddie killed. Columbia was just hid her face.

After Frank kills Eddie, he said, "One for vaults. And so perish all those who reject n love!" When Rocky bangs on the elevator door, Frank said, "Oh no, my little Adonis — You're much too beautiful to be destroyed. I'm sure guests will concur." There originally was no "It was a mercy killing..." speech.

And the audience ends up wet

CUMBERLAND — No one leaves *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* unscathed. It's 2 a.m. and you're wet. You're covered with rice and toilet paper. And there's confetti in your popcorn. You've spent nearly two hours going nuts. If you didn't, you missed the whole point of the show.

Where else would you find an audience armed with squirt guns, bags of rice and toast, rolls of toilet paper and newspaper? Nowhere but at *Rocky Horror*.

And the people in the audience love it. "The more you come, the better it is," said Ray DuCharme and Wendy Ryan of

"You realize getting wet is part of the show," said Russell Hutchings of Providence, whose brother-in-law is one of the *Rocky Horror* live performers. Paul and Claire Ramsey of Cumberland admitted they were "novices" when they caught the show the other night. "Curiosity" brought them in. "We heard about it when it played in Providence." And since they were on

vacation, they came both Friday and Saturday nights. "I saw it seven times when it first came out," said a former Cumberland resident now living in Derry, N.H.

While visiting her home town, she caught the show "to see if it was the same," but admitted she was "surprised to see it playing in Cumberland."

Kim Duffilly, Kristen Trahan and Tom Mitchell came all the way from the Warwick area — unnamed — because "one of our friends is in the cast."

"I was going to bring my squirt gun," Kris said. "We'll be back again — and we'll be prepared."

— By Dale King