



The film cast of 'The Rocky Horror Picture Show.'

## Horror show craze still the rage

From Page One

Sure to be on hand are the good doctor Fran N Furter himself, clean-cut Brad or his sappy fiancée Janet, Riff Raff, the hunchback henchman, his incestuous sister Magenta and certainly the hulk, Rocky Horror.

"I think it is going to be a full house," said Marian Van Wagner, theater manager. "We usually get about 100 or so on a Saturday night. But the flyers went out to all the colleges for this one."

Ms. Van Wagner said the fans have done most of planning.

"I guess it is just a cult movie and I am part of the cult," said Kenneth Ellery, a 19-year-old data processing student at Thames Valley Technical College, who with eight others, performs at the UA each week.

The local cast wears full costume, and each plays a different movie character. They mouth the words and make gestures to mimic the actors on the screen.

And on a good night, the audience will join in.

When it is raining outside Frank N Furter's mansion, for

instance, members of the audience squirt water guns and open umbrellas. When Brad is about to trip, the audience shouts "watch out!"

And no one seems to tire of the bizarre story that, over and over, mixes up the sexual promiscuity of the 70s with Marvel comic characters and gothic horror, all set to swinging rock 'n' roll.

"It is not a really big thing if we miss a Saturday night. But we do consider it a commitment," said Ellery, who has seen the movie 87 times since he first got hooked about a year ago.

Ellery and his group also do shows at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

"We usually get a good group there," he said. "They really get into it."

Sal Piro of New York City, founder and president of the National Rocky Horror fan club, has seen the movie more than 800 times. He also leads a Rocky Horror group that performs every Saturday and Sunday at the Eight Street Playhouse in New York.

"Rocky Horror is just something that is always there," said Piro. "And it doesn't really seem dated."

"I think it has had a big influence on the Boy Georges and Madonnas. A lot of them were exposed first to Rocky Horror."

The Rocky Horror story began with a small theater production at the Royal Court Upstairs in London in 1973. It continues to play at the King's Road Theater in London, mostly to packed houses.

Filming for the 20th Century Fox production began in October 1974. By Halloween 1975, the film had its formal screen debut.

To mark the anniversary in New York this week, there will be a special Halloween show at New York City's Beacon Theater. The show will include special appearances by the original cast, a costume contest, and of course, a midnight screening.

Ellery said he considered going to the New York show, but decided against it because he has classes the next day.

"You really never finish up until after 3 in the morning," he said.