



# RHODE ISLAND

# ROCKY



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FREE Cumberland Twin Cinemas



## FOLLOW THE LEADER

An interview by Mr. Prew with Roy Rossi, Riff Raff on Friday and Saturdays and the "Pretend Leader" on the cast.



Q: How many years now have you been involved with Rocky?  
RR: I have done the show at various locations for the past 5 1/2 years, with short intermissions.

Q: You have been Riff Raff since I've known you. At any rate, is there any other part you'd rather do?  
RR: Not permanently, but I would like to get back to doing Rocky a little. I was the permanent Rocky in Newport, Groton, and Boston and it grew on me.

Q: Tell us a little about your first night.  
RR: That was in June of 1980 at the Cinerama. My friend Bob was in the cast and had been asking me to go for 6 months. Finally, I went. I had been told what to expect, so nothing shocked me. But I found the character of Riff Raff mysterious and intriguing. He was so meek on the outside, yet raging on the inside. The idea of portraying him in the cast seemed very interesting. The cast in general seemed like a fun idea. It was a good thing I had come upon, and "nothing has ever been the same."

Q: You've led our cast ever since the Cinerama. What changes would you like to see or are we perfect now?  
RR: First of all, I never led in the Cinerama until the very end. But I was with the different casts that came and went. No, things are not perfect. I am very pleased with management and most of the audience, but I do believe we still have to make more changes in the cast despite the large progress we have made since the Cinerama. I have a problem with apathy from many cast members. I can't expect people to be gung-ho about things because this is not a paying job, but I'd like to see more people become involved with helping to make the overall show better. While things are much better than the Cinerama days, think how much better they could be if everyone did more than just come and act out their parts.

Q: What night stands out the most in your mind.  
RR: There's been so many nights in so many places that I could never give justice to any one of them here. There was the strike on Halloween night at the Cinerama in 1980. Halloween in 1981 in Newport where a great cast came together, making me realize after bad experiences at the Cinerama that things could work out for the best. The last show the Newport cast did together, in Groton, was the saddest. The last night in the Cinerama was the most glorious. The road trips have been exciting. Every theatre has giving me memories, both good and bad, that can never be forgotten. And I'm looking forward to more big nights.

### REANNOUNCING HALLOWEEN NIGHT

Yes! You heard right. We will have a show Halloween night, October 31. Festivities will begin at 10:00. Be there early!  
RHODE ISLAND ROCKY, 18 Wychwood Place, Johnston, RI 02919

Q: How many different casts have you been affiliated with?  
RR: Cinerama (6-80 to 5-81), Newport (8-81 to 8-82), Groton (9-82 to 2-83), Cinerama (11-82, 4-83), Avon (4-83 to 5-83), Cable Car (9-83 to 11-83), Fairlawn (12-83 to 2-84), Warwick Mall (3-84 to 10-84), Cumberland (4-85 to present), Boston (11-84 to 3-85), and Groton (11-84 to 3-85).

Q: Do you have a favorite part of the movie?  
RR: Yes. When Riff bursts through the doors with a lazer. I enjoy the change in character (and costume). Getting to do Riff Raff is like getting to do 2 different parts.

Q: Is this cast open to everyone who wants to do it?  
RR: Almost.

Q: To those who it is open to, what do you look for in cast members?  
RR: I first look for enthusiasm. I then look for seriousness. Then later I look for quality of acting and costume. And finally, I look for someone who wants to add something to this cast, not just take from it.

Q: How long has our cast been together?  
RR: I consider this cast coming together on the last night of the Cinerama. That was the night that the different people from different times and different places got into one building to do the show. The enthusiasm from that night carried us over to the Avon a month later and we've been going strong ever since. Before that, things had broken up at the Cinerama for a while. Newport had ended. And Groton was on a downslide. But that night brought it all back!

Q: Do you ever get tired of doing the show?  
RR: Never tired. Tired is a physical state. But sometimes I get bored when apathy rises. It gets to you a little. But then something else happens and you're off again. You've got to consider that the only thing that stays the same is the movie. Everything else changes all the time.

Q: Thank you for your time, Roy.  
RR: Your welcome. It's different being the subject rather than the maker of this newspaper.

### DON'T FORGET THE CONTEST !

For those of you who missed it in last week's issue, there is a trivia contest going on, complete with a prize (2 free tickets to RHPS). A copy of last week's issue should be hanging somewhere in the lobby.